

City Of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board
Thursday, April 8, 2021
Held Virtually Via Zoom and Telephone Access

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board held Thursday, April 8, 2021.

Acting Vice-Chair Doug White convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Acting Vice-Chair Doug White; Board Members Andrew Haig, David Hocker, David Lurie, Tom Peard; Student Representative Alex Walters (all located in Birmingham, MI.)

Absent: Chair Johanna Slanga; Board Member Katie Schafer; Alternate Board Member Joe Zane; Student Representatives Lauren Morris, Justin Schoener

Administration: Jana Ecker, Planning Director ("PD")
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

3. Review Agenda

4. Approval of MMTB Minutes of March 4, 2021

In the third paragraph on page three, David Hocker asked that "He cautioned that sidewalks are often buried under snow when plowing occurs" be changed to "He cautioned that sidewalks oriented next to the curb are buried under snow when plowing occurs".

Motion by Mr. Peard
Seconded by Mr. Hocker to approve the MMTB Minutes of March 4, 2021 as amended.

Motion carried, 4-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Haig, Peard, Hocker, White
Nays: None
Abstain: Lurie

5. Park/Peabody/Maple Intersection

Ms. Kroll reviewed the item.

Mr. Peard commented that the right side of the sign might be made clearer if Woodward were moved down next to the turning arrow since through traffic would not actually be able to get on to Woodward.

It was discussed that while Mr. Peard's recommendation might be more clear, it might make the sign too wide and might run afoul of MDOT sign standards.

Ms. Kroll clarified that the sign's intent is to help drivers find the correct lane, not to function as a wayfinding sign. She noted that most people use their phones for directions now and would only need to rely on the sign to be in the correct lane.

Mr. Haig spoke in favor of the signage as proposed, calling it an incremental improvement. He suggested that the proposed signs be recommended to the Commission with the understanding that they could be adjusted later if the signs are found to be insufficient.

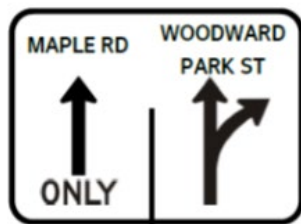
The Board members concurred with Mr. Haig.

In response to a question from Mr. Haig, Consulting City Engineer Surhigh estimated that the cost of replacing the sign in the future if needed would be less than \$1,000.

Motion by Mr. Haig

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

- **Add Advance Intersection Lane Control Signs R3-8 (as illustrated below) on WB Maple Road east of Woodward;**



and,

- **Add Advance Lane Designation signage as shown below on WB Maple east of Woodward to clarify the upcoming lane configuration.**



Motion carried, 5-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Haig, Peard, Hocker, White, Lurie

Nays: None

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

Consulting City Engineer Surhigh introduced the item.

Mr. Palevsky presented the proposed multi-modal roadway improvements for Latham.

Since the budget to add full sidewalks to Latham was not available for the 2021 construction season, the Board discussed various ways pedestrians and cyclists could be better accommodated in the interim.

It was noted that very few vehicles park on Latham, and that the City could consider only allowing parking on one side of the road or only along the wider stretches of Latham.

PD Ecker confirmed that the multi-modal plan calls for sidewalk gaps to be filled in across the City.

Noting that cyclists are legally allowed to ride in the road, Mr. Haig said it was a greater priority to provide at least one option for pedestrians desiring to safely use Latham.

Since cyclists can ride in the road, the Board recommended the addition of 'Share the Road' signs along Latham to reinforce the fact to drivers.

Mr. Haig suggested that a compromise might be a shared cyclist-pedestrian lane on the road until a sidewalk can be added to Latham. He said it should have a physical barrier and be highlighted in some way for visibility.

Motion by Mr. Haig

Seconded by Mr. Hocker to recommend approval to the City Commission for the following improvements along Latham Road from Northlawn to Saxon Drive:

- 1. Inclusion of Latham from Northlawn to Saxon Drive in the upcoming 2021 Asphalt Resurfacing Program;**
- 2. Installation of new curbs at the intersections of Wakefield, Southlawn, Worthington and Norfolk with Latham to reduce turning radii and better define expected vehicle travel Paths; and,**

3. Based on Alternative Two as presented by MKSK in their March 31, 2021 memo, to adjust the intersections as previously reviewed by the MMTB, to narrow the vehicular roadway, to create a buffered lane to permit pedestrians and bicycle traffic to have a pathway with a physical barrier between them and the travel lanes, and to add 'Share the Road' signs along Latham.

AND

To recommend that the City Commission direct the Engineering Department to further explore the installation of sidewalks on one or both sides of Latham, including preparing preliminary plans and development of cost estimates, structure of potential Special Assessment District, and review with the Finance Department.

Motion carried, 6-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Haig, Hocker, Peard, White, Lurie

Nays: None

Mr. Palevsky then presented the proposed multi-modal roadway improvements for Stanley.

The Board generally expressed approval of the proposed improvements.

Consulting City Engineer Surhigh noted that some of the recommendations would set the groundwork for later improvements.

Mr. Strader confirmed the City could propose to the Oakland County Road Commission and Beverly Hills a joint installation of flashing pedestrian signage at 14 Mile. He clarified that decision would ultimately be up to the Oakland County Road Commission.

Motion by Mr. Haig

Seconded by Mr. Peard to recommend approval to the City Commission for the following improvements along Stanley Blvd:

- 1. Inclusion of the resurfacing of Stanley Blvd, between Lincoln and 14 Mile, as well as the segment between Hanna and Wallace in the upcoming 2021 Asphalt Resurfacing Program;**
- 2. Installation of multi-modal improvements outlined by MKSK in their Stanley Blvd memo dated March 31, 2021.**

Motion carried, 6-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Haig, Peard, White, Lurie, Hocker

Nays: None

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

The Board discussed the intersection of Southfield and Maple and drivers' confusion regarding

the truck apron. Mr. Walters suggested that striping or painting the truck apron might clarify to drivers of smaller vehicles that they should avoid driving over it. Ms. Kroll said striping or painting the truck apron could be effective. Consulting City Engineer Surhigh said he would return the item for discussion at the next meeting.

In response to Mr. Lurie, Cmdr. Grewe said the Police Department could look into publicizing the number of tickets written on Woodward during the spring and summer months for either speeding or noise violations in order to better inform Birmingham residents about active enforcement efforts.

8. Miscellaneous Communications

9. Next Meeting – May 6, 2021

10. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the board members adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Jana Ecker, Planning Director

APPROVED