



Transportation Project Updates

March 2018

2018 Construction Projects

Annual Street Resurfacing Project:

Encompasses the majority of the City's street resurfacing activities, including several major and multiple local streets. Major streets included in the 2018 project include Jackson Ave, Stone School (Packard to Eisenhower), and State Street (Packard to Hoover). A full list of streets that are included in this project can be found at:

a2gov.org/roadconstruction.

Annual Sidewalk Repair Program:

An annual project to repair sidewalks throughout the City. Further information on the program and a list of 2018 target areas can be found at a2gov.org/sidewalks. Work is scheduled to begin for 2018 in April or May.

Pauline Boulevard (Stadium to Seventh):

Water main replacement, street resurfacing, bike facility improvements, and a review of potential crosswalk improvements throughout the corridor. Feedback from the Transportation Commission, the community at large, and adjacent property owners along the corridor has been incorporated into the project design. The City intends to proceed with the installation of buffered bike lanes and elimination of parking on the south side of the street. City Council approved the elimination of parking on the south side of the street at their February 20 meeting. Bids are scheduled to be opened by MDOT on April 6. Construction is anticipated to begin in May. For additional information visit a2gov.org/Pauline.

Scio Church (Main to Seventh):

Road resurfacing project including filling the sidewalk gap on the south side of the road, addition of a sidewalk on the north side of the road adjacent to the Pioneer High School property, crosswalk improvements at the Scio Church/Seventh intersection, a midblock crossing at Chaucer, and narrowing of the existing pavement to provide a traffic calming effect, a reduced impervious surface, and additional space for stormwater management features. Construction is anticipated to begin in June.

Fifth Avenue (Kingsley to Catherine):

Road reconstruction project including watermain replacement, stormwater management improvements, ADA ramp replacement, crosswalk improvements, and streetscape improvements. The project was designed as a joint effort between the City and the DDA. The project is currently out for bid. Construction is anticipated to begin the week of March 26.

**Seventh Street Improvements:**

This project includes the installation of buffered bike lanes and high visibility crosswalks on Seventh Street from Huron to Scio Church. This work is planned to be combined with a surface treatment project to improve the pavement condition on parts of Seventh Street. This combined project will utilize Highway Safety Improvement Program grant funding and Federal Surface Transportation Program funds. Plans are currently being finalized. Construction is anticipated to begin in June or July.

Green & Federal Sidewalk Gaps:

Filling sidewalk gaps on the north side of Federal/Commerce Drive, and along the north/east side of Nixon Road near Burbank Drive. This project will utilize Federal aid. Construction is scheduled for late summer 2018.

Allen Creek Berm Opening:

The project team is in the process of completing design plans and finalizing easements. The project schedule for construction is focusing on a 24 hour period during late July 2018, with a fall back time in August. The current project estimate is \$7.5 million. Adequate funding has now been identified for the project, utilizing multiple State and Federal funding sources in addition to local funds. The final plans are anticipated to be submitted to MDOT in March or April.

S. State Street (I-94 to Ellsworth) Maintenance Treatment:

This paving project consists of a shorter term capital preventative maintenance treatment, utilizing extra Federal aid funding that became available in 2017. Long term improvements on this corridor are anticipated to occur through a future complete reconstruction project envisioned by the State Street Corridor Study (see below). Construction is expected to start in early May.

School Safety Improvements:

A list of priority items identified by the A2 Safe Transport group has been shared with the Transportation Safety Committee (TSC). Staff has gone through the items identified on this list and is preparing a plan to be implemented in FY18 & 19. This will be considered to be the Tier 3 School Safety improvements. Implementation of the Tier 3 items will be accomplished through a combination of City crews and utilizing existing construction contracts, such as the Annual Sidewalk Repair Program.

RRFB Installations:

It was recently announced that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) terminated the interim approval for RRFB treatments, due to issues surrounding a patent dispute. In short, this means that while existing RRFB treatments may remain in place for the service life of the equipment, new installations are prohibited. Staff has explored options for a pedestrian activated device that would be suitable to replace the RRFB, and settled on a [similar \(non-patented\) device](#) that already has FHWA approval. The selected system has the advantage of being easily replaceable with an RRFB system, should the FHWA reinstate approval for the RRFB devices.



