

Summary of Comments for Proposed 4 to 3 Lane Conversion I-94BL from East of Maple Rd (Collingwood) to Dexter Ave CS 81011 JN 87521

A public meeting was held on 2/16/12 from 5-7pm at Slauson Middle School in Ann Arbor to discuss the proposed 4 to 3 Lane conversion on I-94BL(Jackson Ave) from just east of the Maple Road intersection to Dexter Ave. MDOT Staff made a brief presentation on the potential advantages and disadvantages of converting this section of I-94BL. After the presentation, MDOT Staff ran a traffic simulation model to show participants the difference between the 4 lane and 3 lane configurations. This was done for 2013 projected traffic as well as 2029. A question and answer period was held after the formal presentation. In addition to the questions directed to MDOT, there was good discussion among the group regarding the issue. Staff from the City of Ann Arbor were there to provide support for the project. A staff member from Washtenaw County Road Commission also discussed his experience with 4 to 3 lane conversions on county roads.

Thirty three people signed the attendance sheet. Twenty one people filled out comment forms. I received an email from someone that couldn't attend the meeting. I also received an email and two comment forms after the meeting. Twenty people were in favor of the 4 to 3 lane conversion, 5 were opposed. A general summary of comments is listed below:

Those in favor

1. Increase roadway safety
2. Increase pedestrian/bicyclist safety
3. Improves pedestrian ability to cross the street to access neighborhood amenities
4. Consistent with City of Ann Arbor Non-Motorized Transportation Plan
5. Traffic calming effect
6. Reduced speeds
7. Don't want speed limit increased
8. Request for pedestrian refuge islands
9. Improve safety for left turning traffic
10. Addition of bike lanes fits within the City's plan to use Washington to connect bike traffic to downtown.

Direct quotes:

1. "This is the best thing that will happen to my neighborhood since I moved onto Jackson Ave 17 years ago. I highly recommend that you move forward"
2. "As a driver who uses this section of road 4-6 times a month, I look forward to a calmer and more rational driving experience. It will be safer and more pleasant for travelers in all modes."

Those opposed

1. Will increase delay getting out of side street
2. Truck route
3. Too much traffic to convert to 3 lanes
4. Traffic will divert to residential side streets

5. Only remaining 4-lane east-west road
6. Traffic currently heavy in peak hours
7. Not safe to mix bike/car traffic

Direct quotes:

1. "One bus or garbage truck will back up traffic to the freeway.'
2. "Restricting traffic flow on main roads diverts traffic to side streets, which is undesirable."