

Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 11, 2021 – Zoom Virtual Meeting

1. Call to order - The meeting was brought to order at 7:05pm by teleconference. Committee members attending were Jenny Connolly, Mike Davis Jr., Dylan Goings, Bob Krzewinski, and Helen Schulte (quorum met). Also attending were City Public Services Department Project Manager Bonnie Wessler, City Planner Andy Aamodt, and community member Jen Schlicht.
2. Introductions - Audience participation - Public input.
There was no audience participation or public input in this portion of meeting.
3. General business
 - a. Agenda approval - Offered By: Committee member Davis; Seconded By: Committee member Goings.
Approved: Yes – 5; No – 0.
 - b. Approval of February 2021 meeting minutes - Offered By: Committee member Connolly; Seconded By: Committee member Echols. Approved: Yes – 5; No – 0.
 - c. Other – None.

4. Old & continuing business

a. 2021 Committee priorities (Abbreviated List)

1. City Non-Motorized Plan – Committee member Davis reviewed progress on the Plan update. Changes to the last draft based on reviewer input included renaming the goals and tightening language. The goals in Chapter 4 are: 1) Safety for non-motorized users, 2) Equity in non-motorized transportation, 3) Shift to non-motorized modes, and 4) Inventory and analysis. Chapter 10 will eventually include a matrix of the goals and strategies.

Input was sought on Chapter 7 Build regarding how to present the location and type of build projects (e.g. pedestrian networks, bike lanes). The prior Plan utilized a table format and map(s) were proposed for the current Plan update. This was discussed and committee members noted that tables are more readable and accessible, and the scale of maps may be an issue in the Plan document. Committee member Davis will explore using a combination of maps and tables. Paper maps were also discussed, noting that projects in the next 5 years would make them quickly out of date. Public attendee Jen Schlicht noted that paper maps have been useful in helping people who move to Ypsilanti.

The Committee agreed to send the draft Plan to the Planning Commission for review at their March 17th meeting. Committee members are encouraged to attend. The meeting packet will be publicly accessible in the Planning Commission meeting agenda packet and Committee member Krzewinski will notify community groups about the working document through social media.

After the Planning Commission's review, the Plan will come back to the Committee for approval at the April 8th meeting. The goal is to send it back to the Planning Commission on May 19th for approval, followed by a period of public input and hearings, before going to City Council for approval in June/July.

2. Sidewalk curb cut inventory & improvements – Committee member Krzewinski met by teleconference with Ron Akers and Bonnie Wessler at City Public Services on Feb. 26, 2021 to discuss items on the Committee priority list, namely curb cut improvements. The Committee will solicit input from the community between now and June about priorities for the next round of curb cuts (planned in 5 year increments). There was brief discussion about old vs new standards for curb cuts, noting more effective design around tactile indicators, angle relative to intersection, and grade in newer curb cuts.
3. Bike Lanes
 - Spring repainting of existing bike lanes –Committee member Krzewinski reported that of the approx. eight areas with bike lanes, only three may need repainting: 1) W. Cross from the water tower to Wallace, 2) Cornell between the B2B and Huron River Dr., and

3) Forest St. between the bridge and Huron. Brief discussion about widening the bike lanes or adding buffers to account for increased B2B traffic. This list was sent to Bonnie Wessler and Ron Akers.

- Sharrows at beginning and end of bike lanes – may be included in the WATS demonstration projects.

4. Communication & Education

- Publish quarterly Non-Motorized Committee newsletter - Committee member Krzewinski is working on the spring newsletter.
- Invitation to EMU August 7th Bike Rodeo 10am – 2pm, Convocation Center - Committee member Krzewinski has materials from previous events and plans to attend.

5. Border To Border (B2B) Trail gap completion and enhancement.

- Install “State Law – Give Way To Pedestrians In Crosswalk” signs at mid-block B2B Trail crossing of Cornell Street between Collegewood and Mayhew.

Brief discussion about B2B connection between Frog Island and Riverside Park. The E. Cross bridge will be redone in the next 5 years, including a curb-cut and crossing at the street level. Before then, the Committee may consider safety strategies for mixed cyclist and pedestrian sections, such as signage encouraging cyclists to walk bikes across the tridge.

6. Bike & Walk Friendly Communities

- Bike Friendly Community (BFC) award recertification (current BFC award expires in November 2021) – Committee member Krzewinski was able to get the 2016/17 application data to roll forward to the current application, due in August 2021. The new application will mostly be data updates obtained from City employees. Committee members interested in working on the application can contact Committee member Krzewinski.

7. New Business

a. City Planning Department and Public Services Department updates

- WATS traffic calming program – Bonnie Wessler provided a brief update on this and other projects, including ADA ramps, Oakwood repaving, water main work, and MDOT work on W. Cross.

b. Other – Bike to Work week may be delayed to September due to the pandemic.

8. Other Items – The next Committee meeting will be April 8th, 2021, 7pm by Zoom teleconference.

Bonnie Wessler shared information about a public hearing on a grant proposal for a Frog Island Trailhead project, details the city council meeting packet:

<https://cityofypsilanti.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/03162021-1559>

Committee member Echols noted City Council’s approval for removing slip lanes on N. Huron and Hamilton, and upcoming public forums about recently released AAATA route changes (full service to return in August).

9. Adjournment – Offered by: Committee member Krzewinski; Seconded by: Committee member Schulte: Approved: Yes – 5; No – 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm