Gibbs
Planning Group

Urban intelligence

19 December 2014

Mayor Stuart Sherman
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, Michigan 48009

stuart.sherman@sbcglobal.net

Dear Mayor Sherman:

I am writing to support the proposed plan to reduce West Maple Road from four lanes to three. It has been my professional experience that placing roadways on such diets improves both their walkablilty and vehicular capacity.

I have been personally driving West Maple daily for over 30 years and find that it presently functions as a two-lane road (one lane per direction) because of sudden and unexpected stops made by left-turning vehicles. These quick left turns cause near-accidents and long traffic tie-ups. Two maneuvering lanes (one in each direction) with a left turn lane and occasional right turn lanes allow for smooth traffic flows and more capacity.

I realize this is counterintuitive, but I have experienced this in numerous cities, including the City of University Place, Washington.

Please do the right thing and place West Maple Road on a diet!

Sincerely,

Robert J. Gibbs

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