City of Birmingham
A Walkable Community

MEMORANDUM

Engineering Dept.

DATE: **April 4, 2017**

TO: **Joseph Valentine, City Manager**

FROM: **Paul T. O'Meara, City Engineer**

SUBJECT: **S. Eton Rd. at Maple Rd.**
Proposed Crosswalk Improvements

At the meeting of December 12, 2016, the City Commission reviewed the findings of the Ad Hoc Rail District Committee. The report was endorsed, and several boards were asked to research various recommendations further for action.

For the Multi-Modal Transportation Board (MMTB), it was determined that the proposed crosswalk improvements at the S. Eton Rd. and Maple Rd. intersection should be the first priority, given the planned opening of a new Whole Foods grocery store to the east of this intersection, and the potential increase in pedestrian traffic that this new commercial activity will bring.

F&V, the City's traffic consultant, had prepared a conceptual drawing (to scale) of the various parts of the proposed improvement. Using that drawing as a basis for discussion, the MMTB reviewed the proposal at their meetings of February 2 and March 2, 2017. At the March 2, 2017 meeting, the following recommendation was passed:

To recommend to the City Commission that the City prioritize the Ad Hoc Rail District Committee's recommendations for changes to S. Eton Rd. from Maple Rd. to Yosemite Blvd. including:

1. *Landscaped splitter island to improve the S. Eton Rd. south side crosswalk at Maple Rd.*
2. *Enlarged handicap ramp area at the southeast corner of the intersection.*
3. *Relocation of the west side curb and gutter section to allow for a widened eight foot sidewalk on the entire length from Maple Rd. to Yosemite Blvd.*

If the Commission agrees to this construction, staff would like to complete the work in the most efficient means possible. F&V has prepared a more detailed plan of the improvements (attached), to allow this work to be included in the larger 2017 Concrete Sidewalk Program bidding documents. As referenced in the MMTB recommendation, the work is composed primarily of three parts:

1. **<u>Splitter island</u>** – Given the current size of the intersection, a splitter island as shown can successfully be installed splitting the left and right turn lanes, while not changing the traffic patterns of the intersection. Existing concrete can be removed, replaced with new curb and gutter, and approximately 18 feet of new sidewalk that will act as a refuge area for pedestrians crossing Eton Rd. The triangular area south of the sidewalk

could be landscaped with perennials, under the direction of the City's landscape maintenance staff. The total construction cost of this work is estimated at $21,000.

2. **<u>Enlarged handicap ramp area at the SE corner</u>** – The dashed line on the plan represents the existing property lines. At the southeast corner, additional public land is available to allow for a wider, more ample waiting area at the handicap ramp. An oval shaped piece of concrete is proposed here to enhance the existing sidewalk on this corner, at a cost of $1,000.
3. **<u>West side curb relocation</u>** – As a part of the discussion with the Ad Hoc Rail District Committee, there was discussion about the existing sidewalks being installed immediately behind the curb, in close proximity to traffic. This was done due to the limited right-of-way available on this block. Since most of the neighborhood would use the west side sidewalk, and since the existing southbound lane is wider than normal, it was recommended that the west side curb and gutter section could be removed and replaced with a new curb three feet further east, for the entire block, as shown. Moving the curb would allow the existing five foot wide sidewalk to then be replaced with an eight foot wide sidewalk, providing extra space for pedestrians in this area. This work is estimated at $53,000.

The MMTB endorsed all three parts of the proposal. There was detailed discussion about two elements of the design:

1. Given that the road would be narrowed, there was uncertainty about how trucks turning from westbound Maple Rd. on to S. Eton Rd. would be able to maneuver in this area. After further review and discussion, F&V was able to clarify that the design provides the proper amount of space to make this turn, and once accustomed to the change, traffic should be able to manage fine.
2. There was concern that some pedestrians may feel uncomfortable if they are "trapped" on the splitter island due to the traffic signals changing. F&V noted that the green time provided for Maple Rd. is substantial, and that pedestrians will have ample time to make this crossing fully from one side of the street to the other.

No funding was authorized for this work. If the Commission authorizes the concept, funding for the current fiscal year budget will have to be authorized as a part of the contract award for the 2017 Concrete Sidewalk Replacement Program. A suggested resolution is provided below:

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION:

To authorize the sidewalk and crosswalk improvements at the Maple Rd. & S. Eton Rd. intersection, as recommended by the Multi-Modal Transportation Board, and to direct staff to include this work as a part of the 2017 Concrete Sidewalk Replacement Program, Contract #2-17(SW).

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Executive Summary

The Ad Hoc Rail District Committee was tasked with conducting research and analysis regarding parking, street design initiatives, and non-motorized safety to develop a plan with recommendations for the future of the Rail District along S. Eton. The Committee conducted a walking survey to assess the existing conditions of the Rail District. During this exercise, crosswalks issues, poor driver visibility at street corners, inconsistent sidewalks, and lack of bicycle facilities were noted. Based on the Committee's observations, several intersection and streetscape improvements were reviewed, a parking study was completed to review current parking demand, and a buildout analysis was conducted to calculate future parking needs. The Ad Hoc Rail District Committee's resulting findings include recommendations for intersection improvements to calm traffic and improve pedestrian comfort, exploring shared parking opportunities to more efficiently use off-street parking lots, and adding bicycle facilities to better accommodate bicyclists.

Newingham Dental – Completed 2014

District Lofts Phase 2 – Completed 2016

IrgonGate – Completed in 2016

Formation of the Committee

On January 11, 2016, the City Commission unanimously passed a resolution to establish the Ad Hoc Rail District Committee. The Committee was tasked with developing a plan to address the current and future parking demands, along with planning goals and multi-modal opportunities for the district in accordance with the following:

a) Review the Eton Road Corridor Plan, Multi-Modal Transportation Plan, and previous findings of the Rail District Committee in order to identify and recommend how to best incorporate these elements into an integrated approach for this district.

b) Calculate the long-term parking demands for both the north and south ends of the Rail District, while considering on-street and off-street parking, shared parking arrangements, use requirements and other zoning regulations which impact parking.

c) Review planning and multi-modal objectives for the Rail District with the findings from the long-term parking calculations and develop recommendations to integrate planning and multi-modal elements with parking solutions. Recommendations should consider:
   i. Considerations for on-street and off-street parking
   ii. Road design initiatives
   iii. Multi-modal uses
   iv. Neighborhood input
   v. Existing plans and findings

d) Compile the committee's findings and recommendations into a single report to be presented to the City Commission by the end of the committee's term (December 31, 2016).

Goals and Objectives of Committee

The following goals and objectives were established by the Ad Hoc Rail District Committee to guide their discussions and recommendations for the future:

Goals

i. Create an attractive and desirable streetscape that creates a walkable environment that is compatible with the adjacent residential neighborhoods.
ii. Design the public right-of-way for the safety, comfort, convenience, and enjoyment for all modes of transportation throughout the corridor.
iii. Facilitate vehicular traffic and parking without sacrificing the corridor's cycling and pedestrian experience.
iv. Minimize the impacts of traffic on the existing residential neighborhoods.
v. Recommend updates to the Rail District zoning regulations as needed to meet goals.

Objectives

i. Use creative planning to promote a high quality, cohesive right-of-way that is compatible with the existing uses in the corridor.
ii. Implement "traffic calming" techniques, where appropriate, to reduce speeds and discourage cut-through traffic on residential streets.
iii. Enhance pedestrian connectivity through the addition of crosswalks, sidewalks, and curb extensions.
iv. Improve accommodations for bicycle infrastructure on Eton Road.
v. Create a balance between multimodal accessibility and parking provisions.

Rail District Study Area

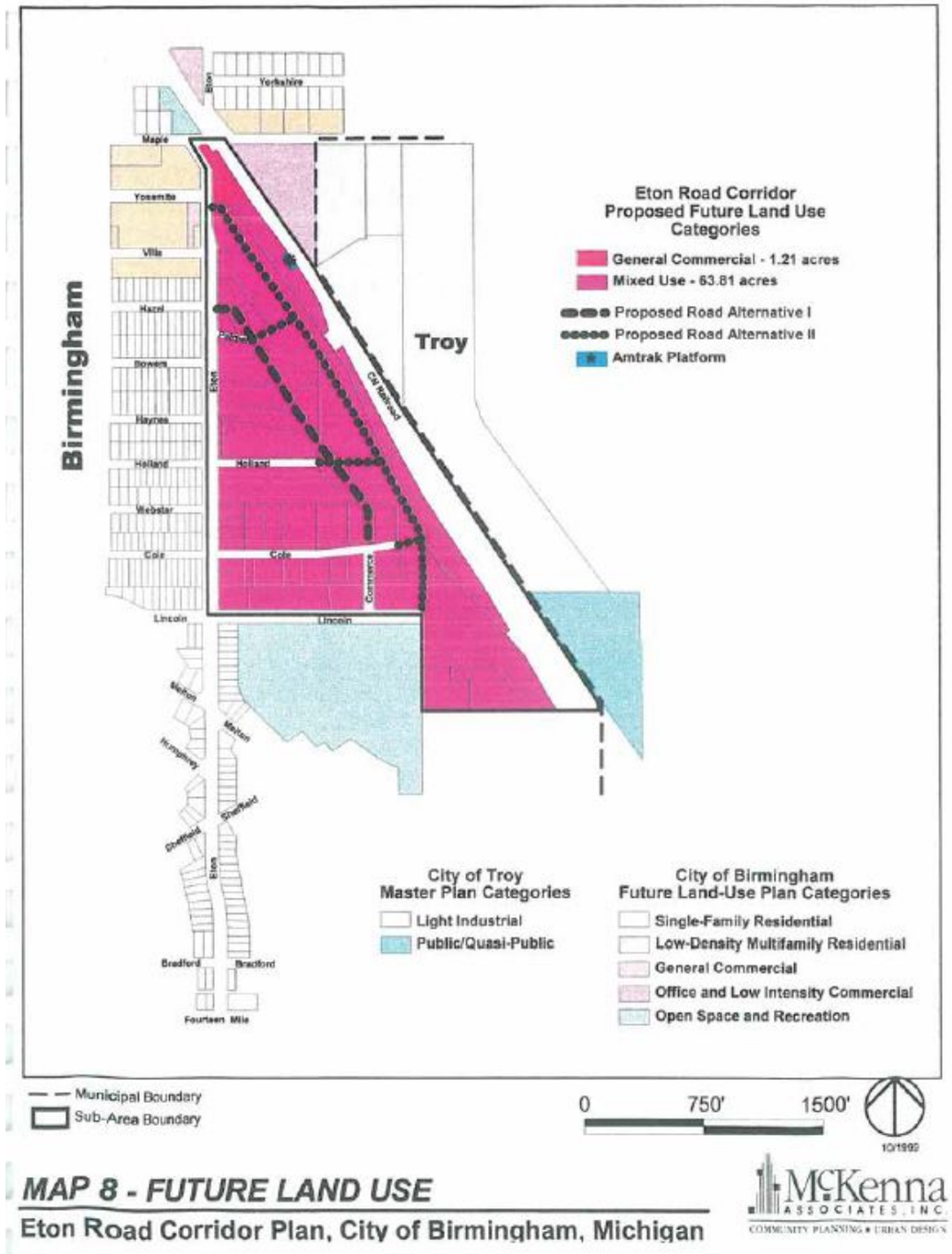
Eton Road Corridor Plan (1999)

Vision Statement: *"The Eton Road Corridor will be a mixed use corridor with a range of commercial, service, light industrial and residential uses that serve the needs of the residents of Birmingham. Creative site planning will be encouraged to promote high quality, cohesive development that is compatible with the existing uses in the corridor and adjacent single-family residential neighborhoods."*

Much of the success that can be observed in the District today is owed to the recommendations contained in the Eton Road Corridor Plan (ERCP). Many of the recommendations have been implemented including the eastward extension of Villa and Hazel into the northern end of the District, the creation of the MX zoning classification, associated development regulations, and the addition of streetscape requirements.

However, many recommendations contained in the ERCP have not been fully implemented that specifically impact the circulation of vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic. These recommendations are as follows:

- A series of curb extensions and "chokers" at select intersections to create better visibility for pedestrians and to encourage lower speeds for motorists;
- To accommodate at least one protected bike lane, given that S. Eton is an important link in a regional bike system; and
- To discourage front parking and to place commercial and residential buildings closer to the road.



MAP 8 - FUTURE LAND USE
Eton Road Corridor Plan, City of Birmingham, Michigan

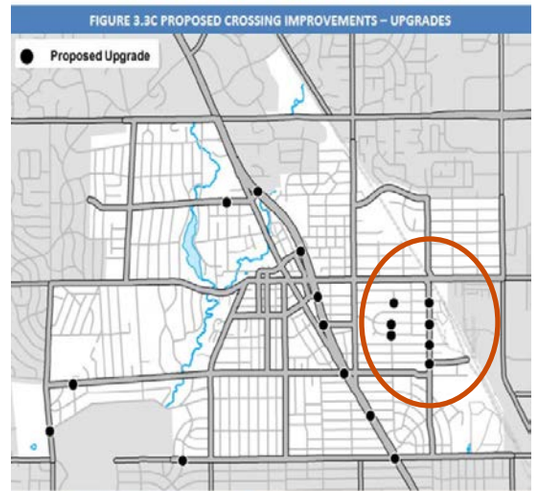
Multimodal Transportation Plan (2013)

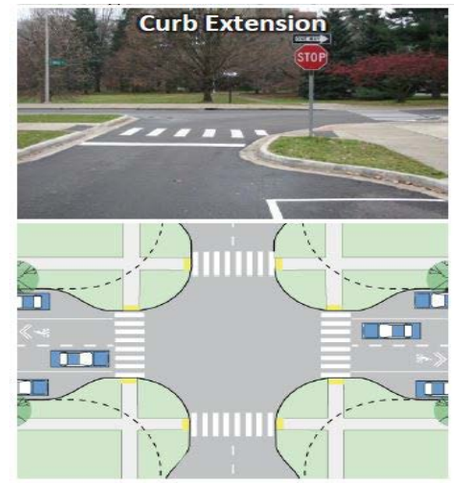
Vision Statement: *"The City of Birmingham seeks to build upon its brand as a walkable community. The purpose of this plan is to provide a document that the Community may reference when contemplating future actions regarding infrastructure, policies and programs. It is envisioned that this plan will guide improvements designed to give people additional transportation choices, thereby enhancing the quality of life in the City of Birmingham."*

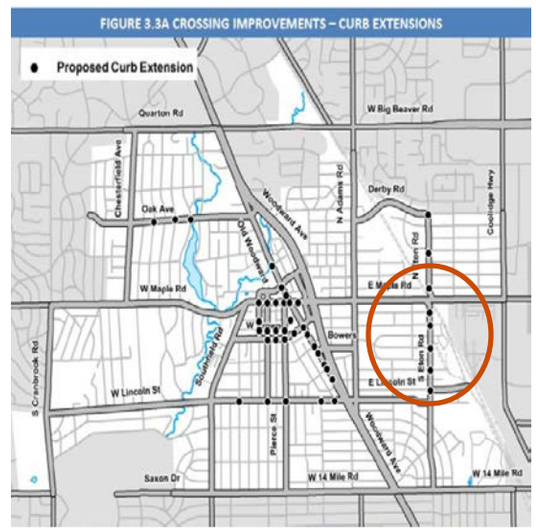
Less than 3 years since its adoption, implementation of the Multimodal Transportation Plan ("MMTP") is already well underway. Many areas identified in the plan that have not yet been retrofitted are at least at the forefront of multimodal discussion in the city. The Eton Road Corridor has proven to be one of those areas.

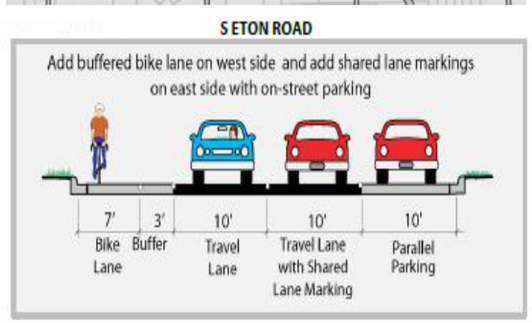
As demonstrated in the MMTP, there is an expressed community desire for a transportation network that adequately responds to the needs of various users and trip types. In order to achieve this vision for the Rail District, the MMTP recommends the following physical improvements:

- Completing sidewalks along Cole St.;
- Installing curb extensions on S. Eton Rd. at Yosemite, Villa, Bowers, Holland, and Cole;
- Improving crossing areas at Villa, Bowers, Holland and Cole; and
- Striping bike lanes on S. Eton via parking consolidation: shared lane markings from E. Maple to Villa; buffered bike lane and shared lane markings from Villa to E. Lincoln.









Zoning Analysis

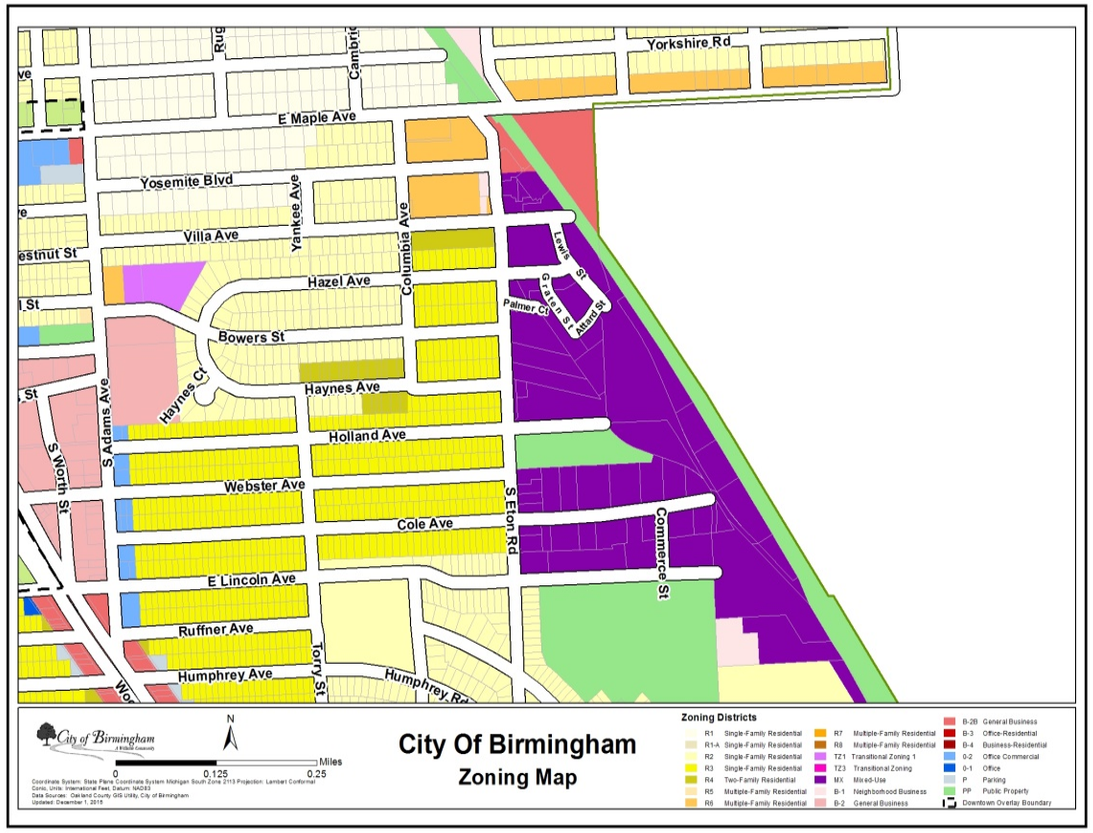
The majority of the S. Eton Corridor was zoned MX Mixed-Use, in accordance with the recommendation of the ERCP. The MX District was established with the intent to:

a) Encourage and direct development within the boundaries of the Eton Road Mixed-Use District and implement the Eton Road Corridor Plan;
b) Encourage residential and nonresidential uses that are compatible in scale within adjacent resident neighborhoods;
c) Encourage the retention, improvement, and expansions of existing uses that help define the Eton Road Corridor;
d) Allow mixed use developments including residential uses within the Eton Road Corridor; and
e) Minimize the adverse effects of nonresidential traffic on the adjacent residential neighborhood.

