February 26, 2015

Birmingham City Commission
Multi-Modal Transportation Board
151 Martin Street
Birmingham, M1 48012

Dear Commissioners and Board Members,

Sorry for the lateness of this letter but I only recently became aware of this issue.

The purpose of my letter is to voice opposition with the Multi-Modal Plan to convert West Maple Road from 4 lanes to 3 lanes as part of the resurfacing project, however I would like to voice my objections in a different slightly different manner.

- While I live in Bloomfield Township (Maple Road and Cranbrook) we do own and pay taxes on property in Birmingham (630 Ann Street, #6)
- Every day I travel 4.4 miles of Maple Road from Cranbrook, through the City of Birmingham to Maplelawn in Troy and back.
- The real issue with Maple Road is that currently it is a 2 lane road not a 4 lane road.
- The right two lanes, the gutter lanes, are practically impassable.
- That is the reason for all the trauma on this roadway.
- Too many vehicles in the left lanes, some driving too fast and some driving too slow.
- Drivers use the right lanes as passing lanes only to get back into the left lanes as soon as possible so they don't have to travel in the practically impassable right lanes.
- The right lanes have become solely for the uninformed or the drivers new to the area.
- Add in the left turns, which many people have forgotten how to use their turn signals and the swerving begins.
- I see it every day.
- I make the same round trip everyday 7-8am in the morning and returning 6-7pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and 9-10pm Monday and Thursday evening.
- Policing during my commute is negligible.
- In reality, what you are proposing is taking <u>two</u> lanes of east bound Maple Road traffic coming from Bloomfield Township and squeezing them down into <u>one</u> east bound lane.
- With 14 Mile Road and 16 Mile Roads not complete thoroughfares, Maple Road has become the main trunk into the City of Birmingham from the west.
- When pressed, drivers will seek alternatives. They will divert through the Bloomfield Township subdivisions of Bloomfield Village North and South to get to Cranbrook then through the Birmingham neighborhoods from there.
- Taking the Shirley/Arlington problem and shifting it to Bloomfield Township is simply not being a good neighbor.

- The City of Birmingham is undergoing tremendous growth both business wise and residential/apartment/condo wise. This growth is stressing already limited parking and navigational means.
- Now is hardly the time to constrict the traffic flow into the City further.
- For me, if this project becomes the nuisance I believe it could become I have choices. I can take Pine, Oak, Raynale or Redding north of Maple Road. Midvale, Lincoln, Fairway or Northlawn south of Maple Road. All through neighborhoods.
- Also worthy of note, isn't this a similar type of proposal that was floated for the stretch of Maple Road between Eton and Adams? I remember when the Lake Park light was put in and the reasons for it. Won't those same reasons still exist if you remove the light?

Thank you for your consideration.

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