

Newport Road Bike Lane Public Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Location: Forsythe Middle School

Attendees: Public Present: 4; refer to Appendix A for sign-in sheet.

Council members present: 0

City staff present: 3; Eli Cooper; Andrea Ratliff; Cynthia Redinger

MEETING NOTES AND SURVEY RESPONSES

Note: This is not a direct transcription of the meeting discussion. This summary has been developed from notes taken during the meeting. Staff responses will be shown in *italics*.

Common themes and key points identified through the discussion are shown in **bold**, related comments are paraphrased below themes. Where staff responses or clarification were provided they are shown in *italic*.

Bike Lane / Bike Related

- Will bike lanes on Newport Road be a part of a large scale city Plan?
 - *The proposed bike lanes are already part of the City's Non-motorized Transportation Plan (2007).*
- Is it possible to do a bike lane one side of the road and on the other do a share the road?
 - *This request will be evaluated. Quite often the City chooses this type of treatment when the street width does not support bike lanes on both sides of the street.*
- To put in bike lanes will homeowners have to give up parts of their property to make this happen?
 - *No, the road has already been resurfaced and no additional width is required for the options presented.*
- Where will the bike lane signs be placed?
 - *Usually the signs are placed at a frequency of roughly 5 per mile. The first sign would be placed close to the intersection of Newport Road and Miller Road with other signs following at an even interval or just past intersections.*
- Will you look into putting on the west side share the road signs?
 - *Share the Road signs would be installed in conjunction with any sharrows used.*
- Who chooses the configuration of what will happen to Newport Rd? Was this decision already set before this public meeting?
 - *The decision was not set before the public meeting. The city hand delivered letter invitations to the public meeting with surveys attached to get feedback from the*

residents affected by this geometric change. The affected citizen's responses will be considered by the design team in developing the final project..

- Are bikes allowed on the sidewalk in the City of Ann Arbor?
 - *Yes. The Michigan Vehicle Code allows a bicyclist to operate in a vehicular lane, under the same laws governing a vehicle, or to operate on the sidewalk. Bicyclists operating on the sidewalk are required to yield to pedestrians.*
- 4 out of 4 who attended the Public Meeting liked 1 bike lane and 1 parking lane.

Parking

- Will parking be clearly marked with T's?
 - *No.*

Sidewalk

- Will sidewalk installation on the North side of Newport be a part of the Bike Lane Project?
 - *No; sidewalk will not be installed as part of this project. However, the City is currently reviewing sidewalk gaps.*
- Is there a designated design speed for sidewalks?
 - *A rule of thumb design speed for sidewalks is typically 5 mph.*
- Why was the crosswalk shifted at Newport and Red Oak?
 - *The Red Oak sidewalk was shifted because it was the safest option for pedestrians. Maintaining the crosswalk at the intersection would have resulted in diminished stopping sight distance for vehicles approaching the crossing. The relocated crossing maximizes the available sight distance.*

Road Related

- Speed management is a concern for residents on Newport Rd what could be done for this?
 - *The concern of speed management on Newport Road is a concern that the City understands is important to residents. The proposed geometric changes will alter the look and feel of Newport Road. Once the driving population has been allowed to adjust to the new conditions, City traffic engineers will conduct speed studies and review the current speed limit.*
 - *As part of this project City staff members will use the tools available to make the environment more conducive to lower speeds. These tools will include the use of a bike lane, wider pavement markings for the bike lane delineation to provide increased weight to the lane, striping narrower through lanes, and including sharrows on the southbound lane.*
- Due to the addition of bike lane(s) will the road be narrower than it is right now?

- *The curbs will not be moved as part of this project. However, the project will be designed to make the roadway appear narrower to a motorist.*
- Will these narrower lanes help with controlling speeds on Newport? Drivers seem to go way to fast.
 - *Narrow lanes have been proven to reduce travel speeds.*
- Is it against city ordinance to have trash cans in the bike lane?
 - *Yes; trash, recycling, and compost carts must not be placed in the bike lane.*
- What implications does 1 bike lane verse 2 bike lanes have on car speeds?
 - *The answer to this question really depends on the context in which it is placed. Two bike lanes on Newport Road could result in higher speeds due to the relative infrequency of bicyclists and the lack of perceived side friction from parked cars.*
- What is the current speed limit on Newport Road?
 - *The current speed limit is 25 mph.*
- What is the design speed on Newport Rd?
 - *The current design speed is 30 mph.*
- Is there any data in regards to Newport Road?
 - *Yes. However, this data will be out of date once the new pavement markings have been placed and the geometrics have changed. New data will have to be collected roughly a year after the new pavement markings are placed and traffic has acclimated to the change.*
- Do cars parked on the street help with traffic speeds?
 - *Parked cars on the street create a narrower operating environment for through traffic. Additionally, the parked cars provide a context and awareness for through motorists that encourages a lower speed choice.*
- I was advised by the City of Ann Arbor's Police Department to talk to the City's Traffic Engineer about traffic calming on Newport Rd. Can the City perform a traffic Calming Study on Newport Road and implement Traffic Calming tactics?
 - *Newport Road is classified as a Local Major Road under Public Act 51, as amended. Major Roads do not qualify for the traffic calming program.*
- What is a Major Road?
 - *Major Roads (Streets) are streets that meet a variety of criteria, including a road or street that:*
 - *directly connects two other major roads*
 - *provides direct, usually only, access to a school*
 - *operates as a collector street for multiple neighborhoods*
 - *Under Act 51 major roads are funded at a high level because they are expected to be maintained at a higher level.*
- We greatly support more speed signs to be placed along Newport Road. Will there be any more speed signs placed?
 - *Signing will be reviewed during the design phase.*
- What are the cost and up keep of Speed Signs?
 - *The complete cost for a sign installation is approximately \$300; this cost includes equipment, labor, and materials costs for fabrication and installation.*

- *Signs are replaced roughly every 7-10 years signs to maintain retroreflectivity unless a knock-down or damage event occurs.*
- What fraction of the Major roads in Ann Arbor are 25 mph?
 - *Approximately 75%*
- What fractions of Major roads in Ann Arbor are above 25 mph?
 - *Approximately 25%*
- What is the chance of getting a speed feedback sign placed on Newport Road again? How do you go requesting this?
 - *Speed feedback signs are under the control of the Ann Arbor Police Department. Requests for these signs can be made through the "Complete the traffic complaint questionnaire" quick link which can be found at www.a2gov.org/police.*
- What is the process to determine speed Limit on Major Streets?
 - *The City of Ann Arbor uses a data driven process for establishing speed limits. The process takes many factors into account, including street context, roadway geometrics, crash history, and operating speeds.*
- Will there be a Speed evaluation done on Newport Road?
 - *Yes, once traffic normalizes after the addition of the bike lanes. Normalization takes 6 - 12 months depending on weather, construction and seasons. Speed evaluations are normally done in the Fall after schools have started and settled into routines.*
- Why has truck traffic increased on Newport Road?
 - *Newport Road is not a designated truck routes. Trucks may be traveling to local construction sites. Through truck traffic is not permitted; the AAPD has been monitoring the situation since the M-14 closure began.*
- Residents are concerned with traffic speeds on Newport Road and might want to do a petition to convey our concerns to the City.
- Residents reported being pleased that resurfacing was completed last year (2015).

Newport Road Parking Usage Survey Outcome:

Eastern Side

 6 Never
 1 Infrequent (0-2 times monthly)
 Frequently (0-2 times weekly)
 Daily

Western Side

 6 Never
 1 Infrequent (0-2 times monthly)
 1 Frequently (0-2 times weekly)
 2 Daily