



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

February 2022

Baldwin Public Library

Employment Update

Melissa Behrens has been hired as a part-time Youth Librarian. We are currently interviewing candidates for the position of part-time IT Technician.

Architectural Design Services

The Library Board met on February 23 for a special meeting after the February 21 meeting was cancelled due to technical difficulties. The Library Board has approved and issued an RFP for architectural design services for the expansion and renovation of the front entry and circulation area. The RFP is due March 24. The Library Board is expected to select the architectural firm to complete the design development and construction drawings at its April 18 Board meeting. The Commission will then vote whether to approve the firm at its April 25 meeting.

Student Board Member

High school junior Olivia Clark will be the next student representative to the Library Board. Her term will run from February 21, 2022 through January 18, 2023.

Financial Policy & Strategic Plan

The Board voted to approve updates to the Financial Policy. The policies can be viewed at <https://www.baldwinlib.org/mission/>. The Board also approved a new strategic plan for the library for 2022-2025. The full plan can be read at <https://www.baldwinlib.org/staff-board/>. Highlights of the plan are listed below.

Mission: The Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham, Michigan enriches lives by providing opportunities and resources for everyone to learn, connect, and discover.

Vision: The Baldwin Public Library will be an essential part of the community and the first choice for access to cultural, recreational, and learning opportunities.

Core Values:

Intellectual Freedom Equitable
and Inclusive Access
Education and Lifelong Learning

Innovation
Welcoming Environment
Integrity
Collaboration
Commitment to Excellence

Strategic Goals:

Programs & Services: Adapt programs and services to meet the needs of the changing population.

Facility: Create a welcoming, safe, and accessible building that meets the needs of our staff and users.

Diversity & Equity: Provide and promote equitable and inclusive resources and opportunities for all populations.

Community Outreach & Partnerships: Develop and strengthen Baldwin Public Library connections within the community.

Personnel & Organization: Train, empower, and equip members of the organization to best support users and each other.

Financial: Maintain and improve financial health.

The Birmingham Museum

In response to our recent presentation on Birmingham's Black history at the Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham Schools Superintendent Embekka Roberson is interested in working with the museum to integrate our recent research into the schools' formal curriculum. The museum will also be including local Black history in school tour content this spring and into our annual exhibit later this year.

Birmingham Shopping District (BSD)

The BSD is presently working on a business mix analysis to determine the diversity of economic sectors in the downtown. The results of this analysis will affect how the BSD targets business attraction efforts and develops its marketing materials to promote the downtown to the greater region.

The Birmingham Bloomfield Eagle featured the BSD on the front page of its recent issue. The article was about how the BSD is pivoting to support small businesses.

Special Assessments for the BSD have all been sent out to commercial property owners in the district. Special assessments are due on March 31st.

The BSD is holding a joint Committee Chair meeting to discuss programs and services that the BSD will provide to the business district during the South Old Woodward construction project.

The BSD will be seeking to fill a part-time position for Farmers Market Manager who will be expected to work at the market every Sunday during the operating season.

Building Department

Monthly Report

The [Building Department's monthly report](#) provides an update on the following construction activity: building permits issued, building inspections conducted, trades permits issued and trades inspections conducted. In January, we processed 296 online permit applications, which is 43 more permits than were processed this same month last year.

Asbestos Survey Report and an Abatement Clearance Letter

The Building Department is now requiring that all single-family demolition projects submissions contain an Asbestos Survey Report and an Abatement Clearance letter (if applicable). This is to ensure that all demolition and asbestos abatement activity complies with the EPA National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP).

A licensed abatement contractor or their agent provides an Asbestos Survey Report to the builder after inspecting the property. If asbestos is found to be present, an asbestos clearance letter will also be required to confirm abatement.

The new demolition requirements will be shared on the Building Department's page of the website and all applications will be revised. Any builders or excavators having obtained a permit within the last year will be notified via email blast.

