

City Of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board
Thursday, May 6, 2021
Held Virtually Via Zoom and Telephone Access

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board held Thursday, May 6, 2021.

Acting Vice-Chair Katie Schafer convened the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Chair Johanna Slanga; 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 ("CCE")
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 April 8, 2021

Motion by Mr. Lurie

Seconded by Mr. Peard to approve the MMTB Minutes of April 8, 2021 as submitted.

Motion carried, 5-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Yeas: Lurie, Haig, Peard, Hocker, White

Nays: None

Abstain: Schafer, Zane

5. Parking at 33347 Woodward

Ops. Cmdr. Grewe reviewed the item.

The MMTB noted that the petition and photos referenced by Ops. Cmdr. Grewe during his presentation were not included in the evening's agenda packet. He clarified that all three businesses were in favor of the 15-minute parking limit.

John Benedetto of Tropical Smoothie Cafe agreed that all three businesses were in favor of the 15-minute parking limit.

Mr. Zane said that a 15-minute limit for those spaces was reasonable based on his parking experiences at one of the three businesses mentioned.

Motion by Mr. Haig

Seconded by Mr. Lurie to approve the installation of 15-minute parking for the six parking spaces located in the Woodward right-of-way adjacent to 33347 - 33367 Woodward.

Mr. Haig and Mr. Lurie made the motion for six parking spaces, not seven as per the recommended motion. No comment was made regarding the change in the number of spaces.

Motion carried, 7-0.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Nays: None

6. Updates

CCE Surhigh provided a brief update on the plans for the Maple-Woodward intersection, Latham, and S. Old Woodward.

Mr. Strader said he and Ms. Kroll would be before the Board with recommendations regarding the Maple-Woodward intersection at the June 2021 meeting and asked Board members to walk the intersection before then if possible.

Mr. Haig recommended that the garage entry and exit ways for the planned RH development be reviewed for multi-modal safety issues if and when the project reaches that point.

In reply to comments from the Board, both PD Ecker and Mr. Strader stated that if the Board was so inclined they could advocate that the City consider installing electric vehicle charging stations as part of the S. Old Woodward project.

Mr. Haig noted that the smaller triangular spaces for parking may only allow bicycles, mopeds or motorcycles since scooters are not legal on the sidewalks or on the roads in the downtown area.

Members of the Board commented that it was worthwhile to consider last-mile infrastructure issues as part of construction plans moving forward. They said that even if the City does not

immediately implement last-mile infrastructure it would be worthwhile to make the planned designs so that they could be updated to accommodate last-mile infrastructure in the future.

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

None.

8. Miscellaneous Communications

Mr. Lurie, Mr. Haig, Mr. Hocker and Acting Vice-Chair Schafer advocated for the compilation of the City's various pieces of multi-modal maps into a single online map that residents and visitors could reference.

PD Ecker said she would look into what it would take to compile a more comprehensive multi-modal map. She noted that the person doing it would need GIS experience.

Mr. Lurie raised the issue of Oak looking west where people are walking on the side of the street without sidewalks.

Board members recommended that boulders or landscaping be added to discourage people from walking on that side of the road since it is unsafe and there is a sidewalk on the other side.

Mr. Hocker said that even before the MMTB makes a formal recommendation for what to do with the non-sidewalk side of Oak something temporary should be done sooner out of concern for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

CCE Surhigh and Ops. Cmdr. Grewe said they would look at the non-sidewalk side of Oak and propose potential solutions to increase safety in the area.

Mr. Hocker said it would be helpful to have a way to notify police of speeding violations occurring in a given area. He ventured that there is usually more than one violation occurring at a time and that if the police could be made aware of the first one they might catch the second or third occurring shortly after.

Mr. Lurie noted an article in the Birmingham Eagle publicizing the Police Department's work towards decreasing traffic and noise issues on Woodward.

Both he and Mr. Hocker thanked the Police Department for their efforts.

Public Comment

Paul Reagan said increased traffic calming measures on Oak would slow speeding and make the area safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

9. Next Meeting – June 3, 2021

10. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the board members adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Jana Ecker, Planning Director

APPROVED