Projects Currently in Design/Planning

Ellsworth/Research Park Drive Intersection:

Installation of a crosswalk and related treatments, such as expanding the sidewalk on the south side to service Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AAATA) riders. This project is currently being evaluated for the appropriate treatments.

Nixon Road Corridor Improvements Design:

As directed by City Council, staff is beginning the design of the corridor improvements recommended by the Corridor Improvement Study conducted by OHM Advisors (a2gov.org/Nixon). The design of this project is being undertaken by Wade Trim Associates and is expected to continue through June of 2019. Engagement with the Transportation Commission will be included in the design work for this project, and will likely occur this summer. This project is currently limited to the design of the corridor. A future construction date will be determined through the Capital Improvement Planning process.

Dhu Varren Sidewalk Gaps:

Filling sidewalk gaps on the north side of Dhu Varren Road from Omlesaad to the west property line of the Nixon Farms development. This project previously included a sidewalk gap on the west side of Nixon Road from Traver to the south property line of the Nixon Farms development. However, this portion of the project was removed for consideration along with the Nixon Road Corridor design (see above). This project will utilize Federal aid. This project is currently in the planning phase. Construction is scheduled for the 2019 construction season.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Grants:

Staff recently received notice of intent to award HSIP grants for FY19 for the following projects:

- Fuller Road Sidewalk Extension – extending the existing sidewalk on the south side of Fuller and relocating the existing crosswalk to more suitable location.
- Eisenhower & Plaza Drive Pedestrian Crossing – Enhanced pedestrian crossing.
- Jackson Ave Guardrail – Guardrail replacement and application of high friction surface to address vehicular crash patterns.
- Packard/Hill/State Road Safety Audit – study to analyze potential safety improvements around the “triangle” formed by these three roads.

Further information on the above projects will be forthcoming once work on them begins.

Fuller/Maiden Lane/E. Medical Center Drive Area:

Potential reconstruction of the intersection, rehabilitation work on the East Medical Center Bridge, painting of the Fuller and Maiden Lane bridges, a connection of the Border to Border Trail under the Maiden Lane bridge, and a non-motorized connection under the East Medical Center Drive Bridge. This consists of a grouping of multiple



potential projects that are still in the early planning and scoping stages. Construction dates are still to be determined, but are anticipated for the 2020-2021 timeframe.

Washtenaw/Pittsfield Crosswalk:

Per MDOT: As of February 2017 the plan was to allocate FY 2018 funding for a pedestrian crosswalk with signal indication on the east leg of the Washtenaw/Pittsfield intersection. An MDOT update on this project was requested.

People Friendly Streets Initiative

Huron, First, Ashley, and William are the latest projects in the Downtown Development Authority's (DDA's) People-Friendly Street initiative. The goal is to design streets to enhance safety and comfort, strengthen businesses, increase access, improve sustainability, and celebrate downtown. The project team is hosting a series of workshops the week of March 19 to help refine the Huron streetscape design and inform the First, Ashley, and William Street designs. Learn more at peoplefriendlystreets.org

Huron Street Improvements:

DDA improvements from Third Street to Division Street. Transportation treatments have been evaluated and supported by the DDA Board. The project team will seek Transportation Commission support in March and Council support thereafter. The DDA aims to complete schematic design this spring, secure MDOT permits and bid the project in the fall, and begin construction in Spring 2019.

First and Ashley Street Improvements:

DDA project studying the feasibility of restoring First and Ashley Streets to two-way traffic and adding protected bike lanes. If feasible, the project will move into design and include streetscape improvements in the core commercial area. Planned for spring 2020 construction.

William Street Improvements

DDA project studying the technical feasibility of constructing a protected bike lane on William Street. If feasible, the project will move into design. Planned for spring 2020 construction.