Snow and Ice Violations

Code Enforcement's commitment to a more proactive, assertive approach in the handling of snow and ice violations at construction sites has proven successful. The first snowfall of this winter resulted in 28 tickets issued to contractors for failure to maintain clear sidewalks and walkways in accordance with the City's Ordinance. Subsequent to this proactive approach, there was only one ticket issued to a contractor after the most recent snow event. However, in the three days that followed, officers cited 180 residential violations and over 200 violations have been issued to property owners since January. Additionally, Code Enforcement observed that in every neighborhood very few sidewalks had been properly cleared of snow and ice.

Due to the amount of properties so far this year that have been cited for noncompliance, it should be noted that it takes approximately 7 minutes to notify and enter each residential violation into our tracking database. Given that there are 7,272 single-family homes in the City of Birmingham, it would take several weeks for two officers to inspect every property and notify every violator. To accomplish this in a single day would require 40 Code Enforcement officers.

City Clerk's Office

Special Event Application Update

The special event application was updated in early February to encourage collaboration with nonprofits. All applicants going forward will be prompted to answer the following question:

3. ***The city encourages collaboration amongst non-profit organizations to bring the greatest benefit to the community. Please explain your efforts to do so _____**

Follow [this link](#) to access the Special Event Application online form.

Follow [this link](#) to view the printable version of the Special Event Application.

Election Information on the City's Website

The City Clerk's Office constantly reviews their content on the city's website. Updates have been made to the elections page to include a timeline of dates and deadlines for the 2022 election cycle.

Information for candidate filing of nominating petitions was updated on September 9, 2021. There are some elected positions throughout the state and county where candidates would be allowed to pay \$100 to file in lieu of obtaining voter signatures on a nominating petition. However, in the City of Birmingham, the Library Board and City Commission are positions that require signatures and a \$100 fee would not be accepted when submitting a candidate filing. The Nominating Petition Forms are available in the Clerk's Office.

Election 2022

The Clerk's Department relies on many election workers to ensure a smooth election. We will be contacting past election workers in May and recruiting for new election workers in May and June for the August 2, 2022 Primary election. Election workers will have training in July, and at that time we will evaluate whether we need to recruit more workers for the November 8, 2022 General election.

Birmingham has two state elections in 2022: the August 2, 2022 State Primary and the November 8, 2022 General Election. Some important dates to remember:

August 2, 2022 Election

- End of May – Applications for absentee ballots mailed to voters on the permanent absent voter list, ***these applications will be dual apps, meaning voters can apply for both their August and November ballot.**
- Week of June 25 – Absentee ballots will start to be mailed to voters who request them for August 2022.
- July 18 – Last day to register to vote by mail or at mi.gov/vote
- July 19 – Aug. 2 – Unregistered voters must schedule an appointment to register in person with the clerk's office.
- July 29 by 5:00 p.m. – Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail or at mi.gov/vote
- Aug 1 at 4:00 p.m. – Deadline for obtaining an absentee ballot in person at the clerk's office
- Aug. 2 – Election day. Polls are open 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. All absentee ballots due at the clerk's office by 8:00 p.m.

Parade & Hometown Celebration

The tradition continues in 2022 as the Celebrate Birmingham Hometown Parade marches in Downtown Birmingham on May 15.

Sponsorship of the parade is a great opportunity for area businesses to increase their presence in the community and to be an integral part of one of Birmingham's signature events. Sponsorship packages range from the \$3,500 Presenting sponsor, which provides the broadest presence of company name and message, to the \$100 Parade Friend Sponsor, which includes the company name displayed in Shain Park and on the City website. There are opportunities at all levels to sponsor a specific parade act or party activity. Participants are being sought to march in the parade, create a float, entertain and proudly represent their organization. Contact the City Clerk's Office at (248)530-1880 or go to bhamgov.org/parade for information and registration.

