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WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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May 12, 2008

Mayor John Hieftje and City Council Members
City of Ann Arbor
P.O. Box 8647
Ann Arbor, MI 48017-8647

Re: Proposed Improvement Plan for Fifth and Division:

Dear Mayor and Council members:

The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study completed its Non-motorized plan in September 2006 after two years of input from local governments and citizens. The desire for improved non-motorized facilities including a system of bike paths and sidewalks that provide easier crossings was universal throughout the county. As the central city and the county seat, many residents travel into Ann Arbor to work, conduct business, for medical appointments, shopping and eating out.

The City of Ann Arbor recently completed its Non-motorized plan and it identified the need for improved walkability and for a system of pathways connecting the city, university and the surrounding area using non-motorized modes. The city has made progress in adding bike paths through 4 to 3 lane conversions with bike paths in addition to the installation of pedestrian refuge islands. The recently completed Access Study for Jackson/Huron/Washtenaw acknowledged that importance of Fifth and Division one-way pair, the barrier that Huron Street is for non-motorized movements and the need for pedestrian improvements for these intersections.

The Fifth and Division proposal will continue the progress that Ann Arbor has made in an important corridor that serves the downtown library, Community High School and Kerrytown shopping district.

I recommend that the City Council approve and move forward with this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Terri Blackmore,
Executive Director

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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AN INTERMUNICIPALITY COMMITTEE ORGANIZED UNDER ACT 200 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF MICHIGAN (1957)
REPRESENTING WASHTENAW COUNTY