

City Of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board
Thursday, October 5, 2023

151 Martin Street, City Commission Room 205, Birmingham, MI

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board held Thursday, October 5, 2023. Chair White convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

A. Rollcall

Present: Chair Doug White, Vice-Chair Tom Peard; Board Members Mark Doolittle, Anthony Long, Victoria Policicchio, Joe Zane; Alternate Board Members Gordon Davies (~~not voting~~), Patrick Hillberg (not voting)¹

Absent: Board Member David Hocker; Student Representatives Sophie Hanawalt, Angie Sharma

Staff: Senior Planner Cowan; City Engineer Coatta, Police Captain Kearney

F&V: Julie Kroll

MKSK: Brad Strader

B. Introductions & Chair Comments

Ms. Policicchio provided the Board's introductory comments.

C. Review of the Agenda

D. Approval of MMTB Minutes of September 7, 2023

Motion by Ms. Policicchio

Seconded by Mr. Long to approve the MMTB Minutes of September 7, 2023 as submitted.

Motion carried, 7-0.

VOICE VOTE

Yeas: Doolittle, Peard, Policicchio, Davies Hillberg², White, Long, Zane

Nays: None

E. New Business

F. Unfinished Business

1. Arlington Rd. and Shirley Dr.

SP Cowan and Mr. Strader presented the item. SP Cowan, CE Coatta, and Mr. Strader answered

¹ As amended at the November 11, 2023 meeting.

² As amended at the November 11, 2023 meeting.

informational questions from the Board.

Individual Board comments were as follows:

- The Board's previous consensus was that a sidewalk should be added to the east side of Arlington in order to preserve the street's mature trees;
- Given the extent of new home construction occurring on the streets, it would be appropriate to postpone the street improvements until after the new home construction is concluded;
- A sidewalk would make these roads safer for pedestrians, and walking these roads presently without sidewalks feels unsafe;
- The streets should be redone with curbs and without sidewalks;
- More feedback from the residents would be important for helping the Board decide how to proceed;
- Sidewalks benefit more than the residents of the individual streets on which they are installed. They are a community benefit, align with Birmingham's goal of being a walkable community, and align with the 2040 Plan;
- It would be understandable to want to preserve the individual neighborhood's character, and in this specific case that may mean foregoing sidewalks. Additionally, the width of the streets in this case allow for safe pedestrian usage without sidewalks; and,
- Adding sidewalks would be appropriate since people from the broader Birmingham community walk along these streets in order to access the Rouge trail.

Public Comment

Fremont Scott made a comment in favor of redoing Shirley and Arlington streets with curbs and without sidewalks.

James Mirro spoke on behalf of the neighborhood association representing Shirley and Arlington and made comments in favor of street surface repairs without sidewalks, sewer, or water repairs and in favor of postponing the street surface repairs until after the new home construction on Shirley and Arlington is concluded.

Two residents of Shirley made comments in favor of adding sidewalks to either one of both sides of Shirley.

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

H. Miscellaneous Communications

I. Next Meeting

J. Adjournment

No further business being evident, the Board adjourned at 7:10 p.m.



Brooks Cowan, Senior Planner Director

Laura Eichenhorn, City Transcriptionist