Cemetery

Future Agenda Topics for Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board

January 7, 2022 - Meeting was canceled.

February 4, 2022 - Meeting in-person at City Hall

- Continued discussion on updating the rules and regulations for Greenwood Cemetery
- Continued discussion regarding a policy for installing monuments in recognition of a person of historical significance

March 4, 2022 - Meeting in-person at City Hall

- Topics to be determined

Board Appointments

The City Clerk's Office is working to schedule board appointments for March 26, 2022 for the following boards:

- Parks and Recreation
- Multi-Modal Transportation Board
- Planning Board
- Cablecasting board
- Board of Review

City Manager's Office

Setting the Record Straight

The City Manager's office would like to set the record straight on several comments made at the City Commission meeting on February 14, 2022.

During public comment prior to the City Commission meeting, Mr. Bloom made the following statements:

"At the last Commission meeting, something occurred that I don't believe should have happened and the public was shortchanged as well as some other individuals involved. **Per Robert's Rules, when committee appointments are made, nominees are supposed to be taken from the floor. There are one or two exceptions. One exception is if there is a nominating committee and the other is I think if the city is organized in such a way that the Mayor may make nominations. So, we violated the rules and nobody else caught it and the Mayor proposed a process that everybody else bought into, of accepting nominations based on the order of interviews.** This resulted in nominating and appointing the least qualified person out of the applicant pool while leaving the most qualified person, a man in uniform serving our country.....*video is interrupted*.....and who also worked for Google and Waymo and multi-modal and mapping and other high technology areas from being appointed. The only qualification that I am aware of that the first person nominated has was that I don't know what his qualifications were other than (a) being an attorney and and (b) running for office and I don't know how someone like that could get picked over other more qualified candidates. So we short changed the candidates, **we didn't follow the Robert's Rules process** and one of the commissioners who isn't here tonight and he said something that that I agree with, which is that we've got a huge great talent pool in this community and we ought to use it. So when we do that and we try and engage that talent pool and if we don't accept the most qualified people to be on the committee, what kind of message does that send to everybody and will we be able to get good candidates applying for these positions in the future." **(Emphasis added, Full transcript of comments can be found [here](#))**

A review of the meeting footage from January 24, 2022 was conducted and at no time during the board appointments and nominations did Mayor Longe state that she would accept nominations based on the order of interviews as alleged by Mr. Bloom.

Please see the memo regarding nominations from Ms. Kucharek dated February 21, 2022 in the report section of the agenda for further information.

During the same public comment period at the beginning of the City Commission meeting on February 14, 2022, Mr. Paul Reagan made the following statements:

"770 Adams project. Let's use that as an example. **That is another project in the Triangle District right now, and that is about to come before you, the Commission, in about a month.** Project was designed by Chris Longe, the Mayor Therese Longe's husband. Mr. Longe is also a former treasurer of Clinton Baller's political action committee, now naturally neither Mayor nor Mr. Baller can vote on the approval of the project." **(Emphasis added)**

Mr. Reagan's statement that the 770 Adams project will be coming before the City Commission is incorrect. The Final Site Plan and Design Review for this project will be decided upon by the Planning Board and is not required to come before the City Commission.

During the same public comment period at the beginning of the City Commission meeting on February 14, 2022, Mr. Paul Reagan made the following statements:

"I find it odd though, that the first action that the Mayor took after she was, by your all consensus, made Mayor, **the first action she took was to appoint Mr. Baller to the Triangle Development Board. The very first action. And the major project that is going on within that area is the 770 Adams project.**" **(Emphasis added)**

Mr. Reagan's statement that Mr. Baller was appointed to the Triangle Development Board needs to be clarified. Mr. Baller was appointed to the Triangle District Corridor Improvement Authority ("CIA"). The CIA does not review new development projects that may occur within its boundaries, and thus will not consider the approval of the project at 770 S. Adams.