With zero foot minimum front and side yard setback requirements, no required open space, and buildings permitted up to 4 stories in height, the MX District encourages a midrise, integrated urban form throughout the Corridor. However, a majority of the buildings in the district have not been developed to the new standards set forth in the current Zoning Ordinance. Many properties still contain single-use, one-story buildings that do not maximize their potential space.

The buildings that have been recently constructed are emblematic of the District's goal of creating appealing mixed-use buildings that complement the adjacent residential neighborhoods. The District Lofts, for example, demonstrate the potential of the District development standards with its well-fenestrated façades that abut the front and side lot lines, ground floor retail space and residential upper floors, and its sufficient parking facilities.

A fundamental goal of the Rail District is to "minimize the adverse effects of nonresidential traffic on the adjacent neighborhood," but the current road design does little to provide a buffer between the MX and residential zones. Traffic, parking, and safety issues still persist to this day. Actions are recommended for Eton Rd that ease the transition from the residential neighborhood to the mixed use zone and provide safe access to the area's amenities for all modes of transportation.



Preliminary Assessment: Public Perception and Identification of Issues

Committee members reviewed and analyzed existing conditions in the Rail District. Discussion branched off into five main topics: *Rail District Design and Development, Pedestrian Safety/Amenities, Parking, Traffic*, and *Bicycles*. The committee's comments have been summarized into bullet points below.

Rail District Design & Development

- The committee members are pleased with new developments in the district. The development standards for the new buildings have created an overall appealing look.
- Parking in front of the older buildings is not favorable in the context of creating a more pedestrianized corridor.
- The Committee raised the point about how the Rail District ends at Lincoln. Members discussed extending the project area towards 14 Mile as the stretch south of Eton serves as a vital connection.
- The width of S. Eton is viewed as problematic, as it encourages cars to exceed the speed limit. Bump-out curbs are needed on S. Eton at necessary intersections between E. Maple and Sheffield as a way to narrow down the road, slow traffic, and make it easier to cross the street. This would create safer access to the parks, pool, and other amenities.
- The Committee proposed reviewing zoning uses and standards for the rail district. The recent improvements to W. Maple are also something the Committee wants to keep in mind as a good example when making recommendations for the Rail District.

Pedestrian Safety/Amenities

- The Committee is displeased with the lack of pedestrian safety in the Rail District. Committee members emphasized the importance of safe and adequate pedestrian crossing throughout the District, especially along S. Eton Rd. The idea is to have a complete network of sidewalks and crossings that encourage people to walk through the District.
- The intersection at S. Eton and Maple is not amenable to pedestrians, especially when they are attempting to get from S. Eton to N. Eton.
- The intersection at S. Eton and Cole, especially on the commercial side, is not safe from a pedestrian or vehicle standpoint.

Parking

- Parking was raised as a priority. The committee would like to see an evaluation of parking demand with respect to supply, and how to resolve the issue via structures, surface lots, and on-street locations.
- Parking along S. Eton, especially the southbound (west) side, was identified as a key focus of the committee. It was also mentioned that on street parking may not need to extend to 14 Mile.
- On-street parking spaces on S. Eton are seen as a problem as they inhibit the visibility of drivers and pedestrians and make it difficult for residents to back out of their driveways. Visibility should be considered in future parking studies.

Traffic

- Excessive speed heading southbound on S. Eton – especially from 14 Mile to Lincoln –was identified as an issue to be addressed moving forward.
- The Committee is concerned with the cut-through traffic that occurs on S. Eton
- The new Whole Foods is expected to increase the amount of traffic through the corridor, so the City should consider street designs that regulate speed and traffic, while ensuring a safe pedestrian experience.

Bicycles

- More emphasis should be placed on non-motorized transportation in the study area. More specifically, S. Eton should be designed to be safer for bicyclists.
- The bike route transition from N. Eton to S. Eton should be improved; however, a continuous bike lane may not be a feasible means by which to do this.
- The committee would like the southwest corner of E. Maple and S. Eton to be widened in order to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and to ease traffic flowing in and out.

Preliminary Assessment: Walking Survey

Committee members conducted a walking survey and inventory of the S. Eton Corridor. Findings are outlined below and on the pages that follow.

First stop - under the bridge at S. Eton/Maple Rd.

- Viaduct has a "bunker" feel
- Not a good corner to cross
- Widening the sidewalk would help calm traffic
- Bump-out/plaza at corner would be effective, but difficult
- A pedestrian island would help at this intersection

Second stop - Yosemite/S. Eton

- Drivers are not fully aware of pedestrians around this stretch of S. Eton
- A crosswalk is needed here
- Bump-out curbs may be necessary
- A bike lane could start around here
- The street begins to narrow down closer to beauty shop
- Bump-out and bike lane might contradict each other

Third stop – Villa/S. Eton

- Possible bump-out curbs here
- Visibility is very obstructed at this corner

Fourth stop – Hazel/S. Eton

- A crosswalk is needed at the Whistle Stop
- A crosswalk would help slow traffic
- S. Eton improvements must be consistent

Fifth stop - Bowers/S. Eton

- This is area is a destination and should receive a large crossing with different treatment, such as a plaza in the center
- This stop does not warrant a stop sign, but controls should be built to calm traffic speed
- People who come to eat at Griffin Claw don't know where to park

Preliminary Assessment: Walking Survey (Continued)

Sixth stop – Haynes/S. Eton

- It was noted that parking could occur along the dividing island at Bolyard Lumber

Seventh stop – Holland/S. Eton

- A double crosswalk exists here but it is not a natural crossing spot

Eighth stop – Webster/S. Eton

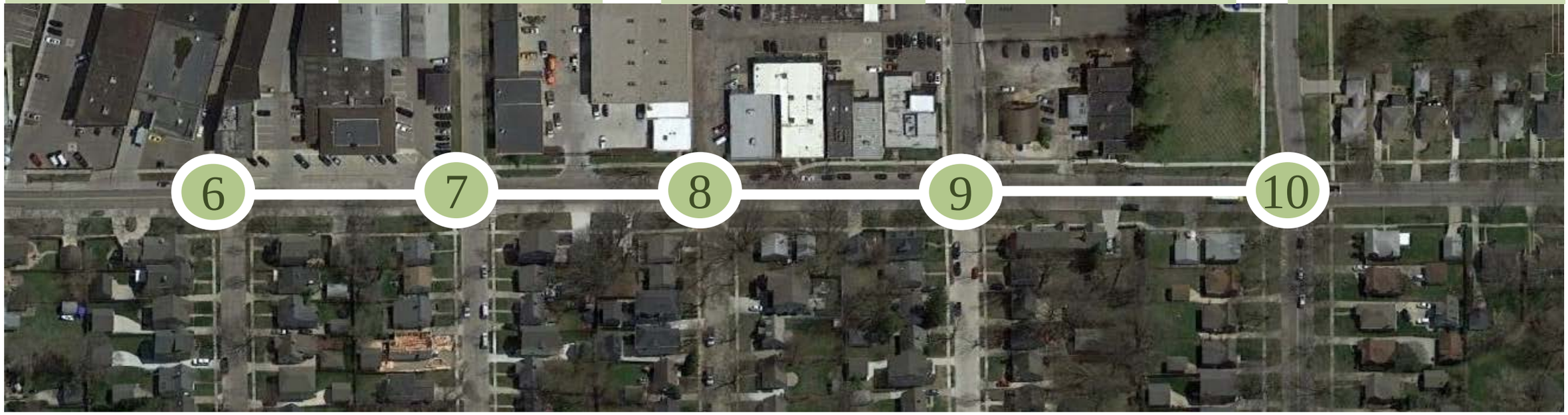
- Curbs are terrible here
- Bump-out curbs are suggested for this location
- Yellow no parking lines may be too long next to driveways

Ninth stop – Cole/S. Eton

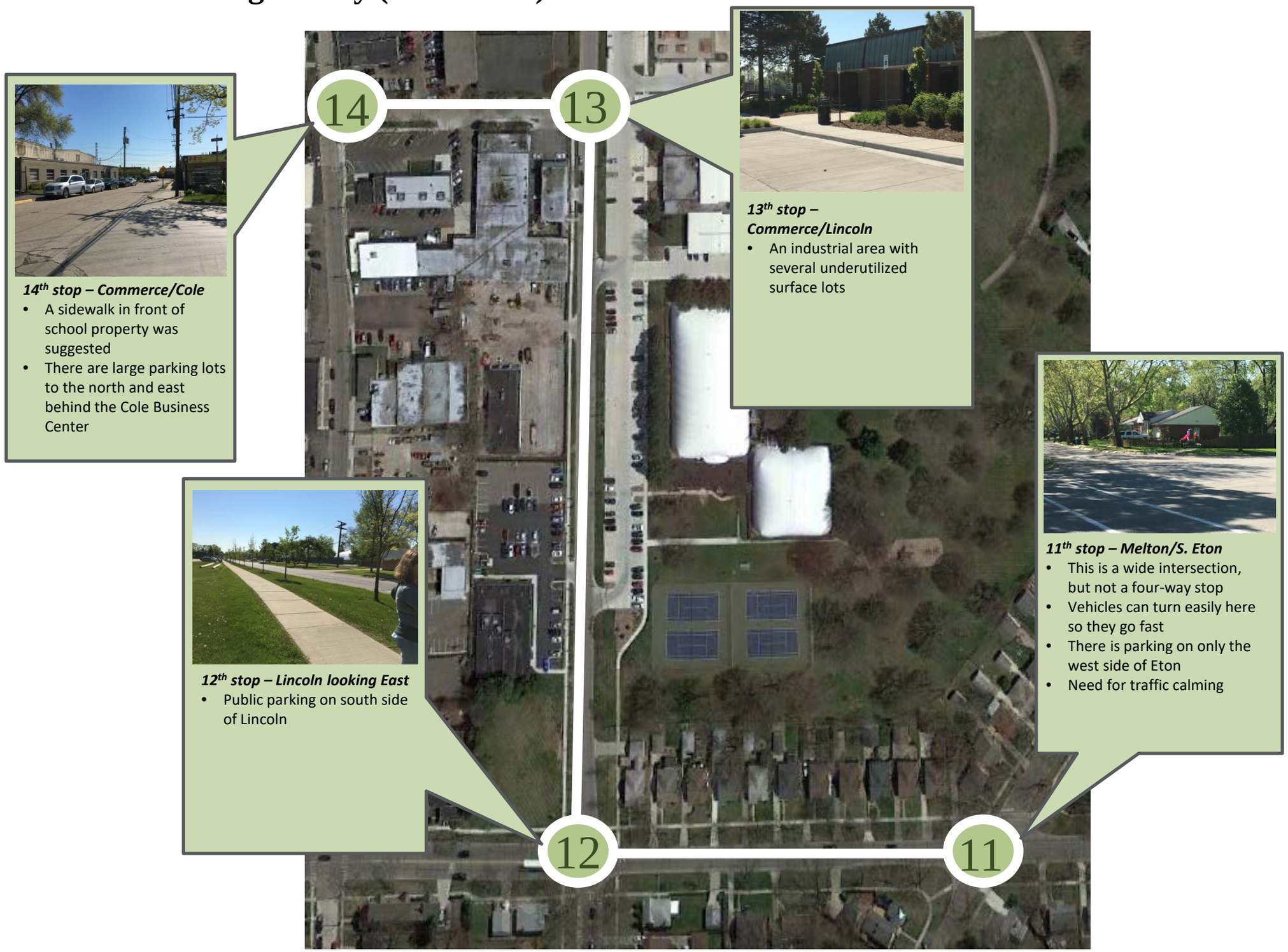
- Bump-outs are recommended on the four corners
- Many interesting shops to the east

Tenth stop – Lincoln/S. Eton

- This is a prominent corner
- There should be something that demarcates commercial from residential
- Well defined crosswalks here
- Future streetscape improvements should be considered



Preliminary Assesment: Walking Survey (Continued)



Preliminary Assessment: Walking Survey (Continued)

16th stop – Cole Business Center Lots

- There is much parking to the north and east behind Cole Business Center with underutilized parking
- Two adjoining parking lots are blocked from each other by a wall (no shared access)

15th stop – Commerce and Cole

- Sidewalks needed in front of the school property
- Several surface parking lots in front of buildings that are not full

17th stop – DPS/Down River Refrigeration

- Sparse parking around Down River Refrigeration

18th stop – Northbound S. Eton

- Yellow curbing was noted in front of Down River Refrigeration
- Angled parking was not supported at this location by Multi Modal Transportation Board
- Sidewalk is incomplete in front of Roy Schecter and Vocht office
- No sidewalk connection from S. Eton to Robot Garage area

Concepts Considered Within Study Area

Based on the issues identified in the preliminary assessment of the study area and a review of the ERCP and MMTP, the Committee considered numerous improvements for the right of way at specific locations.

S. Eton and Maple Intersection

Existing

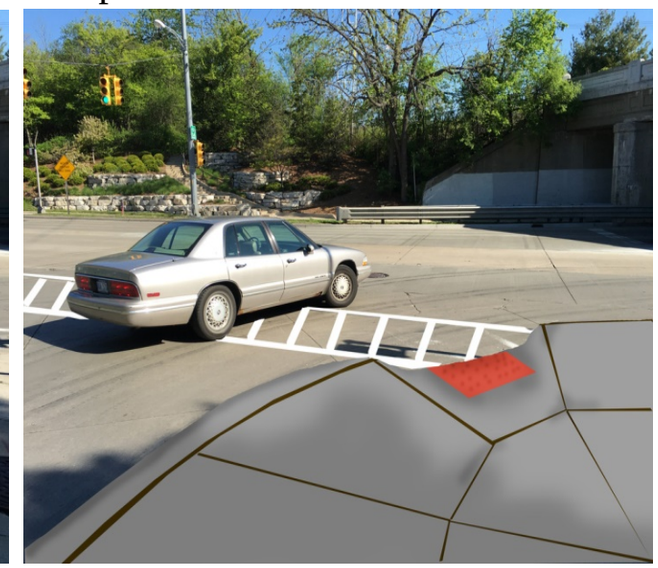
Proposed

Design Concept 1

At the southeast corner of S. Eton and Maple, there is a lot of activity but very little room to work with to make any drastic changes. As suggested during the walking tour, the pavement at this corner could be extended into the grass area to provide a more comfortable pedestrian space.

Existing

Proposed



Design Concept 2

Another option at this location could be to create a bump-out to give motorists better visibility of pedestrians attempting to cross and to shorten the length of road crossings for pedestrians.

Design Concept 3
The Committee discussed constructing a pork chop-shaped pedestrian island as an alternative to a bump-out. A pedestrian refuge could effectively channel drivers to slow down and gives pedestrians the ability to wait on it instead of having to rush across the street during a short traffic light interval.

The committee recommended hiring a consultant to evaluate traffic calming measures and pedestrian improvements at this complex intersection.

Existing

Proposed

S. Eton and Yosemite Intersection

Bump-out curbs were considered for the intersection of S. Eton and Yosemite and could be coupled with striped crosswalks for additional safety. Having a bump-out at this intersection would help demarcate between the commercial area and residential area.

Additional bump out curbs and crosswalk improvements were also suggested along S. Eton at Villa Road, Hazel St, Webster St., and Cole St.

Existing

Proposed

S. Eton and Bowers Intersection

Committee members recognized this area as being of significant importance as it marks the approximate center of the Rail District. Brick pavers could be used to accent the intersection with color to remind people that it is a place for both pedestrians and cars. As shown in the suggested rendering, the concept is coupled with curb bump outs, benches, and on-street bike racks, as well as pedestrian crosswalk improvements to create a plaza condition.

The committee recommended hiring a consultant to study possible improvements to this intersection.

Existing

Proposed

S. Eton Corridor (Maple to Lincoln)

Following the recommendation of the MMTP, the Committee discussed the option of adding bicycle facilities to S. Eton by adding sharrows for northbound bicycle traffic, eliminating parking on the west side (also recommended by the MMTP), and giving southbound traffic a 10 foot protected bike lane that includes a 3 foot buffer zone.

Existing

Proposed

Parking Inventory and Study

A Parking inventory was completed in the study area for a better understanding of when and where parking spaces are being utilized. A map of total spaces was created for private lots and on street parking. The results are illustrated in Figure 1, and show an existing parking count of 2,480 spaces in the study area and surrounding neighborhood.

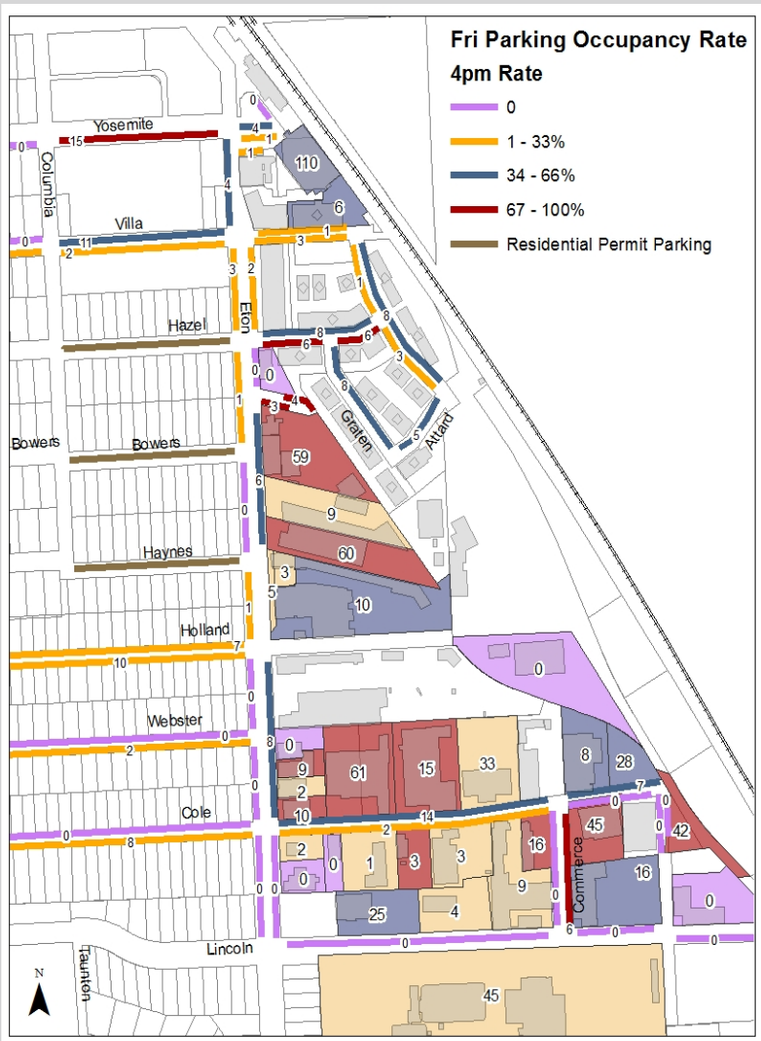
A parking study was also completed to determine parking utilization in the study area. Parking counts were conducted by city staff at 4, 5, and 6pm on Friday September 23rd and Wednesday September 30th, and the data was then analyzed.

The consulting firm Fleis and Vandenbrink was contracted to create a report for the count studies and provide summary tables showing available spaces, occupied spaces, and percent occupancy rate for the north and south zones of the study area. An analysis and conclusion based upon the findings was then made for off street and on street parking situations in each of the zones.

Count data was then entered into a map for each day and time of the study. The maps on the following pages indicate the total counts for each hour of on street and off street parking spaces, and color code the percent occupancy rate in classes for 0, 1-33%, 34-66%, and 67-100%. These maps are shown side by side to visually illustrate the intensities of parking in the district, and how the parking occupancy rates change from 4-6pm in the study area.

