

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Thursday, October 1, 2020
Held Virtually Via Zoom and Telephone Access

Minutes of the virtual regular meeting of the City of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board held Thursday, October 1, 2020.

Planning Director Ecker convened the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Board Members Tom Peard, Katie Schafer, Doug White, Andrew Haig; Alternate Board Member Joe Zane

Absent: Chairwoman Johanna Slanga

Administration: Jana Ecker, Planning Director
Eric Brunk, IT Manager
Laura Eichenhorn, Transcriptionist
Austin Fletcher, Assistant City Engineer
Scott Grewe, Police Commander

Fleis & Vandenbrink (F&V):
Julie Kroll
Justin Rose

MKSK: Ben Palevsky
Brad Strader

Planning Director Ecker noted Chairwoman Slanga's absence and sought nominations for a temporary Chair to run the evening's meeting. Mr. White said he would be willing to chair the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Zane

Seconded by Mr. Peard to nominate Mr. White to run the October 1, 2020 MMTB meeting.

Motion carried, 5-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: White, Haig, Peard, Schafer, Zane

Nays: None

2. Introductions

None.

3. Review Agenda

No changes.

4. Approval of MMTB Minutes of September 3, 2020

Motion by Mr. Peard

Seconded by Dr. Schafer to approve the MMTB Minutes of September 3, 2020 as submitted.

Motion carried, 5-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Peard, Schafer, White, Haig, Zane

Nays: None

5. Southfield and Brown Intersection Improvements

Commander Grewe introduced the item.

Ms. Kroll presented the study of the item which can be found in the evening's agenda packet.

After Board discussion it was determined that Ms. Kroll's recommendations were the most likely to increase the safety of the intersection.

Mr. Palevsky ventured that if Mr. Zessin were to narrow the width of his driveway it might increase the visual distinction between his driveway and the end of Brown.

Planning Director Ecker noted that such a recommendation could be made by the Board to Mr. Zessin, with the understanding that any such change to his driveway width would have to be undertaken by Mr. Zessin.

Motion by Dr. Schafer

Seconded by Mr. Haig to install advance intersection lane control signage (R3-8) and a two-directional large arrow sign (W1-7) at the recommended locations in the report provided by F&V. The MMTB also encourages Mr. Zessin to consider narrowing the width of his driveway so as to increase the visual distinction between the driveway and the end of Brown Street.

Motion carried, 4-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Schafer, White, Haig, Zane

Nays: None

Absent: Peard (lost connection during vote)

6. Bicycle Signage

Planning Director Ecker introduced the item.

Ms. Kroll summarized her study's findings. The study can be found in the evening's agenda packet.

There was no discussion of the item by the Board members.

Motion by Dr. Schafer

Seconded by Mr. Peard to recommend approval of the installation of four new R4-11 signs to be installed along Eton Street at the following locations:

- **On S. Eton, south of Maple Road on the NB side (add new sign post)**
- **On S. Eton, south of Maple Road on the SB side (mount on existing light post)**
- **On N. Eton, north of Maple Road on the NB side (add new sign post)**
- **On N. Eton, north of Maple Road on the SB side (Remove existing W11-1/W16-1P sign and replace with R4-11 sign on existing post)**

AND

To recommend approval of the addition of sharrows to be installed on N. Eton, north of Maple Road in both the NB and SB lanes.

Motion carried, 5-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Schafer, Peard, White, Haig, Zane

Nays: None

7. On Street Parking on Commerce Street

Dr. Schafer recused herself from before discussion of this item began citing a conflict of interest.

Commander Grewe presented the item.

In reply to Mr. Haig, Commander Grewe stated that the Fire Department accesses The Sheridan, the assisted living facility on Lincoln, via Lincoln and not via Commerce.

Mr. Haig said he was trying to make sure there would be backup access if Lincoln were congested for any reason.

Commander Grewe stated that even if the Fire Department had to proceed via Cole they would have enough room. He explained that Commerce is 28' wide with parking on both sides, whereas many residential streets in Birmingham, per City policy, are 26' wide with parking on both sides so there would be sufficient room for the Fire Department to proceed down Commerce if need

be.

Gayle McGregor, attorney for the applicant, confirmed that the applicant would be submitting a variance request to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) subsequent to tonight's MMTB discussion.

Planning Director Ecker explained that the BZA will want to see that the applicant exhausted all other resources before requesting a variance for parking spaces, and so pursuing on street-parking on Commerce is an effort towards that end.

Mr. Zane asked if there were any likely drawbacks that could stem from approving addition on-street parking on Commerce. He remarked that it seemed like it would be a positive change and would do no harm to the neighborhood.

Ms. McGregor stated that the applicant circulated a petition in favor of adding on-street parking to Commerce to the three other businesses that front on Commerce Street. She stated that three of the businesses, including the applicant, signed the petition. Dogtopia had no objection to the proposal. The owner of Dogtopia only withheld their signature only because they did not want to sign something that was being submitted to the City. Ms. McGregor noted that Dogtopia has significant off-street parking and so would not be affected by the addition of on-street parking at the opposite end of Commerce.

Motion by Mr. Zane

Seconded by Mr. Haig to remove the "No Parking" signs on the west side of Commerce from Lincoln north to the south side of the second driveway and replace them with "2 Hour Parking" signage.

Motion carried, 4-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Peard, White, Haig, Zane

Nays: None

Recused: Schafer

Dr. Schafer rejoined the meeting after the vote on the item.

8. Meeting Open to the Public for items not on the Agenda

Dave Lurie reviewed the email he submitted to the MMTB which can be found in the evening's agenda packet.

Planning Director Ecker informed the Board that several City staff members would be meeting with Mr. Lurie the following day, October 2, 2020, to discuss the issues raised in his email and to generate potential solutions.

Dr. Schafer recalled that the Board had previously decided to look at potential multi-modal enhancements to roads being improved. She stated that would apply in this situation when the road is reconstructed in the future.

Assistant City Engineer Fletcher concurred with Dr. Schafer and said potential multi-modal enhancements to improved streets would absolutely be brought before the Board. He clarified that Mr. Lurie's issue was located on the stretch of Oak from Lakeside to Lakeview, however, which has not yet been improved by the City.

In reply to Mr. Peard, Assistant City Engineer stated that improving that section of Oak is on the City's radar but is several years out on the improvement schedule.

Mr. Haig said he concurred with Mr. Lurie's concerns regarding that area of Oak.

Assistant City Engineer Fletcher said he, other City staff, and the City's consultants had reviewed possible options for making that stretch of Oak safer and would be presenting it to Mr. Lurie as part of the following day's discussion.

9. Miscellaneous Communications

Mr. Palevsky informed the Board he was putting together potential multi-modal topic trainings for them. He said he would be sending the Board members a survey with potential training topics and asked them to return the survey indicating the topics they were most interested in.

Mr. White and Mr. Peard said they were looking forward to the trainings and thanked Mr. Palevsky and City staff.

10. Next Meeting – November 5, 2020

11. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the board members adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Jana Ecker, Planning Director

Austin Fletcher, Assistant City Engineer