During the same public comment period at the beginning of the City Commission meeting on February 14, 2022, Mr. Paul Reagan made the following statements:

"Now, in addition, you know there are Planning Board members on the same project that when they were asked to consider it let's see that would have been as recently in January Chairman Clein, members Koseck, Emerine, Ramin, they had to recuse themselves from looking at it because of existing conflicts, the business relationships with the applicant. **Conflicts so numerous they couldn't form a quorum. That's right, they couldn't form a quorum because of the..the extent.**"

Mr. Reagan's statement that there were conflicts so numerous for Planning Board members at the January 2022 meeting that they did not have a quorum to conduct a meeting is incorrect. There was a quorum of the Planning Board at both the January 12, 2022 and January 26, 2022 meetings and regular business was conducted in the normal course.

Finally, during the same public comment period at the beginning of the City Commission meeting on February 14, 2022, Mr. Paul Reagan made the following statements:

“Here’s what I will leave you with. We need to look at the appointment criteria for our boards, clean them up, remove the institutionalized conflicts of interest which they engender. We need to require in the ethical code a declaration, identification and declaration of existing business relationships, so that when these businesses come before the City, that commissioner is on notice that they will recuse. They need to declare and recuse. **We need to minimize the influence peddling. I will just say it, the influence peddling that is going on you know.**” (Emphasis added Full transcript of comments can be found [here](#))

Oxford Dictionary defines the term “influence peddling” as the use of position or political influence on someone's behalf in exchange for money or favors. Dictionary.com states that an “influence peddler” is a person who arranges to obtain favors, as government contracts, from high officials on behalf of others for a fee. Accordingly, it appears that Mr. Reagan is making an accusation that one or more board or commission members are using their position or influence in exchange for money or favors. This is a serious allegation of potentially criminal behavior. As a result, this matter has been forwarded to the City Attorney for further review.

Please see the letter from Ms. Kucharek to Mr. Paul Reagan dated February 22, 2022 in the report section of the agenda for further information.

Communications

GovPilot Citizen Request Module – GovAlert App and Website Form

GovPilot representatives were available to train city staff on their backend system in mid-February. We are adjusting system settings and ensuring everyone is comfortable with the functionality prior to launching the service in March.

Sign Up for Updates from Birmingham

We continue to encourage the community to sign up for our Citywide Email System at www.bhamgov.org/enews. Subscribers receive important news alerts from the city, and residents obtain updates specific to their neighborhood. Additionally, subscribers receive our monthly Around Town e-Newsletter, featuring the latest updates about events, meetings, city projects, developments and more. [Follow this link](#) to view our February edition, and keep an eye out for the March edition coming soon!

Human Resources

The Human Resources department is gearing up to fill several seasonal summer positions, including workers for our Golf Courses and Parks, as well as Farmers Market Assistants. There's currently an open posting for clerical support in the Police Department, and a new intern is in the process of being hired at the Museum. Our recent City Engineer candidate fell through, but another round of interviews with new

qualified applicants is already in the works. As a reminder, commissioners who have not yet viewed the recent sensitivity training are encouraged to do so.

Staff & Vacancy Update

* No full-time hiring changes to report for the month of February.

Department	FT & PT Staff Estimate	Current Vacancies	Percentage Staffed	Vacancies Filled Since 2020	Percent Department Has Been Backfilled Since 2020
Birmingham Shopping District	5	Seasonal Only	100%	3	60%
Clerk's Office	5	None	100%	5	100%
Building	17	Secretary A	94%	0	100%
Engineering	8	City Engineer	87.5%	4	50%
Finance / Treasury	14	Clerical Asst	93%	4	28.5%
Fire	35	None	100%	10	28.5%
Information Technology	4	None	100%	2	50%
Maintenance	2	None	100%	1	50%
Manager's Office / Communications / HR	6	None	100%	6	100%
Museum	3	None	100%	0	100%
Parking System	2	Parking Admin	50%	1	50%
Planning	7	None	100%	4	57%
Police	71	None	100%	9	12.50%
Public Services	56	Pending	TBD	8	14%

