

**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015
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 5, 2014. Chairperson Johanna Slanga convened the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Johanna Slanga; Board Members Vionna Adams, Stuart Bordman, Lara Edwards, Jeff Surnow, Amanda Warner

Absent: Andy Lawson

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

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

B. INTRODUCTIONS (none)

C. REVIEW AGENDA (no change)

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2014

Moved and seconded to approve the Minutes of January 8, 2014 as presented.

Motion carried, 6-0.

E. W. MAPLE RD. AD HOC COMMITTEE

1. Review of first meeting

Ms. Ecker recalled there was a good turnout of committee members and visitors. She summarized that they went through a primer about what multi-modal transportation is. Mr. Norm Cox who did the Multi-Modal Plan for the City talked about what multi-modal planning is and why it is done. Further, he went through

some of the elements of the Plan. Then everyone around the table told about their thoughts on the existing W. Maple Rd. corridor. Everyone agreed they wanted to address making it safer, slowing down traffic, and backups at Southfield Rd. Also they didn't want to make the road worse than it is or to increase cut-through traffic in the neighborhoods.

Then Mr. Labadie offered background on what type of engineering tools and data they would be looking at when deciding on what the existing conditions are on W. Maple Rd. and where they want it to go. By the next meeting all of the data will have been collected to ~~show what is out there.~~ depict existing conditions. Their next meeting will be on Thursday, February 26 from 6 to 8 p.m.

A summary of each MMTB meeting will be posted on the City's website to keep the public informed.

F. SAXON RD. (Southfield Rd. to West City Limit)

1. Traffic Issues (verbal update)

Mr. O'Meara advised that the ~~D~~ Deputy ~~C~~ Chief of ~~P~~ Police has talked with one homeowner who is concerned about speeds and traffic volume and would like to see some changes made. ~~A speed study that was done in the past documented that the average speed is 35 mph which is faster than the posted speed of 25 mph.~~ They are limited on things to recommend as the asphalt pavement with gravel shoulders is pretty narrow. It has been suggested that curb and gutter be installed, which would involve Beverly Hills because they own the south side of the street ~~and Birmingham owns the north side.~~ Staff will be talking to the homeowner, and Mr. O'Meara wanted the board to be aware about what is happening.

~~Mr. Labadie noted he has suggested that the speed study and traffic count be re-done because of several impacts involving the first study.~~

G. UPCOMING MULTI-MODAL BOARD PRIORITIES

Phase 1

Woodward Ave., Oak, Lincoln, N. Eton, Old Woodward Ave. to Willits, Derby.

Mr. O'Meara presented the Phase 2 map contained in the Multi-Modal Master Plan. He noted that the Board should start thinking about projects from Phase 2 they would like to prioritize.

In response to a question, Mr. O'Meara stated Woodward Ave. would not be a City project, and it is a separate phase that will have improvements that are a

much broader project than just the two miles in Birmingham. Derby will be resurfaced. Old Woodward Ave. is scheduled to be re-built [in 2018 & 2019.](#)

[Phase 2](#)

[Neighborhood connector routes, West Maple Rd., Maple Rd. between Bates and Woodward Ave., Maple Rd. and Old Woodward Ave.](#)

Chairperson Slanga noted the need for an updated phase plan of what has been changed, where the bike paths are currently signed, and what would be quick and easy to accomplish. Additionally, what are the infrastructure upgrades that need to be made. This board should be able to see as far out as 2020.

Ms. Ecker said staff can put together a background presentation on what the phases are; what has been done so far; what is next that is automatically going to get done because there is already money in the five-year capital improvement program; and then [depicts](#) what is left. Staff will come in with a recommendation as to what they think are the priorities for the neighborhood connector.

H. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA
(no one spoke)

I. MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

1. W. Maple Rd. Project

Based upon comments he has heard, Mr. Bordman said he is concerned that the public views this board as a decision-making body and that they view the board as having already made up their minds to go from four to three lanes on Maple Rd. He thinks that before comments are taken from the public the board should read a statement reminding the public that neither the Ad Hoc Steering Committee nor the Multi-Modal Board endorses or recommends a W. Maple Rd. reduction. Further, board members are not the decision makers and they have not taken a position; it is their charge from the City Commission to go through this information gathering process.

Chairperson Slanga noted the purpose of this group is to enhance the infrastructure of the community. Ms. Ecker said she is working with the City's public relations person to do summaries of each meeting and to get out the word [out](#) about exactly what the process is, where they are in the process, and that public input is welcomed along the way.

It was decided that Mr. Bordman would [cull down-organize](#) his comments and send them to staff to be included in the members' packets for the next meeting.

Mr. Mike Clawson, 139 Pilgrim, a member of the [W. Maple Rd. Ad Hoc](#) Steering Committee, noted there was an article in the Eccentric that stated the purpose of this board is to gather data and research what is going on. The board has not taken a position.

~~Mr. Labadie announced he doesn't like to see this group which is working so hard be undermined in this situation. That's not right. Ms. Ecker noted that is what happens when there is public involvement. People in this community care a lot. It is this board's job to cull through all the data and make a recommendation that works for the community as a whole and then to pass it along to the City Commission.~~

H. ADJOURNMENT

No further business being evident, the chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Jana Ecker, Planning Director

Paul O'Meara, City Engineer