

Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 4, 2018

1. Call to order - The meeting was brought to order at 7:10pm, January 4, 2018 at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan Avenue. Committee members attending were Tony Bedogne, Bob Krzewinski and Sarah Walsh. Also attending was City Council member Pete Murdock.
2. Introductions
 - a. Audience participation/public input – None.
3. General business
 - a. Agenda approval – A motion was made by Bob, seconded by Sarah, to accept the agenda, passing unanimously.
 - b. Approval of December meeting minutes – A motion was made by Bob, seconded by Sarah, to approve the December meeting minutes, passing unanimously.
 - c. Committee member reappointments – At the December 20, 2017 Planning Commission meeting, Tony Bedogne and Martha Cleary were reappointed for another two-year term to the Committee by Commission members.
 - d. Other – Additional Committee members are needed for the Committee.
4. Old & continuing business
 - a. 2018 Committee priorities
 1. Bike lane projects
 - Harriet, Spring, Factory, Maus (First to Emerick) initial actions – After discussion, the Committee thought it would be best to tie in this project with the repaving and non-motorized improvements to Huron and Hamilton Streets in 2022.
 - West Cross (Wallace to western City limit) – Bob will formulate a resolution to be forwarded to the Planning Commission and City Council supporting traffic calming and bike lanes on West Cross Street when the street is repaved in 2021. The resolution would urge that Ypsilanti Township also would extend the traffic calming of West Cross to Hewitt Road to increase safety in a school area.
 2. Sidewalk projects
 - ReImagine Washtenaw update public update program – Bob will check into staff from the Washtenaw County Community & Economic Development office holding a ReImagine Washtenaw public update meeting in March or April that would touch on the lack of complete sidewalks on Washtenaw Avenue. Also, it was suggested that a Facebook post go out urging residents to point out sidewalk gaps that are used but not paved.
 3. General projects
 - Non-Motorized Plan update completion – Tony will set up a work session with Bonnie Wessler in the City Planning Department.
 - I-94 Huron Street crossing (along with traffic calming on Huron-Hamilton-Washtenaw) - involves MDOT jurisdiction areas – Pete will be attending the upcoming Washtenaw Area Traffic Study (WATS) and will obtain further updates. It also appears that the City will need to do more modeling of the project from their end.
 - Border To Border Trail completion – The Eastern Washtenaw County B2B Trail Master Plan working group will be meeting January 23rd at the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission headquarters at 9:30am.
 - Bike Friendly/Walk Friendly Community applications follow up – With the City receiving a “honorable mention”, the report card for the Walk Friendly Community was reviewed noting needs such as an ADA Transition Plan, a Safe Routes To School program, Open Street (closing down a street for short periods for pedestrians) events, improved pedestrian crossing signals, pedestrian counts and law enforcement cooperation. Bob will check with WATS on pedestrian counts. On the Bike Friendly Community (BFC) award, the Washtenaw Bicycling & Walking Coalition has awarded a grant to purchase five BFC signs that Bob will coordinate the installation of.
 - Public education/communications (Committee newsletter, social media, snow/vegetation removal) – A posting went out to all neighborhood groups on Facebook in December alerting residents of the City sidewalk snow removal ordinance.
 - Pedestrian safety improvements (signage/markings) – Tony will continue to monitor additional post-construction sign installations on Summit Street.

- Traffic calming (additional bump-outs, more radar speed signs, speed bump policy) - involves MDOT jurisdiction area – Permanent speed bumps will be located on Ferris Street to discourage cut-throughs of speeding vehicles between Hamilton and Michigan Avenue. The Committee was interested in finding the final cost of the speed bumps. Also permanent radar speed signs have been installed near some schools (Estabrook & Ypsilanti International Elementary School).
 - b. Other – Pete mentioned that the planned non-motorized project budget for the City should be around \$50,000 for 2018 with no major street projects planned for this year. Tony mentioned the City Capitol Improvements Plan should be discussed at the January Planning Commission meeting.
5. New Business
- a. Planning Department update – Bob had talked with Bonnie Wessler before the meeting by phone with primary conversation being the Non-Motorized Plan update.
 - b. Sidewalk snow removal – Pete indicated that there is still only one person handling sidewalk snow removal complaints although it has been suggested in the past that the City Traffic Parking Enforcement staff assist in registering complaints. The City Council will receive an update on snow removal from Public Services at its January 9th meeting.
6. Other Items – Announcements – Bob will be out of town in early February and there will not be a formal Non-Motorized Advisory Committee meeting next month although there may be working sessions to work on the City Non-Motorized Plan update.
7. Adjournment – A motion was made by Tony, seconded by Sarah, to adjourn the meeting, passing unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm with the next meeting being Thursday, March 1, 2018 at the downtown Library.