City Staff Vaccination Update

Vaccination Card Tracking

Department	# Received	Total Staff	Percentage
City Staff	192	220	87%
IT	4	4	100%
BSD	4	5	80%
Community Development	29	32	91%
Fire Dept	33	36	92%
Clerks	5	5	100%
Finance/Treasurer	12	13	92%
Building/Maintenance	2	2	100%
Museum	3	3	100%
Police Dept (w/o crossing guards)	50	60	83%
CM/HR	6	6	100%
DPS (w/o summer seasonals)	44	54	81%

Miscellaneous

"But you don't live here."

Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL) recently published an article about the unfortunate notion that public servants don't care or can't understand things in a community because they don't sleep there. City of Birmingham staff members have been on the receiving end of the statement. It is intended to hurt us, and it does. Many public servants spend more time thinking about the community they work for than the community they live in. The article points out that, "As public servants, we spend every waking moment thinking of the communities we serve. We ask ourselves; how can we serve our community better, more efficiently, more transparently?" "We spend more time awake with you, than our families. " And, "When we go on vacation, we take photos of infrastructure and open spaces of the places we visit to bring back new ideas to our 'awake' home, the community we love and serve." Read the full article at <https://elgl.org/but-you-dont-live-here/>.

SOCRRA Update

SOCRRA recently released its Quarterly Report covering the first six months operation of the 2021/22 fiscal year. The report contains a financial statement of SOCRRA's operation and an outline of projects in progress or completed during the quarter. The report also contains statistical information and other information of general interest to the members of the Board of Trustees, and the members of the governing body of each of the member municipalities of this Authority. Follow [this link to download SOCRRA's Quarterly Report](#).

Department of Public Services

Commissioner Response from Previous Meetings

The following information is in response to Commissioner Haig's question during the January 24, 2022 City Commission meeting about whether there was a warranty on the Isuzu Garbage Truck for its repair. The vehicle repair was for \$8,652.60. Our Fleet Services team always pursues any available warranty for all vehicle/equipment repair work. This is the first thing we do in such cases. Our fleet consists of over 200 vehicles/equipment.

This vehicle is a 2018 model and would have been covered under warranty based on its mileage. However, because of the extensive hours of use rather than the actual mileage, this vehicle is outside of its warranty for this particular repair.

These vehicles tend to accumulate many more idling (hours) based on its specialized service, than it gets actual driving (miles) as usage around town.

Ice Arena

The Ribbon-Cutting Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, March 20, 2022 beginning at 11:00 AM. Evite invitations will be forthcoming and various planning items are underway. A program booklet will be available on this day with the schedule of events. We are including some figure skating and hockey exhibitions along with tours of the renovated ice arena facility.

Adams Park Construction Project

The City of Birmingham is out to bid for the development of Adams Park. Plans and specifications are available at www.mitn.info. Project details and deadlines are also available at this site. Proposals were due to the Department of Public Services by February 24, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Fire Department

Restoration Hardware (RH) Donates Buildings for Firefighter Training

Two current buildings along South Old Woodward (300 and 394) are slated for demolition soon. Thanks to a generous donation by Restoration Hardware, the Birmingham Fire Department was given permission to perform training at these buildings prior to their demolition.

Residents in the area may have recently noticed an increased presence of fire apparatus and signage indicating that training was taking place. Training scenarios included the use of radios, power tools, environmentally safe training smoke, etc.

Donation of buildings and homes that are scheduled for demolition provide invaluable training opportunities for Birmingham firefighters. Without the generosity of the owners, the training scenarios performed and the usage of certain firefighting equipment is very difficult to realistically recreate without causing major damage to the training areas at the fire stations.