Figure 1

Friday Parking Count: 4:00 PM

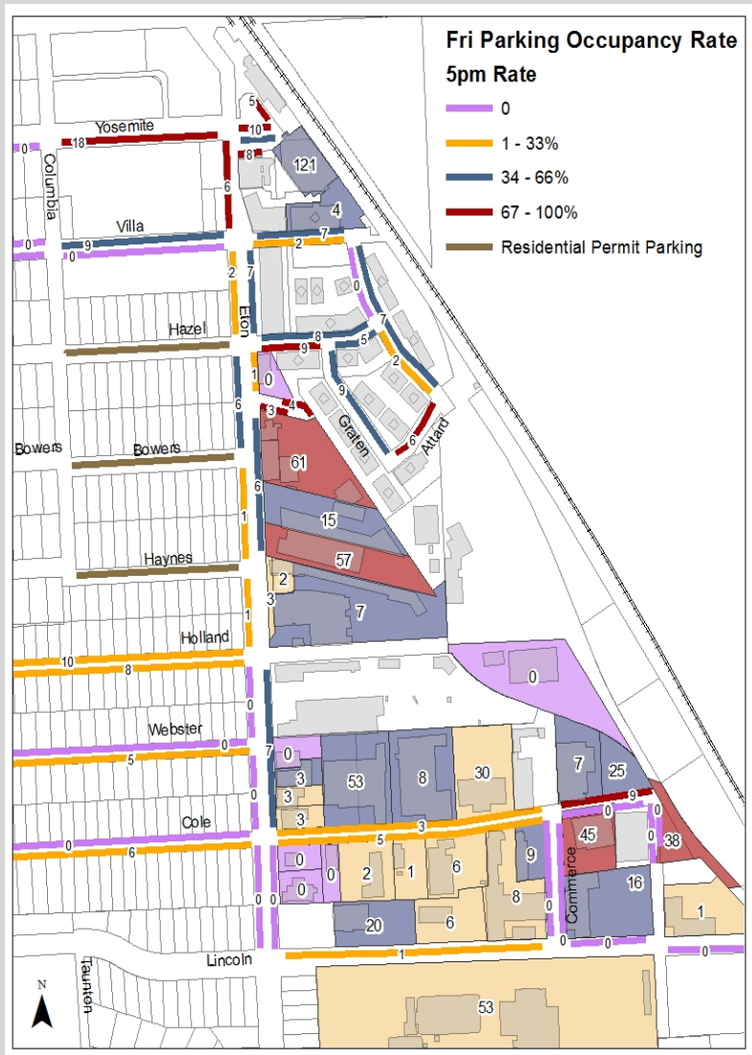


S. Eton Rd
- 9 out of 60 spaces on the west side are used
- 16 out of 63 spaces on the east side are used

Off Street Parking
- Parking lots off of Cole Street at or near capacity
- Griffin Claw already above 66% capacity

Residential Parking
- Yosemite and Villa experience overflow throughout the evening.
- Villa stays between 33-66% occupancy rate throughout the Friday study.

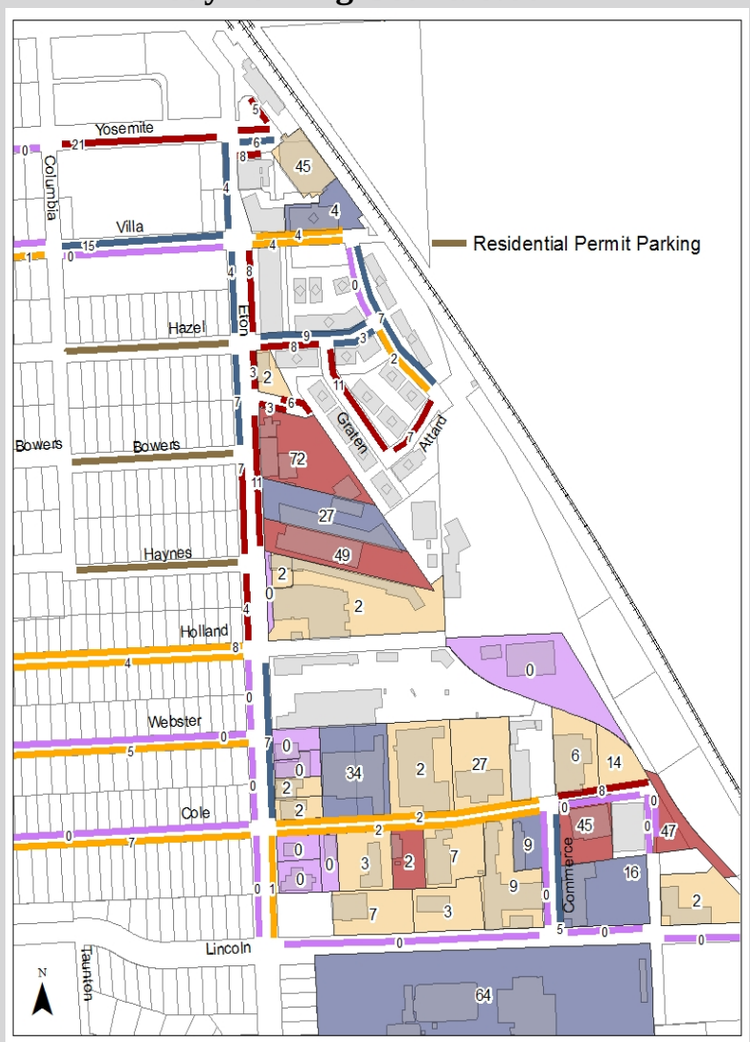
Friday Parking Count: 5:00 PM



S. Eton Rd
- 16 out of 60 spaces on the west side are used
- 21 out of 63 spaces on the east side are used

Off Street Parking
- The lots off of Cole Street begin to clear out
- Two of the parcels above 66% are auto repair shops with outdoor vehicle storage.

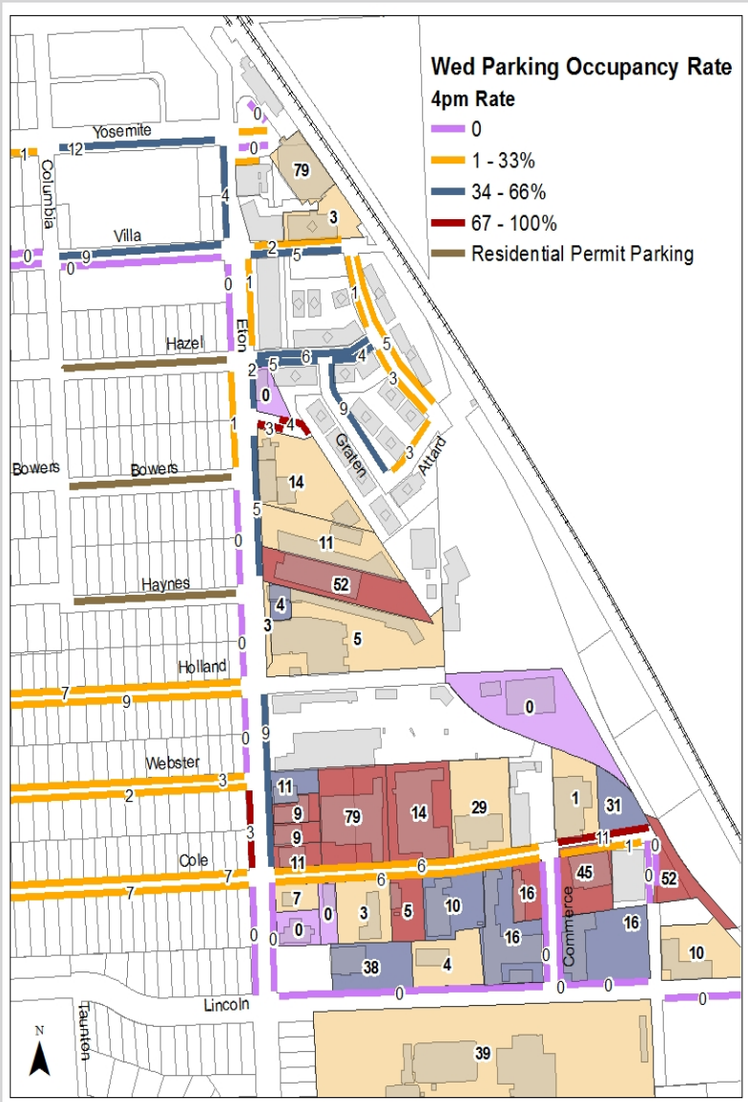
Friday Parking Count: 6:00 PM



S. Eton Rd
- 26 out of 60 spaces on the west side are used
- 30 out of 63 spaces on the east side are used
  *the highest occupancy throughout the study
- 0 spaces on west side, south of Holland are used the entire evening

Off Street Parking
- Griffin Claw parking lot reaches capacity.
- Only 2 of 11 spaces are used in Whistle Stop.
- 0 spaces are used outside of Bolyard Lumber.
- Robot Garage/Watch Hill lot never exceeds 66%.

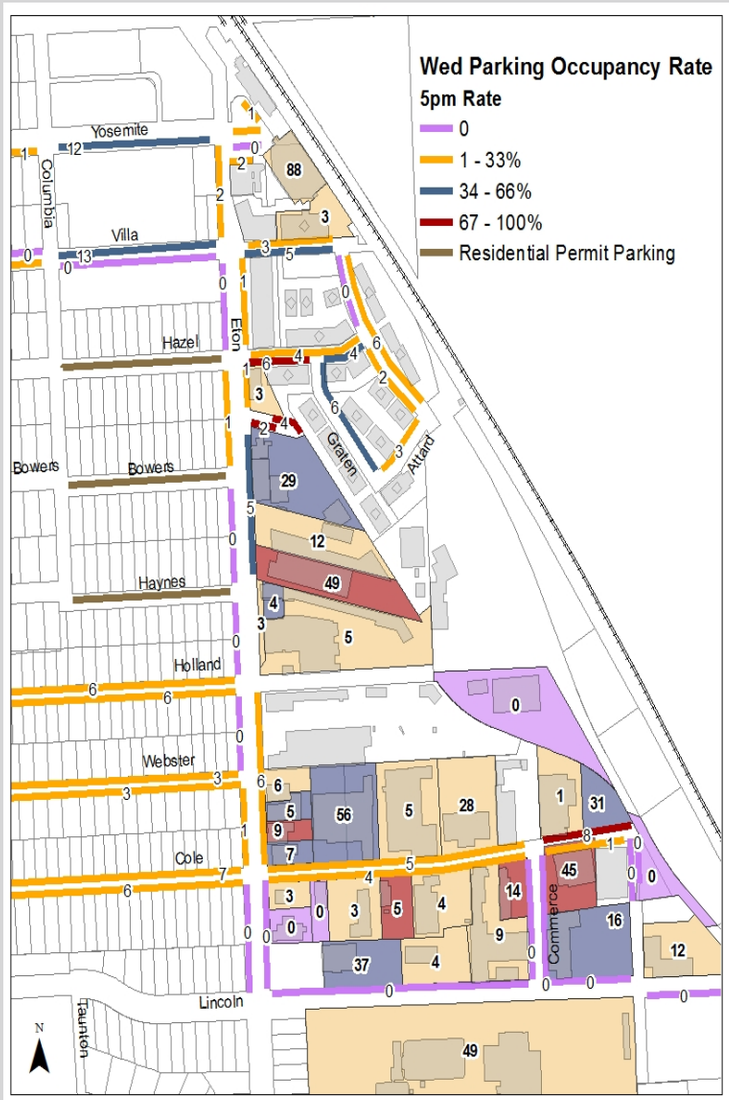
Wed. Parking Count: 4:00 PM



S. Eton
- 7 out of 60 spaces on the west side are used
- 17 out of 63 spaces on the east side are used

Off Street Parking
- Cole Street's highest occupancy rate for off street lots occurs on weekday during regular business hours.

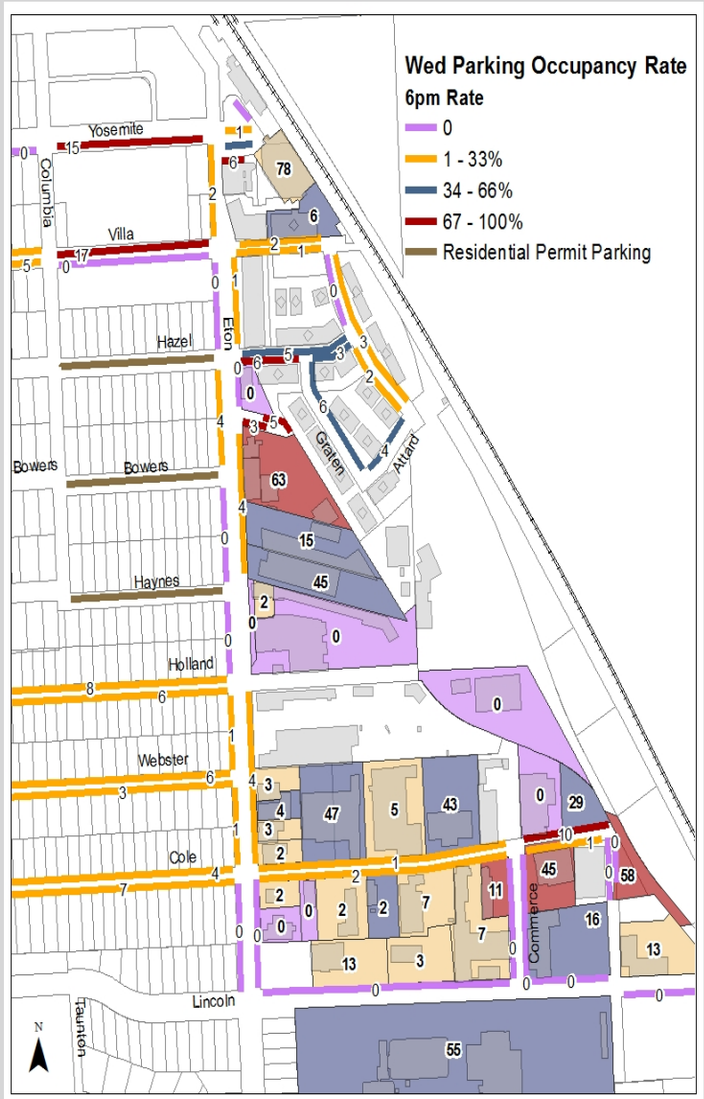
Wed. Parking Count: 5:00 PM



S. Eton
- 4 out of 60 spaces on the west side are used
- 13 out of 63 spaces on the east side are used
  *lowest occupancy in the study

Off Street Parking
- The majority of Cole Street parking lots clear out after 5 pm.

Wed. Parking Count: 6:00 PM



S. Eton
- 8 out of 60 spaces on the west side are used
- 9 out of 63 spaces on the east side are used
  *lowest occupancy in the study

Off Street Parking
- Griffin Claw's peak parking hours increase during the evening while the rest of the parcels show a decrease in use.
- Shared Parking agreements work best when adjacent or nearby parcels have different peak parking times.

Existing Parking Analysis

For the section north of Holland Road, the parking study by Fleis and Vandenbrink concluded:

1) Off street and on-street parking demand is high and the existing spill over parking is impacting Yosemite Boulevard and Villa Road.
2) The parking garage beside Big Rock and The Reserve is underutilized.
3) Griffin Claw had the most utilized parking lot in north zone.
4) The least occupied lots were Whistle Stop and Bolyard Lumber.
    a) Together these two parcels contain 39 parking spaces, which could be an opportunity for shared parking agreement during nights and weekends.
5) During the peak hour there were no available spaces on Northbound Eton between Haynes and Palmer, or southbound Eton between Holland and Bowers.

For the section south of Holland Road, the parking study by Fleis and Vandenbrink concluded:

1) The highest parking demand in this area occurs during weekday daytime hours.
2) Many off street parking lots along Cole Street were near capacity at 4pm, then relatively vacant after 5pm.
    a) This may be an opportunity for shared parking agreements to relieve some parking demand in the north zone.
3) On street parking is not significantly impacted by the commercial properties.
4) The residential neighborhood to the west is not significantly impacted by spillover parking from the Rail District.

The parcel in front of Bolyard Lumber between the street and the building contains 15 parking spaces and is considered public right of way. Based upon the data from the study, these spaces are underutilized. On Friday September 23rd at 6pm, 0 spaces in front of Bolyard Lumber were used, while the east and west side of S. Eton were at or near capacity north of Holland. Better signage could be used to inform drivers and direct them into these spaces to alleviate parking congestion elsewhere.

The parking lots adjacent to Griffin Claw are also considered underutilized at evening hours. During peak parking time, Whistle Stop on the north side utilized 2 of the 11 spaces at 6pm, while 27 out of 44 spaces were utilized in the Robot Garage/Watch Hill parking lot at 6pm. Both of these parking lots have signs indicating parking is for their business only. Whistle Stop, Robot Garage, and Watch Hill have different peak parking hours with Griffin Claw which could be an opportunity for a shared parking agreement.

The on street parking south of Holland is considered underutilized as well. Zero cars parked on the west side of S. Eton between Holland and Lincoln on Friday, while the Wednesday count maxed out at 3 cars. The east side of S. Eton between Holland and Lincoln also had low parking rates. This side had a number of counts with a value of 0, and its maximum occupancy rate never reached above 66%.

Findings

The parking study shows that there is an abundance of parking throughout the study area. However, much of the parking is privately owned for a single use. Parking demand is high for restaurant uses in the evenings and weekends while the office uses have daytime peak parking periods. Shared parking arrangements throughout the study area should be encouraged to maximize the efficiency of existing parking in commercial areas and to eliminate spillover parking into residential areas.

The data from the parking study also supports the Multimodal Transportation Plan's recommendation to eliminate parking on the west side of Eton and use the space for a bike lane. The count data suggests that the study area has enough spaces to accommodate for the loss of parking on the west side of Eton. The highest count for this section was 26 on Friday, September 23rd at 6pm. If these spaces were removed, drivers could still find space in front of Bolyard Lumber and S.Eton between Holland and Lincoln. Available spaces could increase if adjacent businesses entered into shared parking agreements and removed 'business parking only' signs as well, as noted above.

Build-out Analysis

A build-out analysis was conducted to determine the future parking needs of the Rail District. This study involved examining the current state of development in the Rail District and demonstrating which buildings were likely to be redeveloped to their maximum size per the MX (Mixed-Use) zoning district provisions. Recently developed buildings and businesses not likely to change within the next 20 years were highlighted in blue, while properties with the potential for redevelopment were highlighted in red. See Figure 2.

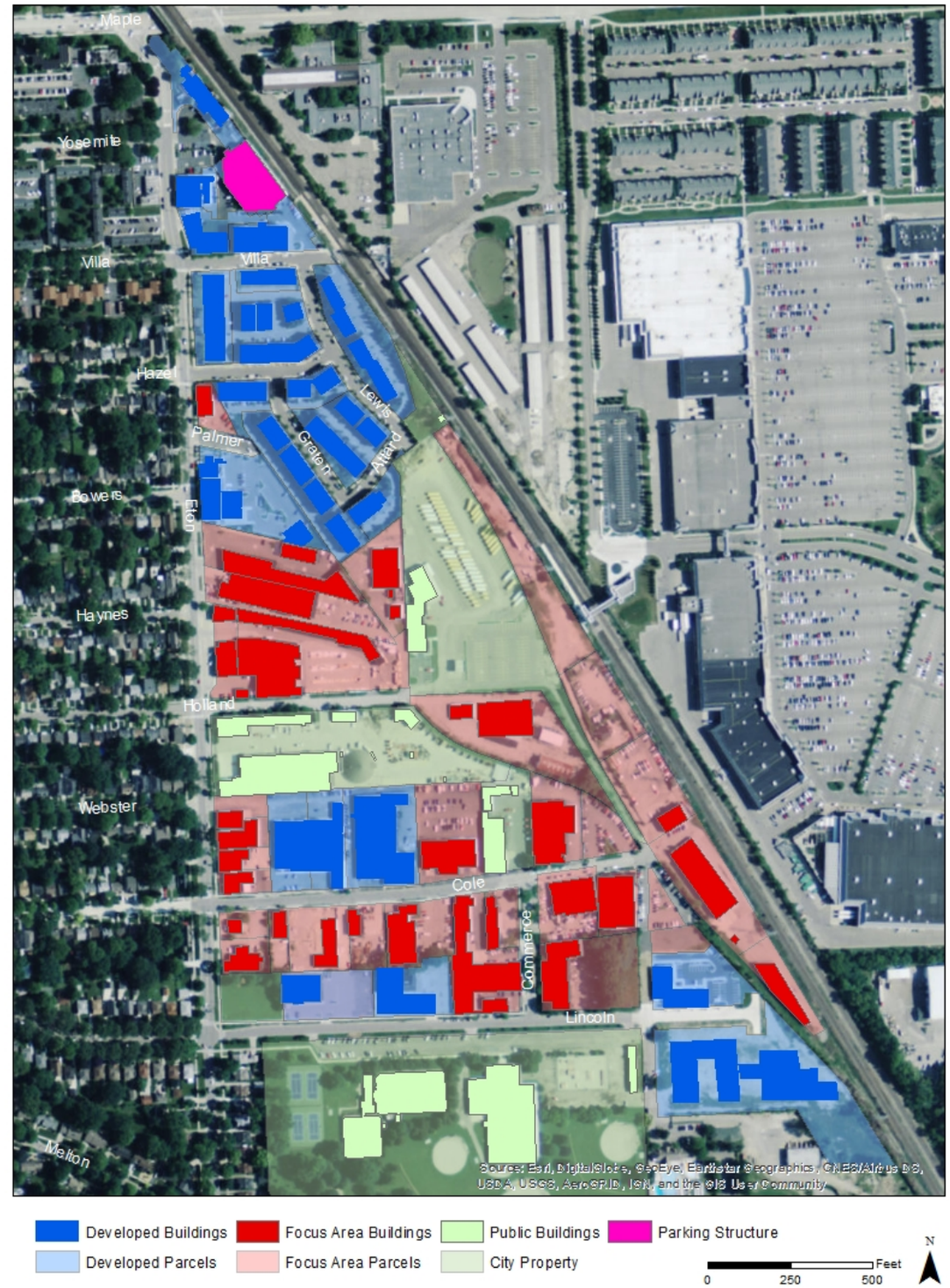
The ratio of developable parcel space vs actual building space was calculated for the properties highlighted in blue. This value is used as the Percent of Maximum Build-Out percentage. This build out rate was then used as a projection for the focus area highlighted in red. The assumption is that future buildings in the focus area will occupy a similar value of their total parcel space as those recently developed in blue.