Expanded 2018 Committee Priorities

Bike lane projects

- Harriet, Spring, Factory, Maus (First to Emerick)
- West Cross (Wallace to western City limit)
- Washtenaw (West Cross to Normal/Emmet) – involves MDOT jurisdiction areas – Thought given to Emmet as preferred eastbound bicycle route from Normal east to Huron.
- Huron/Huron River Drive (Cross to Cornell)

Sidewalk projects

- Disabled access (curb cuts) - involves MDOT jurisdiction areas – Discussion on the need of a City inventory/map of curb cuts especially where there are needed but missing, cuts and curb cuts that need to be rebuilt.
- Washtenaw (EMU to Hewitt) - sidewalk gap completion - involves MDOT jurisdiction area

General projects

- Non-Motorized Plan update completion
- I-94 Huron Street crossing (along with traffic calming on Huron-Hamilton-Washtenaw) - involves MDOT jurisdiction areas
- Border To Border Trail completion
- Bike Friendly/Walk Friendly applications follow up
- Public education/communications (Committee newsletter, social media, snow/vegetation removal)
- Pedestrian safety improvements (signage/markings)
- Traffic calming (additional bump-outs, more radar speed signs, speed bump policy) - involves MDOT jurisdiction area

Task Assignments

What the Committee volunteers can do

- All priorities – Inform Planning Commission, City Council of 2018 priorities.
- Sidewalks – Identify disabled access problem points.
- Sidewalks – Briefing by Relmagine Washtenaw to Committee.
- Bike lanes – Confirm (or add to) in the Capitol Improvement Plan, research street repaving plans, work with neighborhood groups, start to gather public input. Also explore “bicycle boulevards” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicycle_boulevard & <https://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/bicycle-boulevards/>) for lower traffic roads (i.e. Adams, Emmet) where bike lanes would not be feasible.

- Border To Border Trail completion progress – Promote the Trail and continue to support the work of the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission on the Eastern County B2B Completion Master Plan (i.e. Frog Island to EMU/Water Street to I-94 at Grove Road gaps and more).
- Walk Friendly & Bike Friendly Community Applications – Follow up results from 2017 submissions.
- Committee event participation & education
 - Publish quarterly Committee email newsletter.
 - Information table at Farmer’s Markets
 - Street sweeping – Encourage cyclists to report problems with debris through Click Fix.
 - Bike Ypsi Spring Ride (first Sunday in May).
 - Safe Routes To School – Bike To School Day (first Wednesday of May).
 - Bike-Bus-Walk Week – (Bike To Work Week) – Mid-May.
 - National Trails Day (1st Saturday of June).
 - Parkridge Summer Festival (last Saturday of August).
 - Michigan Trails Week (mid-September).
 - Safe Routes To School - Walk To School Day (first Wednesday of October).
 - DAY Halloween Festival (late October).
 - EMU events.
 - Sidewalk snow removal.
- Pedestrian safety signage – Work with the City staff and MDOT (where appropriate) for pedestrian safety improvements...
 - Huron to West Cross (MDOT) - rumble strips & blinking “pedestrian crossing” light.
 - Hamilton/Michigan (MDOT) - “stop here on red” and “no turn on red” sign next to signal.
 - Huron/Pearl (MDOT) - enhanced pedestrian crossing signs.
 - West Cross/Washington (MDOT) – enhanced pedestrian crossing signs.
 - Forest/Norris - enhanced pedestrian crossing signs, pavement markings.
 - Washtenaw/College Place/Perrin (MDOT) - enhanced pedestrian crossing signs, pavement markings.

What existing staff can do

- Assist Committee with updating the City Non-Motorized Plan.
- Sidewalk accessibility enforcement - – Vegetation overgrowth, poor pavement condition, snow removal.
- Border To Border Trail completion progress – Continue to work with Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission on the Eastern County B2B Completion Master Plan (i.e. Frog Island to EMU/Water Street to I-94 at Grove Road gaps and more).

What Planning Commission and/or City Council can do

- Pedestrian safety signage – Continue to lobby MDOT to enact pedestrian safety improvements. Purchase signage where possible.
- Sidewalks - Washtenaw Avenue – Complete gaps from Eastern Michigan University to Hewitt.
- Sidewalks – Support reprioritization of sidewalk curb cut improvements.
- Bike lanes – Support Harriet-Spring-Factory-Maus and West Cross bike lanes.
- Traffic calming – Incorporate into Complete Streets City planning for construction. Consider additional bump-outs and radar speed signs.