



## Transportation Project Updates February 2019

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### **2018 Construction Projects**

#### **Annual Street Resurfacing Project:**

This suite of projects encompasses the majority of the City's street resurfacing activities, including several major and multiple local streets. Most of the work included in this year's project was completed, however work on one residential street (Wynnstone Dr.) was unable to be completed this year and will be deferred to the spring. Repaving of some asphalt paths along Ann Arbor-Saline Road has also been deferred to the spring. A full list of streets that were included in this project can be found at: [a2gov.org/roadconstruction](http://a2gov.org/roadconstruction).

#### **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; narrowing of the existing pavement to provide a traffic calming effect; a reduced impervious surface; and additional space for stormwater management features. Various delays occurred during the construction of this project, preventing it from being completed this Fall. The road is now open for the winter, and the remaining construction will be completed as soon as possible in the spring of 2019.

Staff has been asked to set up a public meeting to hear concerns regarding the modifications made to the Seventh/Scio intersection as well as the Seventh/Stadium intersection. Meeting details will be provided to the Transportation Commission when available.

#### **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. Early onset of cold weather and some issues with materials have delayed this project. Concrete work has been completed, and temporary pavement has been placed. It is expected to be reopened for the winter, and the remaining work (brick placement and final asphalt paving) will be completed in the spring of 2019.



## **2019 Construction Projects**

### **Annual Street Resurfacing Project:**

This suite of projects encompasses the majority of the City's street resurfacing activities, including several major and multiple local streets. Major road projects included in this year's program include: Stone School Road (Eisenhower to I-94); Traverwood Drive (Huron Parkway to Plymouth); Platt Road (Washtenaw to Huron Parkway); State Street (Stimpson to Oakbrook – concrete repairs); Fuller Road asphalt path at Huron High; as well as additional capital preventative maintenance treatments on several other major streets. A full list of streets included in this project will be posted shortly on the website at: [a2gov.org/roadconstruction](http://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 2019 target areas can be found at [a2gov.org/sidewalks](http://a2gov.org/sidewalks).

### **North Seventh Street (Huron to Miller):**

Staff held a series of public meetings and an online input opportunity to gather initial feedback at the end of July and early August. This effort was followed with a postcard survey to properties along N. Seventh Street to determine sentiments about the potential loss of parking to accommodate buffered bicycle lanes. There was overwhelming support among the neighborhood to keep the on-street parking and staff will advance Concept #1 (keep on street parking; add buffered bike lane on southbound lane and a sharrow on the northbound lane).

### **Crosswalk Improvements**

City staff was directed by Council to report on several crosswalk improvement areas as outlined in Resolution R-18-497:

- [Crosswalk Design Guidelines](#) took effect January 15, 2019;
- A listing of significant pedestrian improvements completed in 2016, 2017 and 2018 was reported to Council in early February 2019 and documented hundreds of improvements across the City over the past three years;
- A listing of improvements planned for 2019 was reported to Council in early February 2019;
- An inventory of significant pedestrian crosswalks and a high level assessment of their consistency with the crosswalk design guidelines was reported to Council in early February 2019;
- As part of the budget process, staff will also prepare cost estimates to bring all crosswalks into compliance with the crosswalk design guidelines.
- Starting in April 2019, staff will report on progress of implementation of upgrades to existing crosswalks.

All of these items will be shared with the Transportation Commission.

**School Safety Improvements:**

A list of priority items identified by the A2 Safe Transport group has been shared with the Transportation Safety Committee (TSC). City and Ann Arbor Public Schools staff identified work 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. A listing of upcoming Tier 3 School Safety Improvements was provided on page 7 and 8 of the [2018 Work Plan](#). Approximately 60% of the improvements have been completed, and the remainder will be completed in 2019. Per the listing compiled for City Council as discussed above, school safety improvements were made at 101 locations over the past three years.

**North Maple Road Restriping and Crosswalks:**

Based on the results of the analysis by City Engineering staff, the conversion to a three-lane section of this portion of North Maple was determined feasible. This conversion was completed in June 2018 following the completion of the surface treatment work. Staff will continue to monitor how the conversion is working.