The projected build-out square footage for the focus area was then used to calculate the additional number of parking spaces that would be required based on probable square footage and land uses.

A build-out analysis is predicated on many underlying assumptions. Presupposing the realistic and sometimes even most extreme conditions can generate a fairly accurate assessment of the issue at hand and help to envision future scenarios. The following assumptions were applied in the Rail District build-out analysis:

- All parcels in the focus area were assumed to be developed as four story, mixed use buildings, the maximum number allowed in the MX zone.
- All first floor uses were assumed to be retail/office, requiring one parking spot per 300 sq ft.
- Floors two, three, and four were assumed to be residential, requiring one parking space per 1000 sq ft of floor area.
- Percentage of Maximum Build Out =
  (Building Floor Area * Number of Stories) / (Parcel Area * 4 Stories)

Figure 2: Identifying Parcels with Potential for Redevelopment



Build-out Analysis

Existing Condition:
Figure 3 is a rendering of the Rail District's current build out. It also includes buildings approved for construction in the near future. The blue represents buildings that are unlikely to change within the next 20 years. Note that the northern section has a higher density of recent developments that occupy a larger portion of their parcel space than the older buildings in red. The restaurants and mixed-use structures in blue are clustered together with a combination of parking uses including a three story parking deck highlighted in pink, underground parking, on street parking, and private garages.

The red area indicates buildings that have not recently been re-developed or undergone significant renovation and still fit the previous zoning category. They are predominantly one story industrial buildings with large surface parking lots. These sites have been identified as a focus area for potential re-development in the build out analysis.

Future Buildout:
The transparent orange space pictured in Figure 4 indicates the maximum build out space for properties likely to redevelop in the Rail District. The MX zone allows up to 4 stories, and the orange is meant to help visualize the difference between the current build out in red, and what is now possible within the MX zone. The percentage of current built out space vs maximum build out is included in Tables 1 and 2 as the Current Percent of Maximum Build Out value on the far right column.

Figure 3

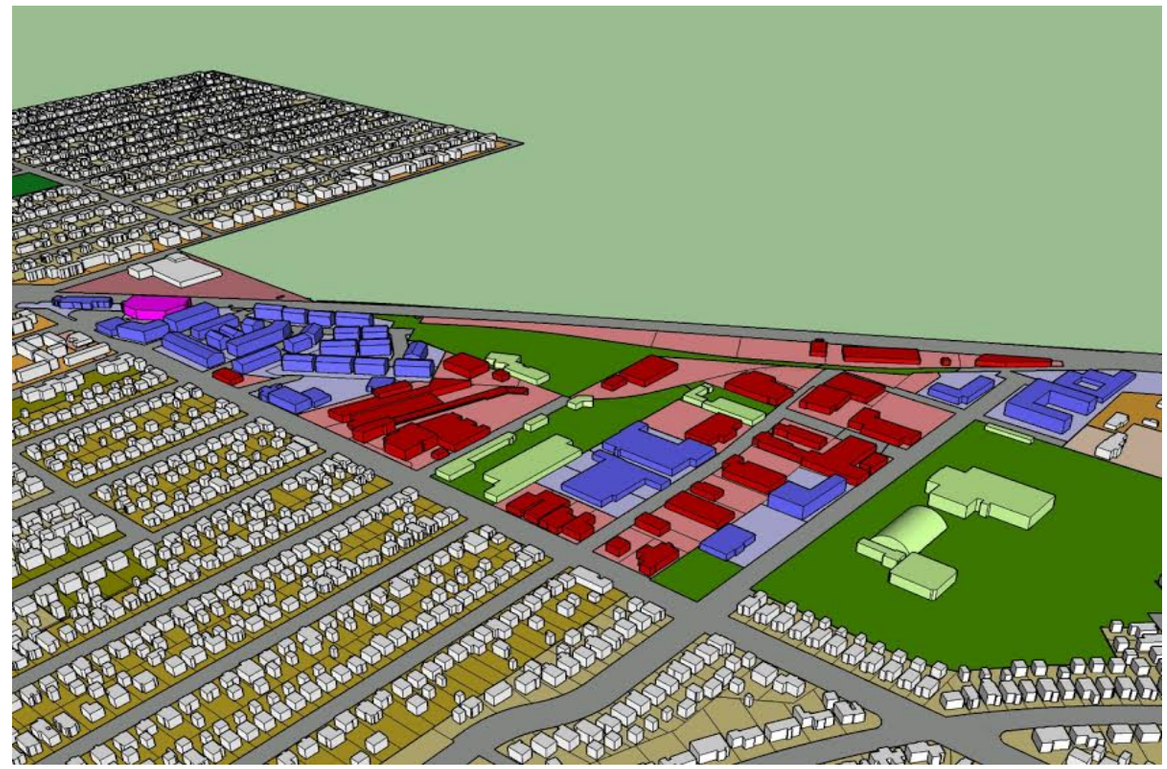
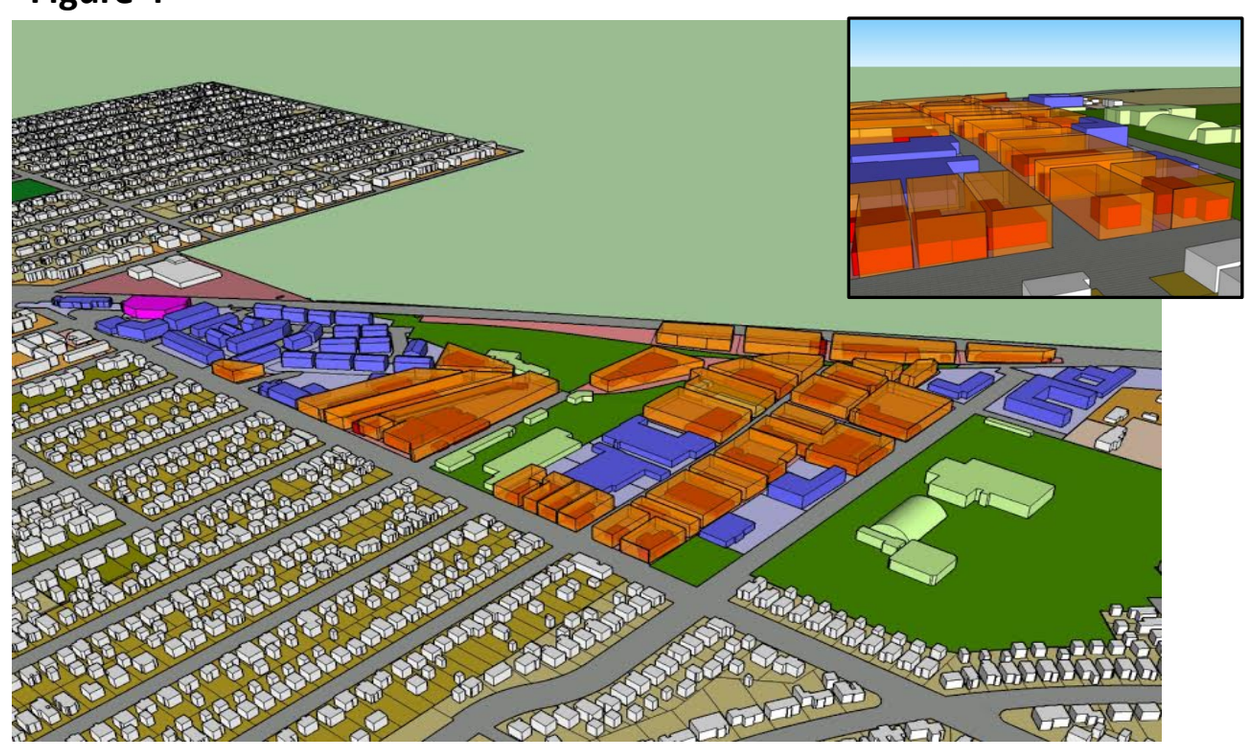


Figure 4



Existing Build-out Analysis

Based on development patterns over the past 15-20 years, it is rare for a landowner to use 100% of their developable space (highlighted in orange on Table 1). This is due to development standards such as side and rear setback requirements, access to parking and drop off space, required parking spaces, and right of way improvements. Table 1 compares the maximum build out values for different building uses, based on actual development that has occurred.

The addresses listed in Table 1 are properties not expected to significantly change within the next 20 years. They contain a mix of single story restaurants like Griffin Claw and The Reserve, single story industrial buildings converted into commercial uses such as the Cole Street multi-business spaces (as shown in white on Table 1), and multi-story, mixed used buildings including District Lofts and Crosswinds (as shown in blue on table 1). The build-out rates of properties not expected to significantly change within the next 20 years range from 6% to 62%, with an average of 26%.

Griffin Claw has a build out value of only 8% because it is a large parcel with 70% of its surface area dedicated to parking. The other 30% is occupied by a one story brewery and restaurant space. Because Griffin Claw is a restaurant, it also has a higher parking requirement than retail, office, and residential uses. Parcels with large surface lot parking areas and single story uses score lower percentage values in the maximum build out analysis.

The addresses highlighted in red on Table 2 correspond with the parcels shown in red on Figure 3, and those properties that have been identified as the focus area likely for redevelopment.

Table 1: Recent Development

Business	Address	Parcel Sq. Ft.	1st Floor Building Sq. Ft.	# of Stories	% Building on Parcel	Total Building Sq. Ft	Max Build Out Space	Current % of Max Build Out
Assumptions					Footprint/ Parcel	Footprint * # of Stories	Parcel Area *4 Stories	Current Build Sq. Ft/ Max Build
Big Rock	245 S ETON ST	28,237	9,151	1	32%	9,151	112,948	8%
The Reserve	325 S ETON ST	13,404	9,305	1	69%	9,305	53,616	17%
Griffin Claw	575 S ETON ST	66,333	20,248	1	31%	20,248	265,332	8%
Cole St. Multi-Business	2211 COLE ST	62,872	36,800	1	59%	36,800	251,488	15%
Cole St. Multi-Business	2121 COLE ST	66,700	33,502	1	50%	33,502	266,800	13%
(Combined w/ 2121)	2099 COLE ST	-	-	-	-		-	-
Armstrong White	2125 E LINCOLN ST	38,454	9,739	1	25%	9,739	153,816	6%
Dentist & Doctor Office	2425 E LINCOLN ST	42,970	12,363	1	29%	12,363	171,880	7%
Sheridan Retirement	2400 E LINCOLN ST (W SIDE)	164,428	30,664	4	19%	149,322	657,712	23%
Sheridan Retirement	2400 E LINCOLN ST (E SIDE)	(Combined)	26,666	1	-	(East +West)	-	-
CrossWinds (16 Buildings)	GRATEN, LEWIS, & HAZEL ST	253,702	97,184	4	38%	388,736	1,014,808	38%
Future Mixed Use	2000 VILLA ST	12,837	8,004	4	62%	32,016	51,348	62%
District Lofts	375 S ETON ST	20,180	10,391	4	51%	41,564	80,720	51%
District Lofts	2051 VILLA RD # 101	27,316	12,171	4	45%	48,685	109,264	45%
Irongate	401 S ETON ST	31,045	15,000	2.5	48%	37,500	124,180	30%
Future Mixed Use	2159 E LINCOLN ST	35,226	16,577	4	47%	66,310	140,904	47%
Total		**863,704**	**347,766**	**-**	**40%**	**895,241**	**3,454,816**	**26%**

Build-out Analysis

Table 2: Focus Area with Potential for Redevelopment

Parcel Address	Parcel Sq. Footage	1st Floor Building Sq. Footage	% Building on Parcel	Est. Total Building Sq. Footage	Est. Max Build Out	Current % of Max Build Out
Assumptions		Building Floor Area	Floor Area / Parcel	Building Floor Area * # of Stories	Parcel Area * 4 Stories	Total Build Sq. Ft. / Max Build
501 S ETON	11,331	3,959	35%	3,959	45,326	9%
653 S ETON	54,444	24,705	45%	24,705	217,776	11%
677 S ETON	55,569	22,184	40%	22,184	222,275	10%
707 S ETON	7,335	2,602	35%	5,205	29,338	18%
953 S ETON	10,080	5,003	50%	5,003	40,320	12%
995 S ETON	11,200	4,263	38%	4,263	44,800	10%
925 S ETON	14,016	3,901	28%	3,901	56,062	7%
929 S ETON	11,104	7,146	64%	7,146	44,416	16%
757 S ETON	111,124	49,332	44%	55,640	444,496	13%
1041 S ETON	11,677	1,771	15%	1,771	46,706	4%
1081 S ETON	14,992	6,036	40%	6,036	59,968	10%
2203 HOLLAND	38,614	10,945	28%	10,945	154,456	7%
2200 HOLLAND	89,215	19,404	22%	19,404	356,860	5%
2275 COLE	55,729	14,241	26%	14,241	222,917	6%
2333 COLE	36,071	20,381	57%	20,381	144,285	14%
2330 COLE	36,451	13,057	36%	13,057	145,805	9%
2499 COLE	47,389	4,052	9%	4,052	189,554	2%
2388 COLE	33,531	Parking Lot	-	-	-	-
2182 COLE	20,754	2,816	14%	2,816	83,017	3%
2254 COLE	36,634	13,011	36%	13,011	146,536	9%
2300 COLE	17,196	5,682	33%	5,682	68,784	8%
2010 COLE	34,468	7,190	21%	7,190	137,871	5%
2006 COLE	10,877	3,185	29%	3,185	43,507	7%
2388 COLE	22,202	16,429	74%	16,429	88,807	19%
2400 COLE	62,645	19,461	31%	19,461	250,580	8%
2450 COLE	23,422	9,192	39%	9,192	93,687	10%
2295 E LINCOLN	53,994	33,402	62%	33,402	215,978	15%
2125 E LINCOLN	38,470	9,739	25%	9,739	153,879	6%
2335 E LINCOLN	61,009	15,992	26%	15,992	244,035	7%
Vacant	65,025	Vacant	-	-	-	-
Vacant	43,240	Vacant	-	-	-	-
Total	**1,139,807**	**349,080**	**31%**	**357,991**	**3,992,042**	**9%**

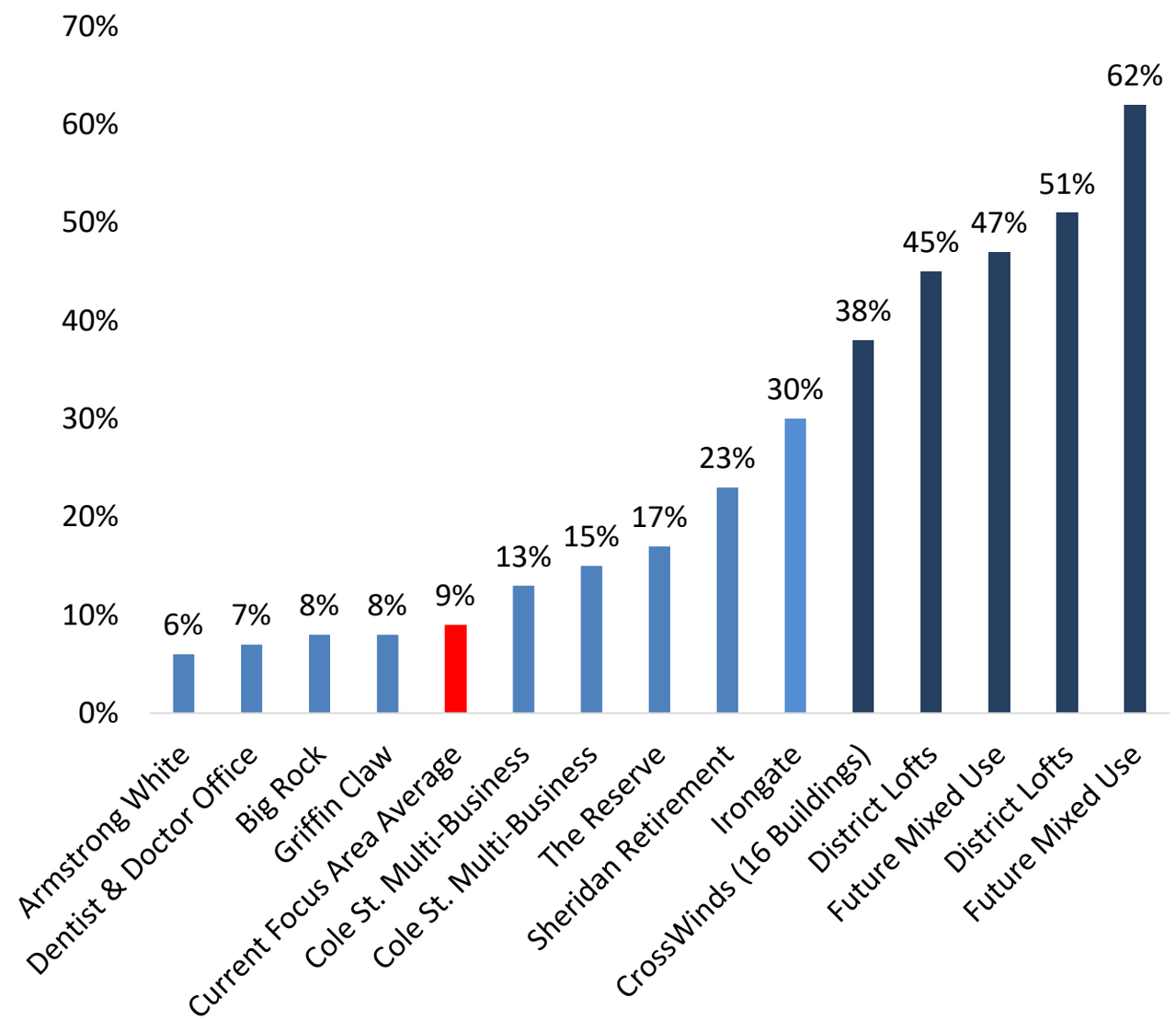
Determining Future Build-out

Figure 5 illustrates the range of current build out within the study area. the light blue and dark blue columns represent buildings that are assumed to remain the same within the next 20 years. The light blue represents existing single use buildings. These buildings have lower values because most are one story in height, and do not maximize their square footage. The Sheridan Retirement home will be four stories, but has a large surface parking area throughout its parcel. Irongate ranges from two to three stories in height, and uses garage parking to maximize its space.

