

Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 8, 2021 – Zoom Virtual Meeting

1. Call to order - The meeting was brought to order at 7:03pm by Zoom teleconference. Committee members attending were Jenny Connolly, Mike Davis Jr., Renee Echols, Dylan Goings, Bob Krzewinski, and Helen Schulte (quorum met). Also attending were Department of Public Services Project Manager Bonnie Wessler and Director Ron Akers, City Planner Andy Aamodt, and three members of the public.
2. Introductions - Audience participation - Public input.
Two members of the public (Jamie T. and Kai) introduced themselves and were attending to hear about the Committee's work.
3. General business
 - a. Agenda approval - Offered by: Committee member Schulte; Seconded by: Committee member Davis. Approved: Yes – 6; No – 0.
 - b. Approval of February 2021 meeting minutes - Offered by: Committee member Krzewinski; Seconded by: Committee member Schulte. Approved: Yes – 6; 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. More time is needed due to compiling data for maps.

New maps will include: 1) ADA compliant crosswalks (indicating where all, half, or none of the corners are compliant), 2) crash locations over last 5 years (pedestrian and bike), 3) neighborhood connector network, 4) level of traffic stress, noting low stress routes. Work on two primary maps/tables (bike network, sidewalk network) led to new action items being added to the Plan: complete a bike network map and table, evaluate gaps in the sidewalk network map. Maps will be maintained as “living maps” reviewed every 1-2 years.

Bonnie Wessler reviewed the draft and noted the emphasis on safety and physical activity as motivators for making the City more bike/walk accessible. Wessler recommended expanding this to explicitly include economic opportunity (i.e. do not need to own a car) and climate impact.

Related to economic opportunity, Committee member Echols asked about DDA restrictions on chain stores (e.g. pharmacies) as examples of businesses that people need to access. Wessler shared that there are no restrictions on chains, but the (small) size and cost to retrofit older buildings is usually why chains do not come in.

The updated plan will be covered at the next Committee meeting on May 13th, then sent to the Planning Commission on May 19th, followed by a period of public input and hearings, before going to City Council for approval in July/August.

2. Sidewalk curb cut inventory & improvements
 - Committee member Krzewinski will include the 5-year curb cut project list, an explanation of the selection and planning process, and request for input on future priorities in the next newsletter. Comments will be compiled and sent to Ron Akers in June.
3. Bike Lanes
 - Spring repainting of existing bike lanes –Committee member Krzewinski reported that three bike lane areas 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. bridge.

Ron Akers confirmed that a contractor will be repainting lines on W. Cross St., Grove St., and Cornell St. including the B2B crossing. The City also ordered a sharrow template for future use.

Akers also provided updates about street sweeping (has begun) and speed hump installation (mid-May). There was brief discussion about upcoming summer W. Cross St. construction and YCUA projects and how sidewalks, bike lanes, and related signage will be impacted. Akers has requested a detour plan from the engineers and once known, the public will be notified by email, on social media, and on the City's website.

4. Communication & Education

- Publish quarterly Non-Motorized Committee newsletter - Committee member Krzewinski is working on the spring newsletter which will include: Non-Motorized Plan update, BFC award recertification, curb cut lists, Bike to Work Week, the WATS Route Ypsi program, and B2B updates.
- National Bike To Work Week (May 17-23) & Bike To Work Day (May 21) – Washtenaw County Bike To Work Day (September 17). The Committee usually runs a commuting station outside Beezy's.

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.

6. Bike & Walk Friendly Communities

- Bike Friendly Community (BFC) award recertification (current BFC award expires in November 2021) – this is in-progress.

b. WATS Route Ypsi traffic calming program - <http://www.miwats.org/route-ypsilanti>

- Bonnie Wessler shared an update. They are going over design concepts and preparing for public noticing (neighborhoods will receive mail notice ~next week).

7. New Business

a. City Planning Department and Public Services Department updates

- Bonnie Wessler shared the draft Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and went over the road projects planned for FY21/22 through FY27/28. The Planning Commission will be reviewing the Plan at their April 21 meeting. The draft CIP is viewable by going to the [4/21/2021 Planning Commission meeting agenda](#) and clicking on the link associated with agenda item 9.A – New Business/draft Capitol Improvement Plan.
- Andy Aamodt shared that the draft Master Plan Update public comment period is open through April 12 (<https://cityofypsilanti.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1318>) and then Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on April 21.

8. Other Items – The next Committee meeting will be May 13th, 2021, 7pm by Zoom teleconference.

9. Adjournment – Offered by: Committee member Krzewinski; Seconded by: Committee member Schulte: Approved: Yes – 6; No – 0. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm