

Hess, Raymond

Subject: FW: East Medical bridge redesign

Attachments: Conceptual Design of Loop Trail.pdf; WBWC statement on E Med.pdf; C2C-B2B Proposal.pdf

From: Larry Deck <xxxxxxxxxxx>

Sent: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 12:07 PM

To: Hutchinson, Nicholas <xxxxxxxxxxx>; Hess, Raymond <xxxxxxxxxxx>; Cooper, Eli <xxxxxxxxxxx>; City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@a2gov.org>

Subject: East Medical bridge redesign

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Nick, Raymond, Eli, and Transportation Commission,

There are 3 problems with the material presented at the November 17 Transportation Commission meeting regarding the redesign of the East Medical Center Drive bridge over the railroad.

1. The cross section shows a wider sidewalk on the wrong side of the bridge.

Bicyclists need a wider sidewalk on the west side of the bridge both for the Campus-to-Campus Bikeway and for access to the hospital. A wider sidewalk on the east side as shown in the presentation, while it might be nice if there were room, would have limited value for bicyclists. And narrowing the west sidewalk as shown in the presentation would make things worse than they are now for bicyclists. It would be desirable for the west sidewalk to be at least 15 feet wide.

2. The starting point for the loop trail is misplaced.

To serve the Campus-to-Campus Bikeway and access to the hospital, the starting point needs to be near the Fuller / East Medical intersection. There can be an additional connection to the Fuller sidewalk slightly to the west. See the attached "Conceptual Design of Loop Trail".

3. The presentation suggested multiple switchbacks that are unnecessary.

The attached "Conceptual Design of Loop Trail" gives details about how ADA grades can be met with a single loop.

For those who may be unfamiliar with the background of these issues, two additional files are attached:

-- "WBWC statement on E Med", the WBWC statement about the bridge project.

-- "C2C-B2B Proposal", the WBWC proposal for a Campus-to-Campus (C2C) Bikeway that would be safe and efficient and for the long-planned filling of two gaps in the Border-to-Border (B2B) Trail. Since the U-M's carbon neutrality plan calls for such a C2C bikeway, and since we are unaware of any better proposal than WBWC's, this bridge project should accommodate the needs of the bikeway.

There needs to be further discussion about these issues. Please call me at the number below or email me, and perhaps we can arrange for interested parties to meet.

-- Larry Deck 734-971-7741 (voice only)

-- Board member of Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition (WBWC)