Planning Department

Master Plan 2040

The Planning Board is wrapping up its thorough review of the second draft on March 9, 2022 with a summary of the review and a prioritization that will be brought to the City Commission at a joint meeting in the spring. All of the presentation slides used by the consultant for their presentations are available on www.thebirminghamplan.com, along with all documents relating to the 2040 Master Plan. You can also watch a recording of each meeting on the City of Birmingham website. As a reminder, you can still submit comments directly to the consultant team through the aforementioned 2040 Plan website, and can also submit comments directly to the Planning Division to be placed in the next available agenda of the Planning Board.

Planning Board

The Planning Board is keeping very busy with a comprehensive outdoor dining study that has been the subject of conversation for many months. In addition, there are several

ordinance studies that have been waiting for the Master Plan review to be completed that the Planning Board will take on starting in the spring. In terms of site plan reviews, the Planning Board will be reviewing applications for the following developments in the near future:

- 100 Townsend – The Townsend Hotel has submitted an application for a new outdoor dining platform adjacent to the hotel and Rugby Grille on Townsend St. The Special Land Use Permit, Final Site Plan and Design Review application was reviewed at the Planning Board meeting on January 26, 2022, and will be forwarded to the City Commission for final approval after receiving a recommendation from the Planning Board and the Advisory Parking Committee.
- 770 S. Adams – A new Community Impact Study and Preliminary Site Plan Review application has been submitted for a new 5 and 6 story mixed-use development in the Triangle District. The proposed building will have 158 residential units and a 4,000 sq. ft. retail space along Haynes. The application was reviewed again on February 23, 2022.
- 159 N. Eton – The business center along N. Eton is proposing a rehabilitation of the existing site and buildings, which will include façade changes, landscaping, and screening. The Final Site Plan and Design Review application is scheduled at the Planning Board on March 9, 2022.
- 294 W. Brown – A Community Impact Study and Preliminary Site Plan Review application has been submitted for a new mixed-use building along E. Brown St., which is currently Coldwell Banker. The building will be comprised of retail and office uses on the first and second floors, and will contain 38 residential units on floors 3 and 4. The project was reviewed at the Planning Board on February 23, 2022.
- 185 N. Old Woodward – The existing Mad Hatter Bistro has submitted a Special Land Use Permit, Final Site Plan and Design Review proposal to rebrand and renovate the existing bistro. The changes proposed are a full interior remodel, exterior changes, and a new outdoor dining patio. The project is scheduled at the Planning Board on March 23, 2022 and will be forwarded to the City Commission for final approval after receiving a recommendation from the Planning Board.
- 220 Merrill – The existing 220 Restaurant has submitted a Special Land Use Permit, Final Site Plan and Design Review for a new outdoor dining platform in the Merrill right-of-way. The project is scheduled at the Planning Board on March 23, 2022 and will be forwarded to the City Commission for final approval after receiving a recommendation from the Planning Board and Advisory Parking Committee.
- 2225 E. 14 Mile – Our Shepherd Lutheran Church is proposing a renovation of their existing parking facility, which will include improved screening and landscaping, as well as green storm water infrastructure. The Special Land Use Permit, Final Site Plan and Design Review application is scheduled at the Planning Board on March 23, 2022 and will be forwarded to the City Commission for final approval after receiving a recommendation from the Planning Board.
- 36877 Woodward – Gasow Veterinary Hospital has submitted a Preliminary Site Plan Review application for a new 2-story building and associated site

improvements. The tenant is proposed to remain, and will require a Special Land Use Permit (TZ3 zone), which will be reviewed by the City Commission in time. At present, the applicant is scheduled to go before the Planning Board on March 23, 2022.

- 243 E. Merrill – La Strada, an existing bistro, has submitted a Special Land Use Permit, Final Site Plan and Design Review application for a new outdoor dining platform in the Merrill right-of-way. The project is scheduled at the Planning Board on April 27, 2022 and will be forwarded to the City Commission for final approval after receiving a recommendation from the Planning Board and Advisory Parking Committee.

