

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Thursday, November 5, 2020
Held Virtually Via Zoom and Telephone Access

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board held Thursday, November 5, 2020.

Chairwoman Johanna Slanga convened the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairwoman Johanna Slanga (located in Bloomfield, MI); Board Members Tom Peard (located in Birmingham, MI), Katie Schafer (located in Birmingham, MI), Doug White (located in Birmingham, MI), Andrew Haig (arrived 6:15 p.m., absent for roll call so no location reported); Alternate Board Member Joe Zane (located in Onaway, MI)

Absent: None

Administration: Jana Ecker, Planning Director ("PD")
Eric Brunk, IT Manager
Laura Eichenhorn, Transcriptionist
Austin Fletcher, Assistant City Engineer

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

MKSK: Ben Palevsky
Brad Strader

2. Introductions

None.

3. Review Agenda

Police Commander Grewe notified PD Ecker via text message during the meeting that he would not be available to present the update on ADA Parking. He extended his apologies. The MMTB agreed to move the ADA presentation to the December 2020 meeting.

4. Approval of MMTB Minutes of October 1, 2020

Motion by Mr. White

Seconded by Dr. Schafer to approve the MMTB Minutes of October 1, 2020 as submitted.

Motion carried, 5-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Peard, Schafer, White, Slanga, Zane

Nays: None

5. Best Practices Training Session

Mr. Palevsky, Mr. Strader, and Ms. Kroll presented best practices for pedestrian crossings, bicycle facilities, and traffic calming.

In reply to Mr. Zane, Mr. Strader said he and PD Ecker could reach out to MDOT about the possibility of pedestrian crossing improvements along Woodward. He noted that Ferndale, MI is currently working on a similar project with MDOT.

PD Ecker stated that the City has been in an ongoing discussion with MDOT regarding potential pedestrian safety updates to the Forest and Woodward intersection. She agreed with Mr. Zane's assessment that the northbound side of that intersection feels particularly unsafe for pedestrians. PD Ecker said that lights, flashing beacons, HAWK beacons, and moving the U-turn lane have been discussed as potential improvements to that intersection so far. She said that as of yet the City and MDOT have not come to an agreement about the best approach to that intersection.

Mr. Zane said he would be willing to describe his experience with that intersection to MDOT if that might help. He also said there are intersections further south along Woodward that also need pedestrian safety improvements.

In reply to Mr. Haig, Mr. Strader said he could not immediately think of any U.S. applications of bell bollards. He said he could look into those and into other options that might have similar results.

Mr. Haig stated that they are often successfully used in the U.K. to deflect vehicles' wheels away from protected pedestrian or bicycle spaces. He explained that at lower speeds the bell bollards tend to do no damage to vehicles. He said they also might fit Birmingham's aesthetic better than many of the other similar options.

In reply to Mr. Haig, Mr. Strader confirmed that speed tables are less detrimental for snowplows than speedbumps are. Mr. Strader added that while speed tables are more expensive than speedbumps, they are better for fire engines, more effective at slowing traffic, and provide a useful place for pedestrians to cross.

It was suggested that a future study session topic could be best practices for alleyways and vias, including topics such as alleys and road crossings, art in the alleys, and multi-modal transit in alleys.

A number of Board members expressed interest in that topic.

PD Ecker thanked the consultants for their presentation.

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

7. Miscellaneous Communications

8. Next Meeting – December 3, 2020

9. Adjournment

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

Jana Ecker, Planning Director

APPROVED