The dark blue columns in Figure 5 represent mixed-use buildings that are approved to be four stories in height, and they average a 49% build out rate. These buildings score higher values because they maximize their height and square footage, and contain enclosed parking with building area above.

The focus area's current build out rate ranges from 3% to 19% with an average of 9%, which is highlighted in the red column in Figure 5. All of the buildings in the focus area are one story with large surface parking lots. For future projections, it is important to determine how the Rail District would change if the buildings in the focus area were transformed from a 9% average build out to anywhere between 30-50%, similar to recent development projects in the study area.

Figure 5: Percent of Maximum Build Out



Future Build-out Analysis

Table 3 illustrates the parking necessary for projected build-outs in the focus area. The three scenarios increase the focus area from its current 9% build-out to 30%, 40%, and 50% build out rates. These three values were selected by the committee based on recent development trends in the area with regards to size and mix of office/retail, restaurant, and residential uses.

Required parking spaces were then calculated from the floor area values at 30%, 40%, and 50% of maximum build out values. The first floor of the hypothetical build outs were assumed to be retail/office, requiring 1 space per 300 sq. ft, and floors 2-4 were assumed to be residential, requiring 1 parking space per 1000 sq ft. The total values are shown at the bottom of Table 3. The difference between these values and the existing number of parking spaces was then calculated to illustrate how many additional parking spaces would be required if the focus area developed at a 30%, 40%, and 50% build out rate (see Table 4).

Table 3: Parking Projection

Parcel Address	Current Parcel Sq. Footage	Est. Max Build Out	Parking Requirement	Parking Requirement	Max Build Out Parking Requirement	Required Parking	Required Parking	Required Parking
Assumptions		Parcel Area *4 Stories	Retail: 1st Floor 1 per 300 sq. ft.	Residential: Floors 2-4 1 per 1000 sq. ft.	100% Build Out	50% Build Out	40% Build Out	30% Build Out
501 S ETON	11,331	45,326	38	34	72	36	29	22
653 S ETON	54,444	217,776	181	163	345	172	138	103
677 S ETON	55,569	222,275	185	167	352	176	141	106
707 S ETON	7,335	29,338	24	22	46	23	19	14
(Off Site)	65,025	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
757 S ETON	111,124	444,496	370	333	704	352	282	211
2203 HOLLAND	38,614	154,456	129	116	245	122	98	73
2200 HOLLAND	89,215	356,860	297	268	565	283	226	170
953 S ETON	10,080	40,320	34	30	64	32	26	19
995 S ETON	11,200	44,800	37	34	71	35	28	21
2275 COLE	55,729	222,917	186	167	353	176	141	106
2333 COLE	36,071	144,285	120	108	228	114	91	69
2330 COLE	36,451	145,805	122	109	231	115	92	69
925 S ETON	14,016	56,062	47	42	89	44	36	27
929 S ETON	11,104	44,416	37	33	70	35	28	21
2499 COLE	47,389	189,554	158	142	300	150	120	90
(Off Site)	43,240	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2388 COLE	33,531	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2182 COLE	20,754	83,017	69	62	131	66	53	39
2254 COLE	36,634	146,536	122	110	232	116	93	70
2300 COLE	17,196	68,784	57	52	109	54	44	33
2010 COLE	34,468	137,871	115	103	218	109	87	65
1041 S ETON	11,677	46,706	39	35	74	37	30	22
1081 S ETON	14,992	59,968	50	45	95	47	38	28
2006 COLE	10,877	43,507	36	33	69	34	28	21
2295 E LINCOLN	53,994	215,978	180	162	342	171	137	103
2125 E LINCOLN	38,470	153,879	128	115	244	122	97	73
2335 E LINCOLN	61,009	244,035	203	183	386	193	155	116
2388 COLE	22,202	88,807	74	67	141	70	56	42
2400 COLE	62,645	250,580	209	188	397	198	159	119
2450 COLE	23,422	93,687	78	70	148	74	59	45
Total	**1,139,807**	**3,992,042**	**3,327**	**2,994**	**6,321**	**3,160**	**2,528**	**1,896**
		*Not Probable			*Not Probable			

Parking Requirement for Future Build-out

Projecting future development is a complicated task. In this analysis, trends from recent developments in the Rail District are extrapolated into the focus area, and then basic assumptions are used to calculate how many extra parking spaces would be required. Although it is an inexact science, having a general idea of future parking needs is an important task. Doing so helps predict how many additional cars could be traveling through the district and how much parking is needed in the future. This can have an impact on traffic signals, road speeds, safety precautions, parking counts, and road design.

Detailed analysis of recent development trends show an average build-out of 26% within the study area. Based on these findings, the potential build out rates of 30%, 40%, and 50% were used, assuming that future developments will try to maximize available space and build four stories. The Ad Hoc Rail District Committee recommended reliance on the 30% build out rate for the buildout analysis to allow for a combination of mixed use, four story buildings which average around 50%, and single story office and restaurant uses which average around 10%, consistent with recent development trends.

There are currently 826 parking spaces in the parking lots within the focus area. Table 4 illustrates additional parking needed based on the build out projections, which range from an additional 1,070 parking spaces if the focus area is built out to 30%, 1702 spaces at 40%, and 2,334 spaces if the focus area is built out to 50% buildout.

If future development trends towards buildings with less of an upfront cost than 4 stories and underground parking, the additional parking spaces required would drop substantially. Also, the 1,070 additional parking spaces at 30% build out projection is based on an assumption that every parcel identified in red in Figure 3 and Table 2 is redeveloped. We have seen a large amount of repurposing in the Rail District, especially on Cole Street, and if future land owners choose repurposing of current buildings over redevelopment, the projected parking spaces would see a substantial drop as well.

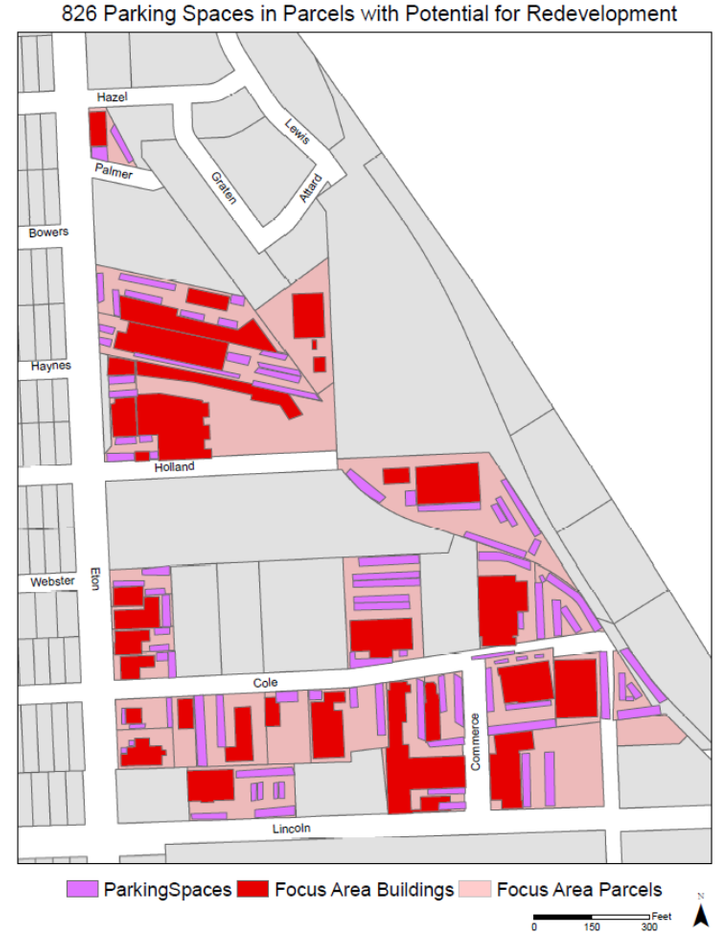
Many of the parcels in the focus area do not have enough space to provide required parking for 4 stories of retail and residential uses unless they build an underground parking facility. Based on recent development trends in the area, this is unlikely to occur and thus, buildout rates will likely remain in the 20-30% range of maximum build-out, requiring less than 1,070 additional parking spaces in the study area. It is important to note that based on the current standards, all of these additional parking spaces must be provided by individual property owners and/or developers. Thus, the City need only focus on encouraging an efficient use of private parking facilities, and ensuring good right-of-way design to accommodate additional vehicle traffic and balance the needs of non-motorized users. The provision of additional public parking is not warranted now, nor in the near future.

Table 4: Future Parking Needs

Focus Area Build Out Rate	Projected Parking Spaces	Projected Additional Spaces
Current	826	-
100%	6,321	5,495
50%	3,160	2,334
40%	2,528	1,702
30%	1,896	1,070

Figure 6

826 Parking Spaces in Parcels with Potential for Redevelopment



Recommendations

The following recommendations are offered by the Ad Hoc Rail District Committee.

Recommendation 1: Improve Pedestrian Crossings

Issues: Some crosswalks and intersections along S. Eton Road are dangerous due to the lack of visibility they create for pedestrians attempting to cross the street. Traffic is heavy and often exceeds the posted speed limit.

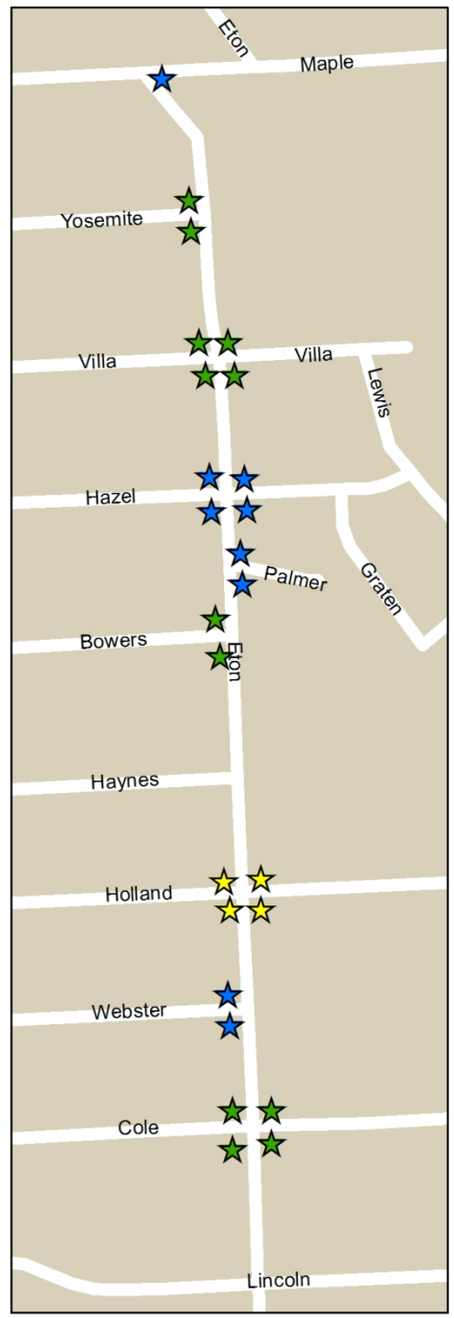
Recommendation: Construct bump-out curbs throughout the study area.

A bump-out curb is a traffic calming method in which a sidewalk is extended to reduce the crossing distance at intersection. In doing so, sight distance and sight lines for pedestrians are improved, vehicles are encouraged to slow down, and parked cars are prevented from obstructing crosswalk areas.

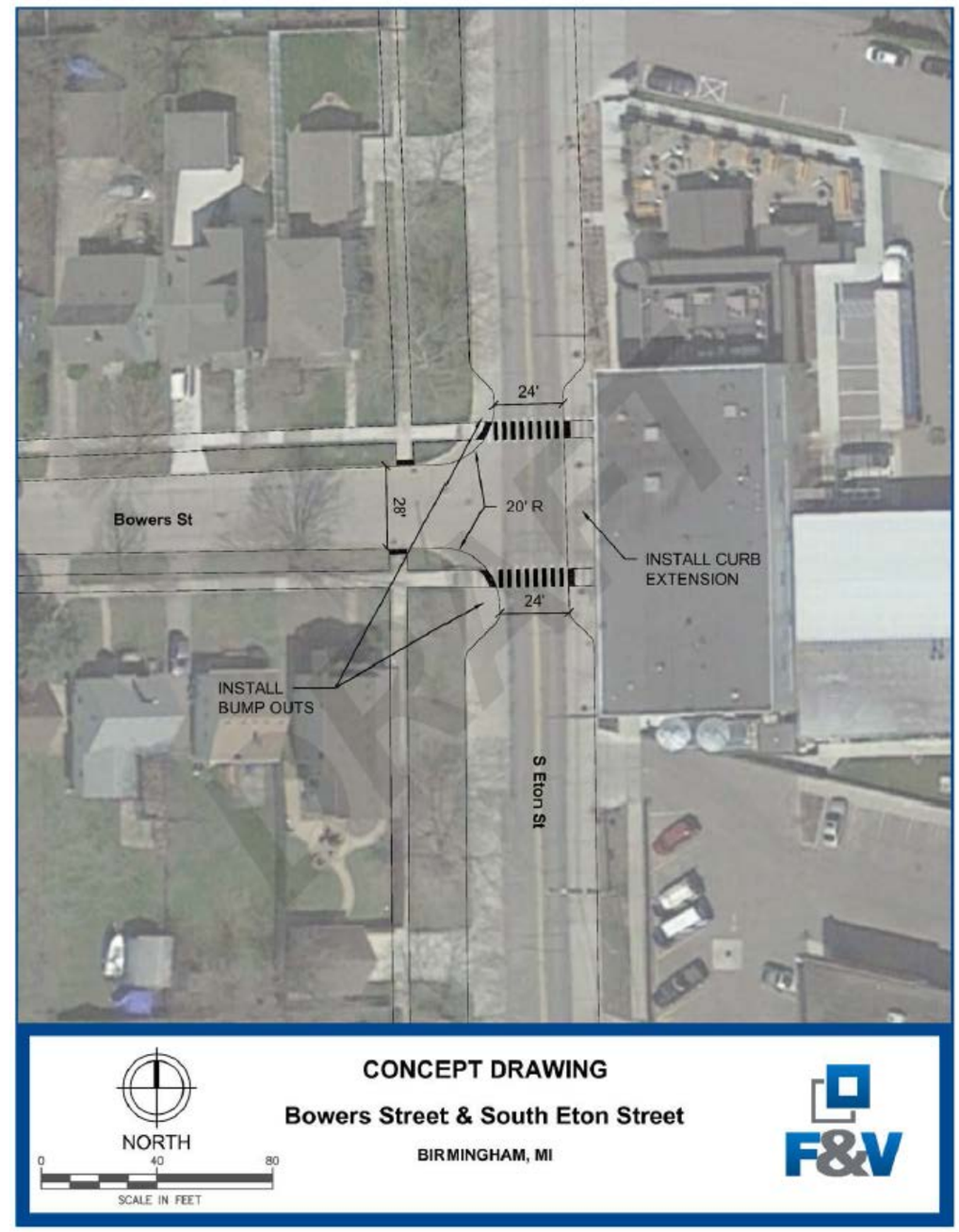
The map to the right illustrates the locations for each of the recommended bump-out curbs along S. Eton. Bump-out curbs recommended by the Committee, which are denoted by a blue star, are located along S. Eton at E. Maple, Palmer, and Webster. Green stars indicate bump-out curbs recommended explicitly by the MMTP and are located at Yosemite, Villa, and Cole. Lastly, bump-out curbs recommended by both the Committee and MMTP have been proposed for the intersection at Holland and S Eton and are denoted by a yellow star.

Please also note the sample engineering drawing of proposed improved pedestrian crossings at Bowers and S. Eton. As demonstrated, the installation of two bump-out curbs and a curb extension at this intersection could provide a safer, more visible pedestrian crossing point without obstructing right and left turn accessibility for vehicles. The Committee further recommends the use of brick pavers or other materials to create a plaza feel at this intersection. Benches, planters, and bicycle parking are also recommended.

Proposed Bump-out Locations



Sample Engineering Drawing of Bump-out Curbs



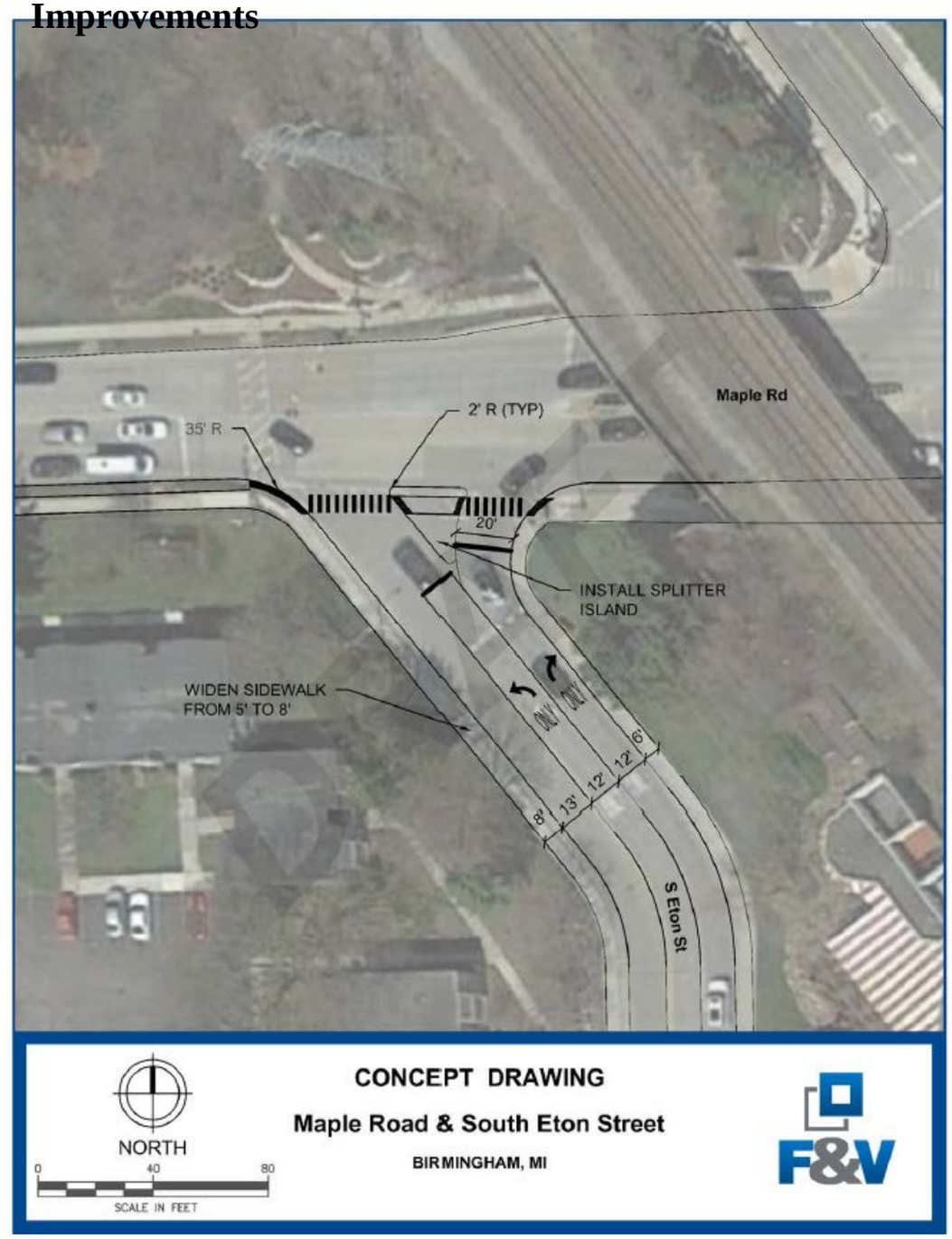
Recommendation 2:
Intersection Improvements at Maple & S. Eton

Issues: The intersection of E. Maple and S. Eton does not provide a safe pedestrian experience. With a crossing distance of 88 feet, pedestrians are expected to traverse a very wide street in a short amount of time. This intersection, especially at the southwest corner, exhibits visual barriers that make it difficult for vehicles turning right to detect a crossing pedestrian.