Historic Preservation

The Historic District Commission is embarking on an intense plan of action for historic preservation. This includes a lot of work towards the adoption of historic design guidelines, a general preservation master plan, and a signage/wayfinding plan for the Bates St. Historic District. Additionally, the Historic District Study Committee has been given the green light by the City Commission to continue its important work of updating the 1992 Wallace Frost report titled "Wallace Frost: His Architecture in Birmingham, MI." as well as developing a proposal to reinvigorate the Heritage Home program. At this time, there is one major project that is being reviewed by the Historic District Commission:

- 320 Martin – The historic Birmingham Post Office site is being considered for a 5-story addition on the rear (north) side of the property along Maple. The Historic District Commission is considering many aspects of the project in relation to the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation. The project will be reviewed next on March 16, 2022.

Public Art

The Public Arts Board is now beginning its 2022 call for entries. The program affords an opportunity for six artists to receive a small grant to provide public art in the City of Birmingham. Along with the call for entries program, the Public Arts Board continues to field donation requests.

Multi-Modal Transportation Board

The Multi-Modal Transportation Board (MMTB) has taken on the valiant but challenging task that is improving the Woodward corridor. At present, the MMTB will be seeking a resolution from the City Commission to move forward with the Woodward Avenue Road Diet Checklist, and will be studying various other improvements for Woodward.

Police Department

Promotions Update

1. Lieutenant Greg Wald was promoted to the rank of Commander. Cmdr. Wald was assigned to be in charge of the Services Division.
2. Sergeant Michael Simpson was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. Lt. Simpson was assigned to be in charge of night shift platoon "C" in the patrol division.

3. Officer David Buttigieg was promoted to the rank of sergeant. Sgt. Buttigieg was assigned to night shift platoon "D" in the patrol division.
4. Sgt. Alex Linke was assigned to the Investigative Division as a general case detective/school resource officer.

Ring Road

In the last Commission meeting, there was a brief mention of Ring Road or the "bypass" of roads surrounding the central business district. In the late 1960's and 1970, the City created "Ring Road" as a way of diverting traffic around the central business district to reduce traffic congestion that was thought to be a detriment to the business community. Ring Road consisted of several streets (Brown, Peabody, Park, Oakland/Willits and Chester) interlinked to create the bypass. Signage explaining the Ring Road bypass to the motoring public was installed. The Ring Road bypass was even mentioned in the City's 2016 Master Plan for improvements along the road that involved issues with street widths, crosswalks, traffic calming measures, traffic bleed into neighborhoods and more.

However, around 2010, the City changed course and an emphasis on engaging or activating the City's downtown center became a priority. There was a conscious movement by the City Commission and other boards to route traffic and other activities back into the downtown business district in a safe manner consistent with being a walkable community to increase visibility and access to retailers and restaurants. Signage for Ring Road was removed and community development and engineering projects were completed with the more open concept design for the downtown.

Parking Systems Update

Construction:

Construction repairs are continuing at Chester, Park and Peabody Structures. Staff met with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates (WJE) to discuss construction design and repair approach for the upcoming construction season.

Waitlist:

The current waitlist is down to 250 people. SP+ is continuing to contact people on the list to determine whether they are still interested in passes and issue passes. By March, the waitlist should be eliminated.

Credit Card Reader Upgrade:

New credit card readers have been installed and are being tested at the Peabody Structure. The old credit card readers had a lot of wear and tear and were not operating properly. If it is determined that new credit card readers resolve issues, then staff will proceed to install new readers at all structures.

Occupancy:

January	
Chester Structure	31%
N.O.W Structure	42%

Park Structure	41%
Peabody Structure	65%
Pierce Structure	64%
Average Occupancy	49%

Future Agenda Items

Download a summary of [future agenda items](#).

Future Workshop Items

Download a summary of [future workshop items](#).