

**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM MULTI-MODAL
TRANSPORTATION BOARD THURSDAY,
September 5, 2019
City Commission Room
151 Martin Street, Birmingham, Michigan**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board held Thursday, September 5, 2019.

Chairwoman Johanna Slanga convened the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairwoman Johanna Slanga; Vice-Chairwoman Lara Edwards (arrived 6:29 p.m.); Board Members Amy Folberg, Daniel Rontal, Katie Schafer, Doug White, Joe Zane; Alternate Board Member Daniel Isaksen

Absent: Student Representatives Chris Capone, Bennett Pompei

Administration: Jana Ecker, Planning Director
Scott Grewe, Police Commander
Paul O'Meara, City Engineer
Austin Fletcher, Assistant City Engineer (arrived 6:29 p.m.)
Laura Eichenhorn, Transcriptionist

Fleis & Vanderbrink ("F&V"):

Julie Kroll

MKSK:

Brad Strader

2. Introductions (none)

3. Review Agenda

4. Approval of MMTB Minutes of June 6, 2019

Motion by Ms. Folberg

Seconded by Dr. Schafer to approve the MMTB Minutes of June 6, 2019 as submitted.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Folberg, Schafer, White, Isaksen, Slanga, Rontal, Zane

Nays: None

5. Cranbrook Road – W. Lincoln to W. Maple

City Engineer O'Meara presented the item. He said:

- There will be some issues with the frontage from Lincoln to Northlawn along the east side due to the open ditch drainage system and some fences that are close to the road. There is not a lot of right-of-way. He said the City would endeavor to create the 10-foot shared use path with the least impact to the area. This would not be undertaken until the City knows whether it will be receiving a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant from the state.
- The pedestrian crosswalk and ADA ramps at Middlebury and Lincoln is be a Bloomfield Twp. project. It may not be complete by the close of 2019, but the hope is that Birmingham could help on its side of the street as necessary and that the Road Commission will ensure that this aspect of the project will be complete by the end of the road resurfacing project.

Dr. Rontal said Midvale at Cranbrook crossing is difficult during Seaholm drop-off and pick-up and preschool school drop-off and pick-up. He agreed with Ms. Folberg, however, that Middlebury at Lincoln is a more difficult intersection to cross and should be prioritized before Midvale at Cranbrook.

Police Commander Grewe confirmed for the Board that many people run and jog along the east side of Cranbrook.

Chairwoman Slanga summarized the Board's comments as suggesting that the 10-foot shared use path should run to Lincoln from 14 Mile on the west side, then one or two ways to cross should be added at Lincoln, and then the 10-foot shared use path should go from Midvale to Lincoln on the east side.

Ms. Folberg said she was more in favor of the 10-foot shared use path being on the west side.

Dr. Schafer said she would appreciate the sidewalk on the east side as a resident of the adjacent neighborhood.

Chairwoman Slanga replied to Board comments, stating that this grant application did not necessitate solving the Lincoln and Middlebury intersection challenges entirely within one project. She said the intent of the conversation was to apply for the grant, and then to figure out how to manage the specific intersections and challenges.

Dr. Schafer agreed, saying that if grant application could be submitted with some flexibility as regards to the details, then the Board should move forward with recommending to the Commission that City staff be directed to apply for the TAP grant.

Planning Director Ecker confirmed that was the case.

Vice-Chairwoman Edwards stated that the Board might ultimately recommend safety changes beyond what would be funded by the grant.

Motion by Mr. Zane

Seconded by Ms. Folberg to recommend submittal of the TAP grant proposal as is, with the exception that from Middlebury until Northlawn, the 10-foot wide shared use path should be moved from the east side to the west side and that the MMTB should make a point of returning to discussion of the Lincoln at Cranbrook intersection.

City Engineer O'Meara said that if there were a clear way to change the intersection of Cranbrook and Lincoln the City would have likely already recommended it. ~~He said he was unsure what benefit further study of the intersection would bring.~~

Mr. Isaksen said it would be worthwhile for the Board to review traffic counts and accident report data for the intersection, even if no further recommendation ultimately results from the study.

Chairwoman Slanga noted that since the intersection was studied thoroughly during the Multi-Modal Master Plan, the Board could use the results of that study to help inform their upcoming discussion. She said it would be worthwhile for the Board to review the intersection to ensure that it is functioning as best it can.

City Engineer O'Meara echoed Mr. Strader's assertion that the planned three lane configuration at the intersection will alter the functioning of the intersection, and so recommended the study be delayed until after the road is rebuilt.

Ms. Folberg concurred with City Engineer O'Meara.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Zane, Folberg, Schafer, White, Edwards, Slanga, Rontal

Nays: None

6. Millrace Yield Sign (3 month review)

Police Commander Grewe presented the item.

Ms. Folberg noted that while only one resident polled had said the yield sign made a positive difference, no one in the neighborhood had provided negative feedback. As a result, she recommended the yield sign remain.

Police Commander Grewe told Dr. Rontal the issue with providing an unwarranted stop sign is that it will set a precedent for all future signage requests that come into the City from neighborhoods and residents.

Motion by Dr. Rontal
Seconded by Dr. Schafer to maintain the yield sign at Millrace and Randall.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Rontal, Schafer, Folberg, White, Isaksen, Slanga, Zane

Nays: None

7. Meeting Open to the Public for items not on the Agenda (none)

8. Miscellaneous Communications

9. Next Meeting – October 3, 2019

10. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the board members adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Jana Ecker, Planning Director

Paul O'Meara, City Engineer

APPROVED