Recommendations: Install a splitter island at the crosswalk at S. Eton and Maple, widen the sidewalk on the west side of S. Eton, restripe S. Eton to realign lanes, and add enhanced crosswalk markings.

Elevated splitter islands are installed on roads with low visibility and high vehicle speeds as a way to call attention to an approaching intersection and to urge drivers to slow down. The splitter island also provides pedestrians with refuge for crossing traffic and provides greater detectability of the pedestrians by motorists.

Sample Engineering Drawing of Proposed Improvements



Recommendation 3:
Accommodate Bicycling on S. Eton

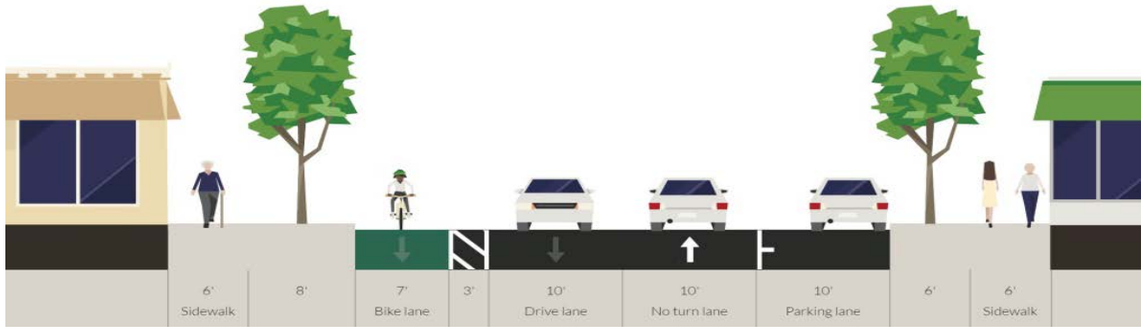
Issues: There are a significant number of bicyclists who traverse along S. Eton Road. The current road conditions in the Rail District are not favorable to those travelling by bike because no demarcation exists between the parking lanes and the driving lanes. Suggestions have been made to organize the street in order to make conditions safer for cyclists.

As shown in the picture above, a bicyclist rides through a narrow stretch of S. Eton where cars are parked on both sides. Bicyclists in the Corridor currently share lanes with vehicle traffic.

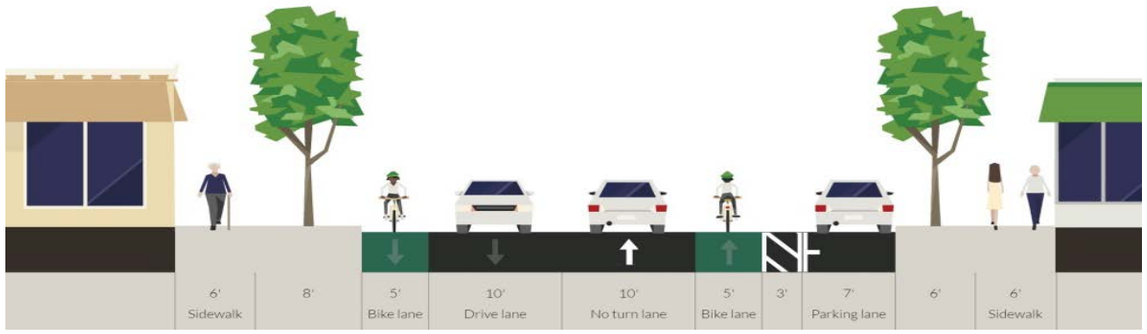
Recommendations: Add a bike lane or sharrows and buffers to S. Eton from Yosemite to 14 Mile. See illustrations to the right for design options.

Bike lanes are designated areas on a road that run alongside the flow of vehicle traffic. While it is common to channel on-street bicyclists using a single line to divide the street lane, there are other popular types of lanes that offer more protection and take up less space on the road. One type is a buffered lane that provides additional separation between the road and designated lane. Another type is a shared lane or "sharrow", which can comfortably accommodate bikes on street without a designated lane.

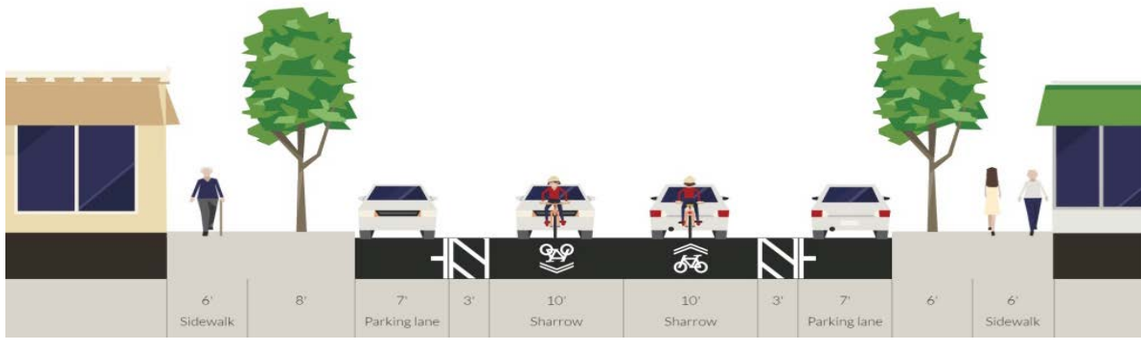
Recommendations:



Design Option 1: Multi-Modal Transportation Plan
- Add 7' Southbound Bike Lane – 3' Buffer – 2x10' Driving Lanes – 10' Parking Space
- Remove on-street parking on west side of S. Eton



Design Option 2: Northbound & Southbound Bike Lanes
- Add 5' Southbound Bike Lane – 2x10' Driving Lanes – 5' Northbound Bike Lane, 3' Buffer – 7' Parking Space
- Remove on-street parking on west side of S. Eton



Design Option 3: Sharrows and Buffers
- Mark 7' Parking Space – 3' Buffer – 2x10' Driving Lane – 3' Buffer – 7' Parking Space

Recommendation 4: Encourage Shared Parking

Issue: Many properties are dominated by excessively large parking lots that are not being efficiently used. Vast parking lots in the district are vacated after peak business hours and remain empty throughout the evening because of restricted access, while other lots overflow around restaurants in the evenings.

Empty parking lots can be found throughout the study area.

Shared parking is a land use strategy that efficiently uses parking capacity by allowing adjacent and/or compatible land uses to share spaces, instead of providing separate spaces for separate uses. Often, a shared parking agreement is put in place between two or more property owners and the jurisdiction to ensure parking spaces on a site are made available for other uses at different times throughout the day.

Recommendation: Encourage shared parking in the district by providing the zoning incentives for properties and/or businesses that record a shared parking agreement. Incentives could include parking reductions, setback reductions, height bonuses, landscape credits, or similar offers.

Amend the shared parking provisions to simplify the calculations to determine required parking based on industry standards and eliminate the need to hire a consultant to prepare shared parking studies. See table to the right for an example of a shared parking calculation from Victoria Transport Policy Institute.

Sample Shared Parking Occupancy Rates Table

This table defines the percent of the basic minimum needed during each time period for shared parking. (M-F = Monday to Friday)

Uses	M-F	M-F	M-F	Sat. & Sun.	Sat. & Sun.	Sat. & Sun.
	8am-5pm	6pm-12am	12am-6am	8am-5pm	6pm-12am	12am-6am
Residential	60%	100%	100%	80%	100%	100%
Office/ Warehouse /Industrial	100%	20%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Commercial	90%	80%	5%	100%	70%	5%
Hotel	70%	100%	100%	70%	100%	100%
Restaurant	70%	100%	10%	70%	100%	20%
Movie Theater	40%	80%	10%	80%	100%	10%
Entertainment	40%	100%	10%	80%	100%	50%
Conference/Convention	100%	100%	5%	100%	100%	5%
Institutional (non-church)	100%	20%	5%	10%	10%	5%
Institutional (church)	10%	5%	5%	100%	50%	5%

Courtesy of Victoria Transport Policy Institute

Recommendation 5:
Add Wayfinding Signage

Issue: Currently, the Eton Rail District lacks any uniform signage to help navigate drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists to their desired destination. Long dead-end streets such as Cole St. and Holland St. where many businesses are located do not have any signage along S. Eton, the main thoroughfare of the Rail District.

Recommendation: Install gateway signage at the north and south ends of the study area and install wayfinding signage throughout the Rail District to direct people to destinations and parking.

Wayfinding and signage are tools that provide information relating to direction, distance, and location. Signs have an important role in the public right of way and can enhance an area's sense of place.

Design Concept for Wayfinding Signage at S. Eton and Lincoln Entrance

Mr. Manda agreed that it is design criteria and priorities and the process involves putting those in order and evaluating. If having a medium to large size trucks in the downtown is not a desirable criteria, that will have an impact on the intersections, curves and details.

Mayor Nickita commented that we are very close. There are some subtleties to the midblock crossings. He confirmed with Mr. Manda that the width of the crossing on Maple is 10 feet. It may be too close to Old Woodward. He said that is another priority criteria issue. Surely, parking is a priority, but also designing a pedestrian crossing in the most appropriate way is a very important priority. He thinks we have to minimize the parking loss by doing it at the via and not at the Social crossing. We can explore options on how to address a couple of medians in the way we discussed achieving the goals.

Mayor Pro Tem Harris recognized we are on a tight timeline, and wondered if an additional iteration will affect the timeline.

City Manager Valentine said we are very tight on the timeline, and as we move forward, that will push things back. It would be an additional two weeks before the next meeting. Mr. Manda said that is enough time to revise and bring back. Mayor Nickita said it is very important to do this as well as we can.

Mayor Nickita clarified the items discussed which include diminishing the width of midblock crosswalks to maximize parking wherever that is possible, and some of the options for the medians in two locations. The only other median we did not discuss is the alley located by Pierce. He suggested designing something there that would be similar to the other median designs, perhaps smaller and with a rolling curb. Mr. Manda said that is a very narrow alley. Mayor Nickita suggested that we might consider recommending a traffic pattern question on whether that is done one way or the other. He suggested looking at the use at that alley to determine if there is another option.

01-03-17 FINAL REPORT OF THE AD HOC RAIL DISTRICT REVIEW COMMITTEE

City Planner Ecker provided background and history of the Ad Hoc Rail District Review Committee established by the City Commission on January 11, 2016, to study existing and future conditions and to develop a recommended plan to address parking, planning and multi-modal issues in the Rail District and along S. Eton Road ("the Rail Plan").

Over the past eight months, the Ad Hoc Rail District Review Committee has worked to identify issues in the Rail District and along S. Eton, and to develop a plan with recommendations to address parking, planning and multi-modal issues in the Rail District, as directed by the City Commission. The Ad Hoc Rail District Review Committee requested funds to hire a consultant to review some of the intersection design concepts discussed by the Committee, and to conduct an analysis of parking in the study area. Based on the Committee's direction, the findings outlined in the consultant's report, and the input of the public, a draft of the Ad Hoc Rail District Report requested by the City Commission has been prepared. On December 5, 2016, the Ad Hoc Rail District Review Committee held their final meeting to review and approve their final report. After much discussion, the Ad Hoc Rail District Review Committee voted to recommend approval of the final report to the City Commission, with minor changes. All of the requested changes have been made.

Ms. Ecker introduced Sean Campbell, Assistant Planner and Brooks Cowen, Planning Intern who provided assistance with the GIS analysis of parking and intersection design.

Ms. Ecker explained the goals and objectives of the committee which included:

Goals:
To create an attractive and desirable streetscape that creates a walkable environment that is compatible with the adjacent residential neighborhoods.
To design the public right-of-way for the safety, comfort, convenience, and enjoyment for all modes of transportation throughout the corridor.
To facilitate vehicular traffic and parking without sacrificing the corridor's cycling and pedestrian experience.
To minimize the impacts of traffic on the existing residential neighborhoods.
To recommend updates to the Rail District zoning regulations as needed to meet goals.

Objectives:
To use creative planning to promote a high quality, cohesive right-of-way that is compatible with the existing uses in the corridor.
To implement "traffic calming" techniques, where appropriate, to reduce speeds and discourage cut-through traffic on residential streets.
To enhance pedestrian connectivity through the addition of crosswalks, sidewalks, and curb extensions.
To improve accommodations for bicycle infrastructure on Eton Road.
To create a balance between multimodal accessibility and parking provisions.

Ms. Ecker said the concerns were apparent during the tour. Key areas identified were S. Eton and Maple. Discussion included widening the sidewalk on the west side of the street for a bigger safety zone for pedestrians. Widening the sidewalk on the east side of S. Eton was also suggested to create a bigger plaza area there as well. They also discussed adding a splitter island to give a pedestrian island in the middle for people walking across. Several intersections up and down S. Eton were also looked at and the need for additional bump outs, and better striping. The intersection at S. Eton and Bowers was felt to be an important area with a great deal of activity. Bump outs and using different accent material in that area to create a plaza feel which would remind vehicles to slow down in the area.

Ms. Ecker noted a parking inventory and study were conducted. The study revealed there are 2,480 parking spaces in the district as a whole. There are 941 on-street parking spaces, 1539 parking spaces on individual private properties. The north end of the district has more a need for parking at different times. The south end is busier during the working day, but it clears out at 5:00 PM.

It was noted that the entire west side of S. Eton was never at full capacity. The highest use was around Griffin Claw with 28 out 60 spaces that were full on a Friday night.

Ms. Ecker discussed future build-outs and how they reached some of the conclusions. She explained that the issue became clear because they have to self-park, maximum build-out will not be done, and the biggest issue is that there is no shared parking in the area. That keeps the development down to roughly 26-30% of what could be done under the ordinance. Many of the parcels in the focus area do not have enough space to provide required parking for

four stories of retail and residential uses unless they build an underground parking facility. Based on recent development trends in the area, this is unlikely to occur and thus, buildout rates will likely remain in the 20-30% range of maximum build-out, requiring less than 1,070 additional parking spaces in the study area. It is important to note that based on the current standards, all of these additional parking spaces must be provided by individual property owners and/or developers. Thus, the City need only focus on encouraging an efficient use of private parking facilities, and ensuring good right-of-way design to accommodate additional vehicle traffic and balance the needs of non-motorized users. The provision of additional public parking is not warranted now, nor in the near future.

The recommendations of the committee include:
Construct bump-out curbs throughout the study area;
Install a splitter island at the crosswalk at S. Eton and Maple, widen the sidewalk on the west side of S. Eton, restripe S. Eton to realign lanes, and add enhanced crosswalk markings;
Add sharrows and buffers to S. Eton from Yosemite to 14 Mile. Maintain sharrows and accommodate parking south of Lincoln where possible.
Encourage shared parking in the district by providing the zoning incentives for properties and/or businesses that record a shared parking agreement. Incentives could include parking reductions, setback reductions, height bonuses, landscape credits, or similar offers;
Install gateway signage at the north and south ends of the study area and install wayfinding signage throughout the Rail District to direct people to destinations and parking.

Mayor Nickita commended the committee on the depth and problem solving that was undertaken.

Commissioner Bordman said the study was so thorough. She was very impressed that the committee was able to figure out the real parking needs.

Mayor Pro Tem Harris questioned what incentives there might be for shared parking. Ms. Ecker said perhaps landscaping requirements could be relaxed, but we would ask the Planning Board to study that in more detail.

Commissioner DeWeese noted there might be an economic incentive.

Commissioner Hoff asked about the southeast corner of S. Eton and Maple intersection and if the property is city property. She also asked if the Whole Foods operation was studied by the committee. Commissioner Hoff expressed concern that traffic on S. Eton will be increased. The committee's concern was with the speed of the traffic.

Mayor Pro Tem Harris asked why the committee did not recommend a dedicated bike lane. Ms. Ecker said there were a couple of issues including the bump out incompatibility as well as the pavement material issue.

Commissioner DeWeese noted that we can accept the report and use it for a general guideline. City Manager Valentine confirmed that any recommendation will be brought back to the Commission for consideration.

Mayor Nickita asked if this addressed the edge condition that has been an issue and do we need to include something in the Zoning Ordinance. Ms. Ecker said it was not discussed in

detail. She said currently there is a regulation in the ordinance that does not allow parking in the first twenty feet of depth.

Mayor Nickita said this helps bring attention to a very under-utilized area of the city, and land owners do not realize that they are sitting on potential redevelopment value if they work together at shared parking for example.

MOTION: Motion by Sherman, seconded by Bordman:
To accept the final report of the Ad Hoc Rail District Review Committee, and forward same to the Multi-Modal Transportation Board for their consideration in finalizing the design of the S. Eton corridor, and to the Planning Board, and direct the Planning Board to add Recommendations 4 (Encourage Shared Parking) and 5 (Add Wayfinding Signage) from the final report to their Action List for further study, and to develop a way to implement the shared parking, and to correct the crosswalk marking within the final report as discussed.

Larry Bertollini expressed concern about the recommended options, and focusing on both sides of Maple and S. Eton, and visibility concerns.

Mayor Nickita suggested going forward to study with and without parking on both sides, and how it may affect speed. We know people tend to speed up when parking is removed on one side.

VOTE: Yeas, 7
Nays, None
Absent, None

01-04-17 MONTHLY PARKING PERMIT RATE INCREASES

City Engineer O'Meara explained that monthly permit rates at the structures have been adjusted on several occasions over the years, usually to reflect the difference in demand at the various parking structures. Recently, increases at all five structures were implemented in the summer of 2014, and again in 2015. As demand for parking spaces grew, increases were considered justified not only because of high demand, but also to help build a savings account in the parking system fund for potential upcoming construction.

In April of this year, staff reviewed the rates with the Advisory Parking Committee (APC), and recommended a package of increases that would primarily impact both the monthly and daily rates in the parking structures. Raising the lower priced meters so that all meters were $1 per hour was also suggested. Other changes were included as well, designed to reduce demand in the parking structures, and to encourage employees to consider the City's off-site parking options. The APC was not inclined to recommend any changes at that meeting.

Staff refined the package based on APC input, and also provided options on how to charge the daily rate. At the May meeting, the APC approved a recommendation that included several items, with the two significant changes impacting the monthly and daily rates in the structures.

The suggested increase for most of the lower cost parking meters was not agreed to.
At the June 6, 2016 Commission meeting, the recommendations of the APC were discussed. Most of the package was approved that evening including the daily rate at the structures. The monthly rate structure was not changed at that time, and the City Commission asked at the time to consider being more aggressive.