Other Updates and Information**Ann Arbor Station:**

Staff has recently received direction from Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Given the volume of public comments, approximately 100, the FRA requested the Environmental Assessment (EA) report be updated to include clarifying information and responses to comments within the document. Additionally, FRA has reinitiated coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and is seeking preliminary archeological fieldwork be conducted at the Preferred Alternative, Build Alternative 3A, Fuller Road. This archeological fieldwork, an Identification Survey, is solely for the purpose of identifying if archeological



resources are present. It will likely include investigational hole digging and machine trenching. This work is to be completed this spring, It is investigative research and not a component of any preliminary construction activity. Staff and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) consultant, AECOM, are in the process of revising the EA report for submission to FRA later this month. Pending FRA acceptance of the revised EA, it will be made available for an additional 30 day public review process. For additional background please visit the [project website](#).

Driver Behavior Study:

The City of Ann Arbor, under the guidance of Dr. Ron Van Houten and his team from Western Michigan University, continue with the Changing Driver Behavior study. The study will measure the impact of enhanced enforcement at crosswalks and communications feedback on stopping/yielding rates on major commuting routes within Ann Arbor. The study will replicate work Van Houten [performed in Gainesville, Florida](#).

A number of major commute routes are part of the study, with half receiving enhanced enforcement and stopping/yielding rate feedback, the other half acting as controls where data will be collected to find if compliance rates outside the targeted routes improve. The study uses road signage as well as local and social media to provide feedback to drivers on the yielding/stopping rates from the previous week compared to the record rate.

The data collection and enhanced enforcement phase of the study have been completed, and the research team is now analyzing the data and preparing their report. The project budget has room for additional enhanced enforcement, and staff is currently exploring this for 2018.

S. State Street Transportation Corridor:

The final report is undergoing review and the project will be deemed complete when all files are transferred. Once the report is available a presentation will be made to the Transportation Commission.

MDOT Coordination:

The city has regular coordination with MDOT on all projects. MDOT allows for local installed improvements on their facilities, subject to their review. A preliminary staff to staff meeting was conducted including MDOT, WATS and City staff in preparation of MDOT's 2022 N. Main Street Rehabilitation project. City staff continues to identify a list of local stakeholders to engage in the project planning process. MDOT is looking to initiate their design effort next summer.

Traffic Calming Program Update:

Staff is working on an update to the existing Traffic Calming Program. Speed criteria, public support criteria, and other program details are being reviewed for updates. Updates to the Traffic Calming Program will require City Council approval. Transportation Commission feedback will be sought before changes are presented to Council.

**Related materials:**

- a2gov.org/trafficcalming
- [Traffic Calming Program Guidebook](#)
- [Response to Council Resolution 16-352: Design Criteria for Local Streets Speed Limits and Traffic Calming; November 6, 2016](#)

Traffic Calming Program Submittals:

Updates on recent Traffic Calming Program petitions are provided below:

- Bluett Drive (Nixon to Yellowstone): Several public meetings have been scheduled as outlined below. If the project qualifies for the program, construction would occur in late summer/fall of 2018.
 - Orientation Meeting: February 28 - [Discussion summary](#)
 - Onsite Meeting #1: March 14 – [Meeting materials](#)
 - Onsite Meeting #2: April 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Clague Parking Lot
- Scio Church Service Drive (Seventh to Chaucer): The speed study was conducted, and met the speed criteria for the program, however does not meet the minimum volume of traffic criteria. Staff plans to advance the petition and recommend that Council waive the minimum volume criteria, should the street complete the entire Traffic Calming process. The project is in the queue after Bluett. The public engagement process will proceed following completion of the Bluett Traffic Calming process.

Transportation Plan update:

Preparation of a draft scope of work is undergoing internal staff review has been completed and the draft scope is being shared with transportation stakeholders including, AAATA, WATS, MDOT, AADDA, and UM. It is likely that the stakeholder review will continue through the next few weeks, resulting in materials for drafting an RFP.

Quiet Zone/Train Horn Noise:

Staff is in the process of drafting an item for Council's consideration. Quotes have come in at just under \$25,000 and staff has outlined a budget of \$5000 for City costs. These costs are not budgeted and therefore the need for Council review and approval.