

# APPROVED

## **City Of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board Thursday, August 5, 2021**

151 Martin Street, City Commission Room 205, Birmingham, MI

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board held Thursday, August 7, 2021.

Acting Vice-Chair Katie Schafer convened the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

### **1. Rollcall**

**Present:** Board Members Andrew Haig, David Hocker, David Lurie, Tom Peard, Katie Schafer

**Absent:** Chair Johanna Slanga; Board Member Doug White; Alternate Board Member Joe Zane; Student Representatives Lauren Morris, Justin Schoener, Alex Walters

**Administration:** Jana Ecker, Assistant City Manager (ACM)  
Brooks Cowan, City Planner (CP)  
Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist (PC)  
Scott Grewe, Police Operations Commander (PC)  
Scott Zielinski, Assistant City Engineer (ACE)

### **Fleis & Vandenbrink (F&V):**

Julie Kroll

**MKSK:** Haley Wolfe

### **2. Introductions**

### **3. Review Agenda**

### **4. Approval of MMTB Minutes of July 8, 2021**

**Motion by Mr. Lurie**

**Seconded by Mr. Haig to approve the MMTB Minutes of July 8, 2021 as submitted.**

**Motion carried, 5-0.**

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Lurie, Haig, Peard, Hocker, Schafer

Nays: None

### **5. Phase III – S. Old Woodward (Brown to Landon) - Update**

Ms. Wolfe, Ms. Kroll, and ACE Zielinski presented the item.

Ms. Wolfe stated:

- She would be meeting with some business owners on S. Old Woodward on August 12, 2021 regarding potentially moving some of their driveways; and,
- SMART had not as yet suggested any changes to the bus stop plans.

Acting Vice-Chair Schafer noted that the project aims to maintain 85% parking utilization along S. Old Woodward, which means that even in removing some of the parking spaces sufficient parking should remain available.

Ms. Wolfe said the item would return for further MMTB review once the team has updated the parking counts provided by PC Grewe.

ACM Ecker stated that the meeting with the S. Old Woodward business owners on August 3, 2021 was attended by about 20 people and was informational in focus.

ACE Zielinski said the responses on Engage Birmingham regarding the project had been largely positive.

#### **6. S. Eton Corridor Study – Update**

ACM Ecker updated the Board on the item.

The Board had no questions regarding the update.

#### **7. Ferndale / Ravine Intersection – Stop Sign Request**

PC Grewe presented the item.

Acting Vice-Chair Scahfer said implementing the recommendation from F&V would likely make the intersection safer.

#### **Motion by Mr. Lurie**

**Seconded by Acting Vice-Chair Schafer to recommend providing 1. An All-Way Stop control at the Ferndale Road & Ravine Road intersection; and, 2. A Stop sign on the Brookside Ave. approach at Ravine Road.**

**PC Grewe confirmed he would let Ms. Safford, the resident that raised the issue, know the outcome of the discussion.**

**Motion carried, 5-0.**

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Lurie, Schafer, Haig, Peard, Hocker

Nays: None

#### **8. Latham Street – Survey Results**

ACE Zielinski presented the item.

Three Board members commented that while the updates would certainly improve the safety along Latham, it remains important to pursue the addition of sidewalks to the area.

ACE Zielinski said approval of the current plans would allow for a better sense of where sidewalks could be added along Latham in the future.

In reply to Acting Vice-Chair Schafer, ACE Zielinski said the Northlawn-Latham intersection could not be narrowed as part of this project because it was at the end of the section being worked on.

There was discussion about the fact that approving these plans would mean having to remove some of this work in the future to install sidewalks. The Board consensus was that this was still worthwhile to improve safety in the interim since the investigation of sidewalks would not be budgeted until FY 22-23 at the earliest, and sidewalks could only be budgeted for FY 23-24 at the earliest.

ACE Zielinski also noted that undertaking the currently proposed work might reduce how many trees must be removed during the sidewalk installation later on.

**Motion by Mr. Haig  
Seconded by Mr. Lurie to support the proposed option to reconfigure the intersections at Wakefield, Southlawn, Worthington and Norfolk as part of the upcoming 2021 Asphalt Maintenance Program project for Latham Road.**

**Motion carried, 5-0.**

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Haig, Lurie, Schafer, Peard, Hocker

Nays: None

ACM Ecker stated the City could use social media to notify residents that the matter of sidewalks along Latham is still being explored. She said it would be appropriate to conduct another survey regarding sidewalks along Latham once that study commences.

**Motion by Mr. Haig  
Seconded by Mr. Peard to request further investigation into the introduction of sidewalks along the length of Latham and to request the necessary funding of studies to support such action.**

**Motion carried, 5-0.**

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Haig, Peard, Hocker, Lurie, Schafer

Nays: None

## **9. Citywide Sidewalk Priorities**

CP Cowan reviewed the item. He explained that while this item would serve as the Board's

recommended order of evaluation for potential sidewalk locations, it would not mean that Engineering would ultimately recommend sidewalks in all the proposed locations.

ACM Ecker explained that the concept plan for sidewalk priorities would help Staff plan future sidewalk installation projects. She explained that Departments could request special funding for sidewalk installation, that sometimes sidewalks can be included in MDOT projects, and that sometimes there are grants available for sidewalk installations.

ACM Zielinski noted that it is common to add sidewalks when improving a street and to also improve already extant sidewalks at that time.

There was Board consensus that the updates reflected their previous recommendations.

ACM Zielinski noted that this concept plan may also help prioritize otherwise similarly-qualified roads during the unimproved street ranking process in the Engineering Department.

### **10. Meeting Open to the Public for items not on the Agenda**

None.

### **11. Miscellaneous Communications**

ACM Ecker and CP Cowan asked the Board to review the draft multimodal map and to submit feedback to Staff. The Board thanked CP Cowan for his work on the map so far.

ACE Zielinski stated that the City has begun the Board's recommended changes to Oak, and said he had to check on the sign-ordering part of the process.

### **12. Next Meeting – August 5, 2021**

### **13. Adjournment**

No further business being evident, the board members adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Jana Ecker, Assistant City Manager