City of Birmingham
A Walkable Community

MEMORANDUM

Planning & Engineering Department

DATE: **January 27, 2017**

TO: **Multi-Modal Transportation Board**

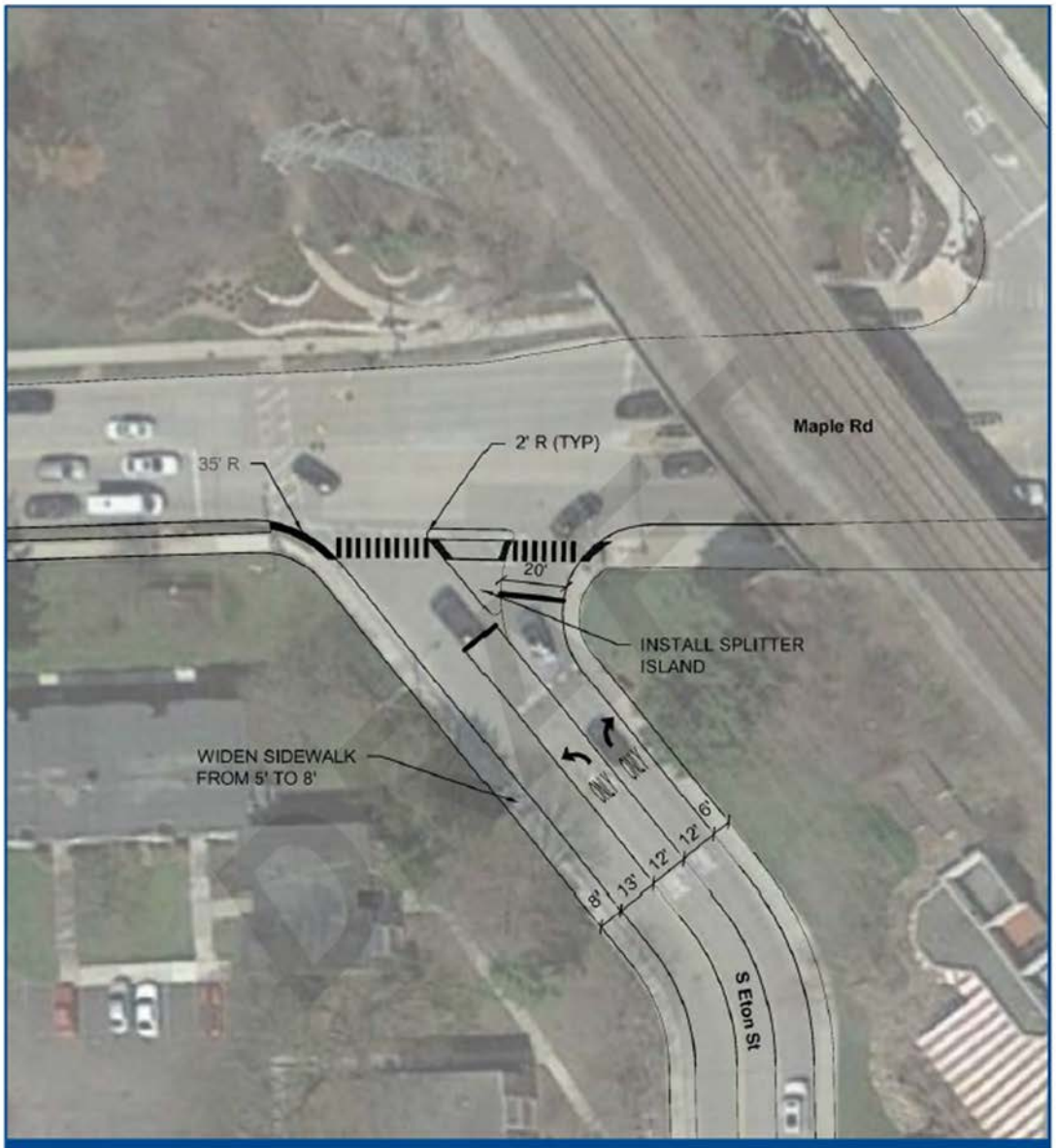
FROM: **Paul T. O'Meara, City Engineer**
Brooks Cowan, Planning Intern

SUBJECT: **Intersection Improvements at Maple Rd. & S. Eton Rd.**

On January 9, 2017, the City Commission reviewed and endorsed the final recommendations of the Ad Hoc Rail District Committee. The final report, as presented to the Commission, is attached, as well as the minutes from that meeting. Today's report focuses on the recommendation to install pedestrian improvements for the intersection of Maple Rd. and S. Eton Rd.

In the spring of 2016, the committee conducted a walking audit of the area and deemed this intersection unsafe for people who wish to cross the street. The committee found it difficult to traverse the 88 foot wide intersection within the allotted crossing time. It was determined that actions should be taken to shorten the walkable distance between the east and west part of the intersection, possibly installing a refuge island in the middle, and improving the pavement markings to increase driver awareness of pedestrian crossing areas.

A concept drawing has been provided by Fleis and Vandenbrink that encourages pedestrian friendly changes for the intersection. A splitter island is proposed between the right turn and left turn lanes on northbound Eton. This is meant to provide refuge for pedestrians who cannot cross the 88 ft wide intersection within the allotted signal time. Stop bars for the left and right turn lanes on northbound Eton would be relocated closer to Maple, adjacent to the splitter island. Widening the sidewalks on both sides from 5' to 8' is also proposed at this intersection. Doing so effectively reduces the crosswalk distance at Eton, provides more space and safety for sidewalk users, and narrows the adjacent driving lanes which may reduce travel speeds. Additional continental striping to increase driver awareness of the pedestrian crossing is proposed as well. Please see attached image below for designs. An engineering analysis of each follows.



CONCEPT DRAWING

Maple Road & South Eton Street

BIRMINGHAM, MI

NORTH

0 40 80

SCALE IN FEET

F&V

The south leg of this intersection (S. Eton Rd.) was reconstructed in 2009. A part of the engineering plan sheet for this project is attached to this report, for reference.

PEDESTRIAN SPLITTER ISLAND

Construction of the splitter island is feasible at this time, provided funds are budgeted. The existing concrete could be sawcut and removed, and new concrete curbs and sidewalk could be installed. The excess space south of the island could be landscaped with perennial plantings to be maintained by the Dept. of Public Services. Only plantings that can handle the difficult conditions would be recommended (salt in winter, lack of water in summer). Other traffic islands are now being maintained by City staff in a similar manner.

The cost of this improvement is estimated at $10,000.

WIDENED SIDEWALK, WEST SIDE

As shown on the attached 2009 construction plan, there is no additional right-of-way on the southwest corner of this intersection. The Multi-Modal Master Plan suggests a widened 8 ft. wide sidewalk (up from the present 5 ft.). There is no room to do this in the direction away from the road without first purchasing right-of-way, and constructing a retaining wall to hold back the existing hill. This may prove to be a difficult venture. A second alternative, as suggested by the report, is to narrow the southbound lane of S. Eton Rd. by three feet, reconstructing the curb. This would provide new space for a widened sidewalk for this area. To maintain positive drainage, the majority of the existing sidewalk would have to be removed as well. It is important to consider that this is the only designated truck route into the Rail District commercial area. Since the splitter island would already be narrowing the intersection, and making left turns from Maple Rd. to S. Eton Rd. will be more difficult, it is recommended that the island be installed first. Actual conditions can then be monitored to see if the road narrowing on the west side is an appropriate future measure.

WIDENED SIDEWALK, EAST SIDE

The Ad Hoc Rail District plan suggested widening the existing sidewalk on Maple Rd. from the Eton Rd. ramp to the railroad bridge. However, right-of-way is again a problem. A widened sidewalk could be installed in the arc area of the walk directly south of the SE corner handicap ramp. Adding sidewalk here would not require removal of any existing concrete, and would be a simple improvement valued at about $1,000.

As a first step toward improving pedestrian conditions at this intersection, it is recommended that $11,000 be added to the 2017-18 fiscal year budget, within the Sidewalk Fund, to pay for the installation of a landscaped splitter island and widened sidewalk at the southeast corner of the intersection of Maple Rd. and S. Eton Rd.

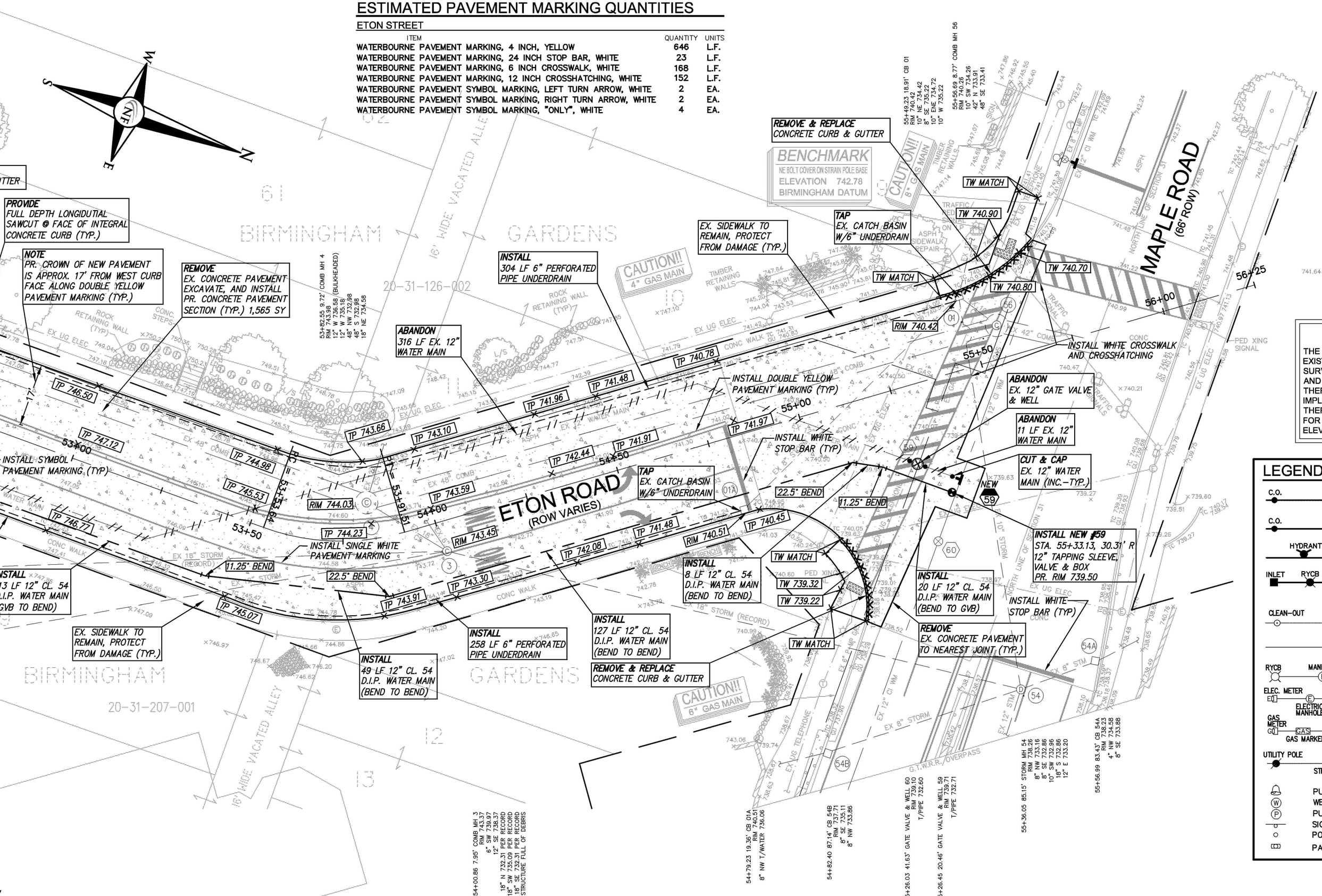
SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

To recommend to the City Commission that $11,000 be budgeted within the Sidewalk Fund for pedestrian crossing improvements at the intersection of Maple Rd. and S. Eton Rd. Funding would allow the installation of a landscaped splitter island and widened sidewalk at the southeast corner of the intersection.

ESTIMATED PAVEMENT MARKING QUANTITIES

ETON STREET

ITEM	QUANTITY	UNITS
WATERBOURNE PAVEMENT MARKING, 4 INCH, YELLOW	646	L.F.
WATERBOURNE PAVEMENT MARKING, 24 INCH STOP BAR, WHITE	23	L.F.
WATERBOURNE PAVEMENT MARKING, 6 INCH CROSSWALK, WHITE	168	L.F.
WATERBOURNE PAVEMENT MARKING, 12 INCH CROSSHATCHING, WHITE	152	L.F.
WATERBOURNE PAVEMENT SYMBOL MARKING, LEFT TURN ARROW, WHITE	2	EA.
WATERBOURNE PAVEMENT SYMBOL MARKING, RIGHT TURN ARROW, WHITE	2	EA.
WATERBOURNE PAVEMENT SYMBOL MARKING, "ONLY", WHITE	4	EA.



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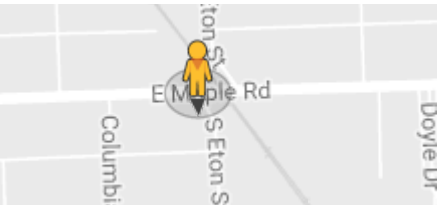
2000 E Maple Rd

Maple Rd. & S. Eton Rd. Looking South

Image capture: Oct 2016 © 2017 Google

Birmingham, Michigan

Street View - Oct 2016



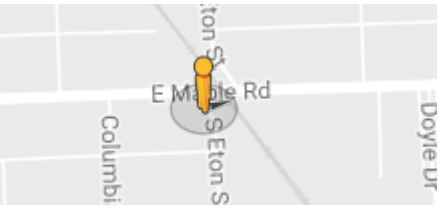
139 S Eton St

Maple Rd. and S. Eton Rd., Looking NE

Image capture: Aug 2015 © 2017 Google

Birmingham, Michigan

Street View - Aug 2015



CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2016
City Commission Room
151 Martin Street, Birmingham, Michigan

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board held Thursday, February 2, 2016.

In the absence of both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, it was agreed that Ms. Slanga would take over the chair.

Chairperson Johanna Slanga convened the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Board Members Lara Edwards, Amy Folberg, Daniel Rontal, Johanna Slanga, Michael Surnow

Absent: Chairperson Vionna Adams; Vice-Chairperson Andy Lawson

Administration: Lauren Chapman, Asst. City Planner
Jana Ecker, Planning Director
Scott Grewe, Operations Commander
Paul O'Meara, City Engineer
Carole Salutes, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Mike Labadie from Fleis & Vandenbrink ("F&V"),Transportation Engineering Consultants.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Lauren Chapman, Asst. Planner for the City, was introduced.

3. REVIEW AGENDA (no change)

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 2016

Motion by Mr. Surnow
Seconded by Mr. Rontal to approve the Minutes of December 1, 2016 as presented.

Motion carried, 5-0.

VOICE VOTE
Yeas: Surnow, Rontal, Edwards, Folberg, Slanga
Nays: None
Absent: Adams, Lawson

5. SAXON DR. AND LATHAM RD. Crosswalk Installation

Mr. O'Meara recalled that in 2015, the Police Dept. was approached with complaints about traffic volumes and speeds on Saxon Rd., located in the southwest corner of Birmingham. Residents expressed concerns with the amount of traffic as well as the speeds that occur in that area. It is a wide right-of-way, and the street acts as an extension of Fourteen Mile Rd. so it tends to lend itself to speeds faster than the 25 mph speed limit.

Saxon Dr. is a border street, with Beverly Hills sharing jurisdiction of this road. Working with representatives from both sides of the street, the City of Birmingham took the lead in discussing the various options with the interested residents. By the middle of 2015, various issues and ideas were explored, and it was decided that the residents would petition the City for a complete road reconstruction. Over 50% of the owners on both sides endorsed the idea, and after receiving an information booklet a neighborhood meeting was held in the summer of 2016. After the meeting, enough residents changed their minds, and decided to no longer support the project. Cost was a major factor.

Currently, there is no sidewalk connection for pedestrians to cross Saxon Dr., other than at Southfield Rd. The intersection is noted in the Master Plan as a location within Phase 3. It is provided as a suggested improvement, as Latham Rd. is listed as part of a Phase 3 neighborhood connector route. Not only would the improvement help improve the crossing for pedestrians, the pavement markings should help encourage more responsible speeds on Saxon Dr. from motorists passing through the area.

The Beverly Hills Village Board has already signed an agreement approving this project, and their commitment to 50% of the cost, based on the cost estimate of about $21,000.. Staff recommends making some storm sewer changes where needed and adding painted crosswalks that would encourage drivers to watch for pedestrians and potentially slow down.

If the Multi-Modal Board endorses this project, it will be forwarded to the City Commission for final approval of the funds. The Engineering Dept. will then add it

to the 2017 Concrete Sidewalk program contract documents, and oversee the construction of this improvement during the 2017 construction season.

Dr.. Rontal did not necessarily think the crosswalk lines would slow cars down. Mr. O'Meara said the residents originally asked for a stop sign but it wasn't warranted by traffic volume. If residents aren't able to help pay for more substantial improvements, this is what can be recommended.. A crosswalk is an attempt to show that cars should slow down for pedestrians at this intersection. Ms. Edwards suggested adding two white lines and a middle yellow dotted line in order to get cars into a more narrow space on Saxon. However, it was noted that at 22 ft. the road is already narrow, and additionally residents have often said a line down the middle would make the road feel like a major street.

Mr. O'Meara indicated that the residents felt a crosswalk would help to calm traffic. He noted the Master Plan calls for a crossing improvement at that intersection.

Board members were in agreement that installing crosswalks would not slow the traffic and alleviate the residents' concerns. Mr. Labadie did not think painting the road would help too much. As an inexpensive solution he suggested adding a couple of flashing speed limit signs. Commander Grewe said one sign could be budgeted for this stretch of road, but only for westbound traffic.

Consensus was to go back to Beverly Hills and the residents and offer at least a speed sign for the westbound traffic and see if that helps. Perhaps Beverly Hills would be willing to split the cost of a speed sign for eastbound traffic. Staff was encouraged to discuss the speed sign, paint markings, etc., with both Beverly Hills and the residents.

6. MAPLE RD. AND S. ETON RD.
Crosswalk Improvements

Ms. Ecker offered background. The Ad Hoc Rail District Committee was set up by the City Commission to look at a number of issues in the Rail District. They spent a year studying what is going on in that area. Tonight the board will specifically focus on the intersection of Maple Rd. and Eton Rd. The recommendations provide a way to shorten the entire width to cross Eton Rd.. A splitter island in the middle between the right and left turn lanes is suggested along with enhanced crosswalk markings, expanding the sidewalk, and changing the lane configuration. Board members agreed they don't want to encourage people to stand on the splitter island in the middle of Eton Rd.. Ms. Ecker thought that the island calms traffic, and she doesn't imagine too many pedestrians will stand on it because they can get across because of all of the

green time on Maple Rd. She likes the idea of dotted lines to direct cars coming off of westbound Maple Rd. and going south on Eton Rd.

Commander Grewe said for westbound traffic stopped on the east side of the intersection he would suggest moving the stop line further west so when a vehicle makes a left turn to go south on Eton Rd. the radius isn't so sharp. Mr. Labadie noted the stop bar needs to be located so that drivers can see the signal. Chairperson Slanga cautioned that signage should be placed far enough back so people will know which lane to be in to make their turn.

Board members recommended that Mr. Labadie should study this further to ensure large trucks can make a nice clean turn; look at adding dotted lines to show the left track turning radius coming from westbound Maple Rd. south on Eton Rd.; also study moving the westbound Maple Rd. stop bar location and possibly extending the median at that same location. Additionally, study how to accommodate bikes through that intersection. The recommendation from the Ad Hoc Rail District Study Committee was to widen the sidewalks from 5 ft. to 8 ft. on the whole block of Eton Rd. going south. The board was in agreement.

7. MAPLE RD. AND SOUTHFIELD RD. Crosswalk Improvements

Mr. O'Meara recounted some safety issues that have occurred over the years at this intersection. In 2015 safety issues at the Maple Rd. & Southfield Rd. intersection were studied by the City's traffic consulting firm, Fleis & Vandenbrink ("F&V"). Lane configuration changes to Maple Rd. were approved, and subsequently put into place in October as a trial, and later approved for permanent status in June, 2016. During the studies, it became clear that the crash patterns at this intersection are such that safety could be improved if the intersection was relocated further west, allowing for the creation of a 90° intersection.

In 2016, it was determined that the relocation of this intersection may qualify for federal funding. Further, it was decided that since Maple Rd. is planned for reconstruction further east (in downtown), if safety funding was awarded, it would be an appropriate time to address both areas within the same construction project. The City directed F&V to apply for federal funding for this potential safety improvement. The application is currently pending, and should be announced in May of 2017.

In December, Commissioner DeWeese expressed concerns about the crosswalk that appear similar to those that have been raised in the past. The speed of northbound right turning vehicles continues to be an issue. The matter was referred to F&V in preparation for a review by the MMTB. Since a major change will require significant spending, and since a federal funding application is currently pending, F&V suggested a change in

City of Birmingham
A Walkable Community

MEMORANDUM

Engineering Dept.

DATE: **February 24, 2017**

TO: **Multi-Modal Transportation Board**

FROM: **Paul T. O'Meara, City Engineer**

SUBJECT: **Maple Rd. & S. Eton Rd. Improvements**

As you know, the Ad Hoc Rail District Committee finished its work, and submitted a report of recommendations to the City Commission in December, 2016. The attached report dated January 27, 2017, summarizing suggested improvements at the Maple Rd. was reviewed by the Multi-Modal Transportation Board at its meeting of February 2, 2017. At that time, the following comments were raised:

1. There was concern that the island may not permit left turns from Maple Rd. on to southbound S. Eton Rd. Various ways to correct that were discussed, such as moving the westbound Maple Rd. stop bar west, or extending the island at the center pillar of the railroad bridge.
2. Provide a cost estimate for narrowing the street to allow for a wider sidewalk on the west side of the block.
3. Consider again how bikes may be accommodated in this area.

