

City Of Birmingham Multi-modal Transportation Board
Thursday, March 4, 2021
Held Virtually Via Zoom and Telephone Access

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board held Thursday, March 4, 2021.

Chair Johanna Slanga convened the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Johanna Slanga; Board Members Andrew Haig, David Hocker, Tom Peard, Katie Schafer, Doug White; Alternate Board Member Joe Zane; Student Representatives Justin Schoener, Alex Walters (left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.) (all located in Birmingham, MI with the exception of Johanna Slanga, located in Bloomfield Hills, MI, and Katie Schafer, located in Detroit, MI)

Absent: Board Member David Lurie; Student Representative Lauren Morris

Administration: Jana Ecker, Planning Director
Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist
Scott Grewe, Police Operations Commander
Jim Surhigh, Consulting City Engineer
Scott Zielinski, Assistant City Engineer

Fleis & Vandenbrink (F&V):
Julie Kroll

MKSK: Ben Palevsky, Brad Strader

2. Introductions

PD Ecker introduced the new student representatives. Chair Slanga welcomed the students to the Board.

3. Review Agenda

4. Approval of MMTB Minutes of February 4, 2021

Motion by Mr. Haig

Seconded by Mr. Hocker to approve the MMTB Minutes of February 4, 2021 as submitted.

Motion carried, 5-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Haig, Peard, Hocker, Schafer, Slanga
Nays: None
Abstain: Zane, White

5. Park/Peabody/Maple Intersection

PD Ecker introduced the item.

Ms. Kroll and Ops. Cmdr. Grewe reviewed the item.

PD Ecker said the MMTB might want to consider the addition of lane striping lines through the Peabody/Park/Maple intersection based on Ms. Kroll's recommendation.

Concerns were raised by three Board members that the Woodward/Park part of the proposed signage might not be clear enough for drivers unfamiliar with the intersection.

Ms. Kroll explained that the signage follows the Michigan Manual of Traffic Control Devices signage requirements, but said she could ask MDOT whether there might be ways to clarify the sign.

Motion by Mr. Haig

Seconded by Mr. Peard to recommend approval of the following improvements to clarify the lane configuration of WB Maple across Woodward into Downtown Birmingham and improve the safety of the Park/Peabody/Maple intersection:

- **To add lane line extensions as illustrated below on WB Maple across NB and SB Woodward to Park/Peabody per the existing agreement with MDOT; and,**



- **To further review advanced signage options.**

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Haig, Peard, Zane, White, Hocker, Schafer, Slanga
Nays: None

6. Multi-Modal Roadway Improvements – 2021 Construction Season, Part II

Consulting City Engineer Surhigh introduced the item.

Mr. Palevsky presented the item.

Consulting City Engineer Surhigh said the City notifies Consumers Energy when water or sewer

systems are being repaired so Consumers can do any needed updates to the gas at the same time.

Mr. Hocker said it would be worthwhile to add sidewalks and mile markers to the Neighborhood Loop. Mr. Haig concurred. Mr. Hocker noted that if the budget were not available currently to add mile markers or sidewalks the plans should be added to an upcoming budget proposal.

Dr. Schafer said opportunities should be taken to make the areas walkable, and that ADA updates should be included.

Mr. Hocker said the City should consider sidewalk locations for Latham that would allow for all-season use. He cautioned that sidewalks **oriented next to the curb** are often buried under snow when plowing occurs.

Mr. Haig said he liked the idea of the saw cuts into the pavement with curbs on Latham, and did not like the proposed roundabout.

In reply to Mr. Haig, Mr. Palevsky said it might be possible to paint or add physical barriers to demarcate a cyclist/pedestrian pathway along Latham as a trial. Mr. Palevsky stated he had seen that done in other projects but could not say what the City would authorize. He said it was worth taking a look at the parking setup on Latham as well.

Mr. Peard suggested the City seek resident input for the proposed Latham improvements.

Chair Slanga asked the Staff to return with viable options and implications.

Consulting City Engineer Surhigh explained the 600 feet of Fairway was being considered for maintenance because that portion is improved road.

Public Comment

Janelle Whipple-Boyce, speaking as a member of the Ad Hoc Unimproved Streets Study Committee (AHUSSC), Planning Board member, and member of the public, stressed the importance of adding sidewalks whenever road improvements are done. She also stressed that sidewalks should be added on both sides of the road when they are added. She said that it is the responsibility of the City to make improvements that benefit the entire community. She noted that Latham is particularly wide and would particularly benefit from sidewalks on both sides of the road.

PD Ecker stated that no plans for the Neighborhood Loop would be finalized until the master plan is adopted.

Dr. Schafer noted she also sat on the AHUSSC and agreed that the MMTB should consider its charge in terms of improving the City. Regarding Fairway, she said she would like the MMTB to study the street as a whole instead of considering the 600 foot stretch proposed.

Motion by Mr. Zane

Seconded by Mr. Hocker to recommend approval of the proposed improvements to

Watkins Ave – Brown St to Frank St & Hanna St to Wallace St.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Zane, Hocker, Haig, Peard, White, Schafer, Slanga

Nays: None

Motion by Dr. Schafer

Seconded by Mr. White to direct City Staff and consultants to return to the MMTB with information for a more thorough study of Fairway.

Motion carried, 6-1.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Schafer, White, Zane, Hocker, Haig, Peard

Nays: Slanga

Motion by Dr. Schafer

Seconded by Mr. Haig to direct City Staff and consultants to return to the MMTB with information for a more thorough study of Latham and possible options for appropriate multi-modal infrastructure improvements.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Schafer, Haig, White, Zane, Hocker, Peard, Slanga

Nays: None

7. Phase III Downtown Improvements – S. Old Woodward Brown - Lincoln

Mr. Palevsky presented the item.

The Board asked that there be further conversations about possible multi-modal improvements. Cycling and microtransit improvements were specifically mentioned.

Mr. Palevsky said there could also be discussion about design treatments and amenities at bus stops.

Mr. Hocker recommended electric vehicle charging stations be considered. Chair Slanga concurred with Mr. Hocker's recommendation, and said it is an infrastructure improvement that should be considered more generally throughout the City.

PD Ecker agreed that electric vehicle infrastructure would be worth discussing moving forward. She noted it would be a topic of discussion at an upcoming Planning Board meeting.

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

9. Miscellaneous Communications

10. Next Meeting – April 1, 2021

11. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the board members adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Jana Ecker, Planning Director

APPROVED