Staff worked with F&V to consider these items, and offers the following responses:

1. F&V considered truck turns in this area when it designed the island several months ago. The attached drawing depicts the turning radius for a 50 ft. semi-truck trailer to make the left turn from Maple Rd. on to southbound S. Eton Rd. The island allows for the turning movement. Also shown on this drawing is how right turns are also accommodated for these large trucks from S. Eton Rd. on to eastbound Maple Rd. No adjustments are needed to the island design. The other ideas that were expressed, such as moving the westbound stop bar, or extending the island at the center pillar, are not recommended.

2. In order to widen west side sidewalk from Maple Rd. to Yosemite Blvd., three feet of S. Eton Rd. must be removed, a new curb section must be installed, and then a new eight foot wide sidewalk can be installed in place of the existing five foot wide sidewalk. The total cost for this portion of the work is estimated at $53,000. The total cost of the three improvement areas now being considered are:

Splitter island	$20,000
Landscaping at island	$ 1,000
Widened handicap ramp area at SE corner	$ 1,000
Widened sidewalk and ramps on W side	$53,000
TOTAL	$75,000

3. Both N. Eton Rd. & S. Eton Rd. have been part of a marked bike route for decades. It is also part of the new Neighborhood Connector route that has been approved by the City Commission, and is planned to be installed this spring. The Maple Rd. intersection, and the two blocks of Eton Rd. north and south of the intersection have always been a poor segment in the route for bicyclists. The railroad bridge conflict at this intersection is significant, and remains a multi-million dollar problem that will not be easy to fix. Further, when Eton Rd. was impacted by the railroad in 1930, a small 50 ft. right-of-way was left for these short diagonal sections, to make room for the railroad.

   In order to process the large traffic demand on S. Eton Rd. at the Maple Rd. intersection, a minimum of three lanes must be provided, with two northbound storage lanes to queue while waiting to enter Maple Rd. in both directions. Once three lanes are provided, as well as sidewalks on both sides, there is no extra right-of-way left. (That is why the sidewalks are constructed immediately behind the curb on both sides of the street.)

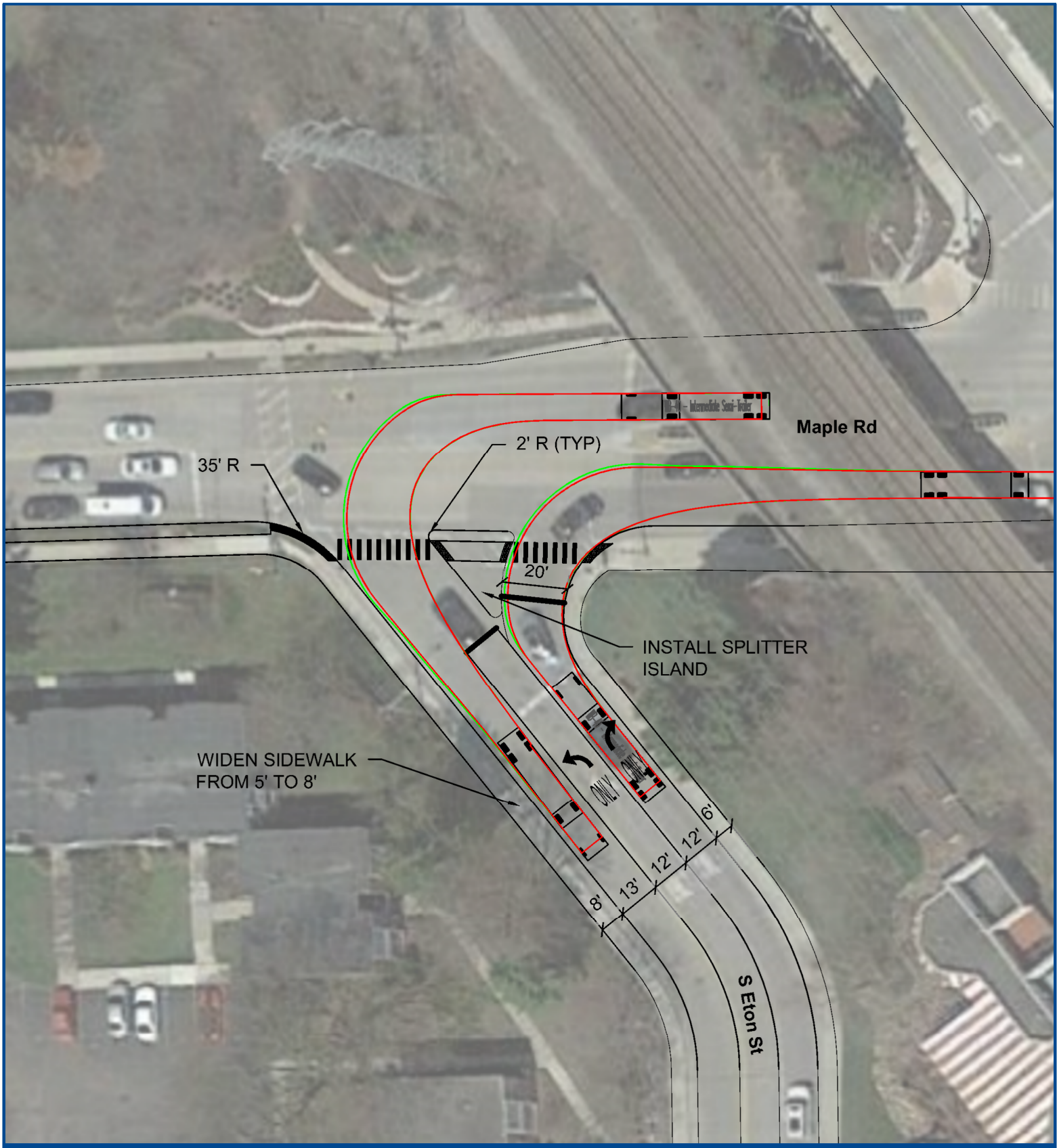
   The only extra space available on the street is currently in the southbound lane, which is now being suggested for removal, to widen the west side sidewalk. While this proposal improves the pedestrian environment, it will compromise the bicyclist experience. The MMTB may wish to consider if the $53,000 suggested improvement on the west side of S. Eton Rd. is wise when it is in fact leaving no extra space for southbound bicyclists on this Neighborhood Connector Route.

No funding is currently being provided in the current or upcoming budget for these improvements. A suggested recommendation at this time can then be moved forward to the City Commission in time for them to consider an adjustment to the recommended fiscal year 2017-18 budget:

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION:

To recommend to the City Commission that the City prioritize the Ad Hoc Rail District Committee's recommendations for changes to S. Eton Rd. from Maple Rd. to Yosemite Blvd. including:

1. Landscaped splitter island to improve the S. Eton Rd. south side crosswalk at Maple Rd.
2. Enlarged handicap ramp area at the southeast corner of the intersection.
3. Relocation of the west side curb and gutter section to allow for a widened eight foot sidewalk on the entire length from Maple Rd. to Yosemite Blvd.



NORTH

0 40 80

SCALE IN FEET

CONCEPT DRAWING

Maple Road & South Eton Street

BIRMINGHAM, MI

F&V

DRAFT

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD
THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017
City Commission Room
151 Martin Street, Birmingham, Michigan

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board held Thursday, March 2, 2017.

Chairperson Vionna Adams convened the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Vionna Adams; Board Members Lara Edwards, Amy Folberg, Johanna Slanga

Absent: Board Members Vice-Chairperson Andy Lawson, Daniel Rontal, Michael Surnow

Administration: Lauren Chapman, Asst. City Planner
Jana Ecker, Planning Director
Scott Grewe, Operations Commander
Paul O'Meara, City Engineer
Carole Salutes, Recording Secretary

Also Present: Mike Labadie from Fleis & Vandenbrink ("F&V"),Transportation Engineering Consultants.

2. INTRODUCTIONS (none)

3. REVIEW AGENDA (no change)

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2017

Motion by Ms. Slanga
Seconded by Ms. Folberg to approve the Minutes of February 2, 2017 as presented.

Motion carried, 4-0.

VOICE VOTE
Yeas: Slanga, Folberg, Adams, Edwards
Nays: None
Absent: Lawson, Rontal, Surnow

5. SAXON RD. IMPROVEMENTS
Norfolk Dr. to Southfield Rd.

Mr. O'Meara recalled that at the February Multi-Modal Transportation Board ("MMTB") meeting, the City presented a proposal to install a marked, improved crosswalk at the intersection of Saxon Dr. and Latham Dr./Norchester Rd. This is in the Multi-Modal Master Plan as a suggested improvement for the area. Also, the residents on Saxon are unhappy because there are too many cars and too much speeding.

Last month, staff presented a $21,000 improvement that both Birmingham and Beverly Hills could pay for out of their general funds. Beverly Hills has already gone on record to say that they will contribute. The ditches would be filled in, storm sewer issues would be re-worked, and concrete sidewalks could be extended across the four corners of the intersection. Pavement markingswould be installed on both sides to identify the crossing.

Last month, when the idea was reviewed by the MMTB, the following questions and concerns were raised:

1. Board members were not convinced that the crosswalk improvement would make much difference in addressing the issue of traffic speeds and volumes.
2. Board members felt that other ideas had more merit:
    - Flashing speed indicator signs for both directions if suitable locations can be found.
    - Pavement markings, consisting of a skip or double yellow down the middle, and white edge lines throughout the corridor. However, Mr. Labadie, the Police, and some of the residents do not endorse that suggestion.
    - Installation of a “25” pavement marking legend for westbound traffic, west of Southfield Rd., as weather permits. Mr. O'Meara indicated that idea can be pursued.

Staff initiated conversations with the two neighborhood representatives for Saxon Rd. relative to these ideas. Ms. Susan Randall on the Birmingham side and Mr. Pete Webster on the Beverly Hills side were present to provide their input.

Mr. Pete Webster, 32906 Balmoral, said he is in close communication with the vast majority of the residents from Southfield to the Birmingham Country Club and beyond. They are well aware of the problem and aware of the need to address a number of different issues. Anything that can be done would be helpful, whether it is the flashing speed indicator; a crosswalk to help pedestrians integrate into the pedestrian network; or a raised sidewalk on the east side of the crossing.

Ms. Slanga observed that putting stripes on the road at the crosswalk doesn't solve the speeding problems or shorten the crossing. Mr. Webster said independent of that, the markings are extremely valuable because they demarcate where people should cross plus they remind drivers where people do cross. He suggested installing a traffic island in the roadway just west of Southfield to calm traffic entering the residential area. It may be beneficial to put in speed humps.

Ms. Susan Randall, 1220 Saxon, said an average of 5,500 cars a day go down their street at speeds up to 60 or 70 mph. She was in favor of the recommendations for a painted crosswalk and to make it slightly raised so that it is a hump, not a bump. She does not like the idea of a flashing light but is in favor of the "25" to be painted east of Southfield. With respect to installing an island, the residents do not want to do a U-turn out of their driveway by turning west to go east. She doesn't know if they will agree to that.

Mr. Tom Randall, 1220 Saxon, was not impressed with the flashing lights. They only work when police are present.

Mr. O'Meara said a little island isn't a bad idea from a cost standpoint, but there is a driveway issue. The idea of a raised crosswalk has not been studied. Mr. Labadie advised that with an island there would not be enough room on either side to make a U-turn.

Ms. Chris Arbor, 18837 Saxon, suggested trying removable speed bumps for a while to see if they work. Mr. O'Meara voiced the concern that this is an unimproved road with gravel shoulders and people that are irritated by the bump would just drive around it. Residents would not want that problem in front of their house.

Mr. Labadie said the speed humps are an effective way to control speed. However, right after going over the hump, people will increase their speed, similar to unwarranted STOP signs. He would like to see current speed and volume data before a decision is made on some of these ideas. He thought the sidewalk and the crosswalk are great ideas and they should be moved forward.

Motion by Ms. Edwards
Seconded by Ms. Folberg to recommend to the City Commission the approval of the following improvements for Saxon Dr. The installation of crosswalks on the east and west sides of the Latham Dr./Norchester Rd. intersection, in accordance with the Multi-Modal Master Plan. including pavement markings, to be funded 50% by the City of Birmingham, and 50% by the Village of Beverly Hills.

Motion carried, 4-0.

VOICE VOTE
Yeas: Edwards, Folberg, Adams, Slanga
Nays: None
Absent: Lawson, Rontal, Surnow

Commander Grewe said the Police Dept. has a black box that is a speed monitor/counter and goes on a tree so no one knows what it is and they don't react differently when they see it on the road. It will capture both sides of the road. It can be installed as soon as possible.

Mr. Steve Still, 1190 Saxon, hoped there would be a "Stop for Pedestrians" sign in the crosswalk.

6. MAPLE RD. AND S. ETON RD.
Crosswalk Improvements

Mr. O'Meara noted that the Ad Hoc Rail District Committee finished its work, and submitted a report of recommendations to the City Commission in December 2016. The report dated January 27, 2017, summarizing suggested improvements at Maple Rd. and S. Eton Rd. was reviewed by the MMTB at its meeting of February 2, 2017. At that time, the primary concern was whether the proposed new island was sized appropriately to allow large trucks to make a left turn from Maple Rd. onto southbound Eton Rd. It has been demonstrated that the island leaves sufficient room for a large truck to make the turn.

Ms. Ecker said at the last meeting the board had several concerns that staff has now investigated:

- It works to increase the sidewalk width from 5 ft. to 8 ft. Landscaping can be added to the splitter island at the south end.
- It is not recommended to move the westbound Maple Rd. stop bar west.
- Turn lane hash marks are not needed and they would soon be worn off.
- . Paint the curbs around the new island with something reflective that makes them stand out.

Motion by Ms. Folberg
Seconded by Ms. Edwards to recommend to the City Commission that the City prioritize the Ad Hoc Rail District Committee's recommendations for changes to S. Eton Rd. from Maple Rd. to Yosemite Blvd. including:
1. Landscaped splitter island to improve the S. Eton Rd. south side crosswalk at Maple Rd.
2. Enlarged handicap ramp area at the southeast corner of the intersection.

3. Relocation of the west side curb and gutter section to allow for a widened 8 ft. sidewalk on the entire length from Maple Rd. to Yosemite Blvd.

Motion carried, 4-0.

VOICE VOTE
Yeas: Folberg, Edwards, Adams, Slanga
Nays: None
Absent: Lawson, Rontal, Surnow

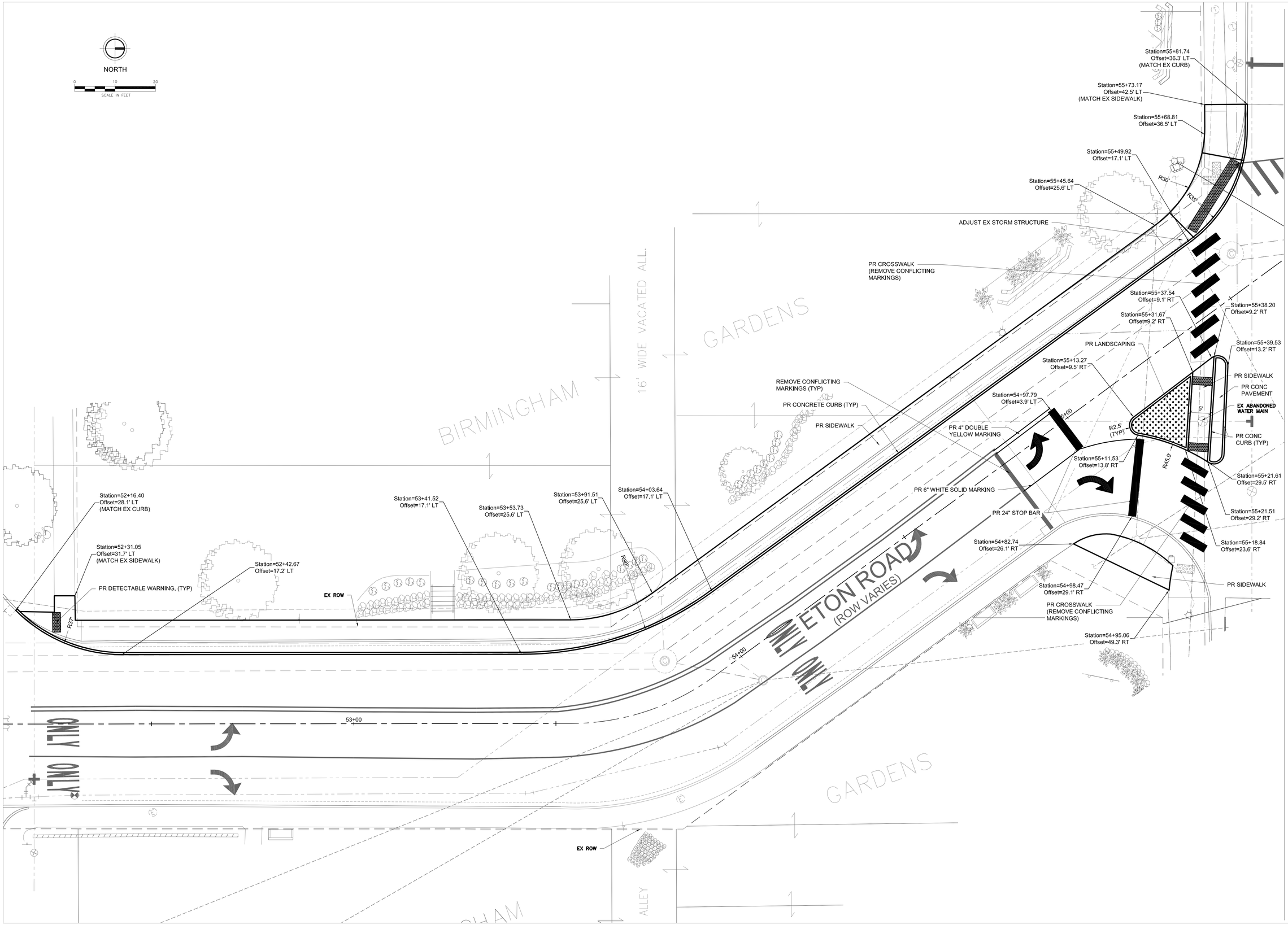
7. POPPLETON AVE. PAVING
Knox Ave. to Maple Rd.

Mr. O'Meara recalled the MMTB discussed the above planned City project at its meeting of December 1, 2016. A recommendation to approve the three-lane cross-section presented at that time was passed. It was noted that this segment is identified as part of a future Neighborhood Connector Route, but that due to the lack of right-of-way, the City will be unable to make improvements to the road that would allow for an improved environment for bicyclistsThe MMTB recommended that further study be given to this issue before this Connector Route is finalized in the future.

During further study of this block, it was noted that this is the only available route for trucks to enter and exit the loading dock for the adjacent Kroger store. Due to the narrow right-of-way, the existing pavement at the Maple Rd. and Poppleton Ave. intersection was not constructed to accommodate these large trucks. Due to heavy traffic volumes and the narrow street, trucks have to routinely drive over the curb to exit Poppleton Ave.

Staff's suggested street design shows the new road to be about 18 in. wider, and a standard 25 ft. radius at both corners is recommended (the current radii, particularly on the NW corner, are smaller, and are not recommended on a truck route). To summarize, a minor expansion of the road, particularly to the west, will better accommodate the multiple trucks that need to use this intersection daily, while extending the length of the crosswalk for those crossing Maple Rd. on the west side of the intersection by about 5 ft. Doing so will remove the current ongoing maintenance issue that is present at the northwest corner of this intersection.

To ensure that this is appropriate, F&V will study the traffic signal timing to make sure that there is sufficient green time to allow pedestrians to safely cross Maple Rd. with this new condition.



FLEIS&VANDENBRINK
DESIGN. BUILD. OPERATE.

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REVISION:

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

SOUTH ETON AVENUE AT MAPLE ROAD

IMPROVEMENT PLAN

DESIGN TEAM:
LMS

CHECK BY:

DRAWING INFORMATION:
823801Civil
032417 lindsays

MARCH 2017

F&V PROJECT NO.
823801

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