The City held a public workshop on December 13 to solicit feedback on desired locations for crosswalks along Maple between Dexter and Miller. About 30 people attended the workshop and their input will be used to guide the design and location of crosswalks. Lastly, a webpage was created for North Maple to provide background of the project as well as project updates: [a2gov.org/NorthMaple](http://a2gov.org/NorthMaple). Staff is currently finalizing a webpage which will be released in February to allow the public to provide recommendations online for crosswalk locations.

**Allen Creek Berm Opening:**

The project team has essentially completed the design plans. The schedule for the project at this point is dependent on the acquisition of easements from the adjacent property owners, which include DTE and First Martin. These easements must be obtained before the project can be put out to bid. Progress has been made in obtaining these easements, and staff is anticipate construction will begin in 2019. The current project estimate is \$7.5 million. Adequate funding has been identified for the project, utilizing multiple State and Federal funding sources in addition to local funds. Staff is in the process of obtaining a consultant to perform the construction engineering, administration, inspections, surveying, and testing for the project.

**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 design phase. A public meeting is in the process of being scheduled for March. Further information will be provided to the



Transportation Commission shortly. Construction is scheduled for the 2019 construction season.

### **Ann Arbor STEAM Safe Routes to School Project**

Working with City staff, the STEAM Safe Routes to School Committee applied for grant funding through the State's Safe Routes to School Program. Part of that grant includes an infrastructure portion, which would fill various sidewalk gaps throughout the neighborhood around STEAM (Northside).

Public meetings were held in June and October 2018 and City Council discussed the project at three Council meeting in November and December – all of which resulted in design revisions (more detail is available on the project website [here](#)).

The Resolution for the special assessment was passed on December 17, was brought back for reconsideration on January 7, 2019, and passed again.

Staff is currently working on completing final plans and submitting them to MDOT in late February for final review and bidding. At this time, staff is planning for construction in the summer of 2019. The final special assessment resolution and approval of the City-State Agreement is currently scheduled to go before Council in May.

### **Hoover/Hill/Greene Improvements:**

Limits of this project include Hoover (Main to State); Greene Street (Hill to Keech); and Hill Street (Fifth Ave to Greene). The scope of the project includes replacement of water main in some areas, resurfacing of the streets, improvements to the Hoover/Greene intersection, and filling the gap in the bike lanes. The City is also working with U of M to explore potential pedestrian crossing improvements at the Greene/Keech intersection and to the west on Keech. Construction is scheduled to begin in April of 2019. A public meeting for the project is scheduled for Thursday, January 17 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor Council Chambers of Larcom City Hall.

### **Projects Currently in Design/Planning**

#### **Ellsworth/Research Park Drive Intersection:**

City and AAATA staff continue to address pedestrian crossing issues related to access to transit service and the location of bus stops along Ellsworth Rd. It has been determined that a traffic signal is warranted at this location. City design and further discussions with AAATA are underway.

#### **Jackson Avenue Crosswalk**

The City is planning for a crosswalk installation on Jackson Avenue near Weber's Inn. The crosswalk would include the installation of an RRFB. Because one leg of this crossing is owned by MDOT, the City prepared plans for submittal to MDOT to obtain permission to install the crosswalk in MDOT's right-of-way. MDOT denied this application, citing that in their analysis, an enhanced crosswalk was not warranted. The



City is currently appealing this decision. This crosswalk was originally intended to be installed as part of the Jackson Avenue resurfacing work, however due to these delays, it will be installed separately, pending permission from MDOT.

**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](http://a2gov.org/Nixon)). The design of this project is being undertaken by Wade Trim Associates and is expected to continue through June of 2019. The Transportation Commission received a presentation about the project in August 2018.

This project is currently limited to the engineering design of the corridor. A future construction date will be determined through the Capital Improvement Planning process.

**Road Diets:**

Staff is reviewing potential road diets at several locations throughout the City. The current round of evaluations includes the following locations:

- South Main (Madison to Stadium)
- Green Road (Plymouth to Burbank)
- South Industrial (Stadium to 800 feet south of Stimson)
- Earhart Road (boulevard segment)
- Platt Road (Packard to Canterbury)
- West Oakbrook Drive (Ann Arbor-Saline to S. Main)

Staff is finalizing the reports about the feasibility of these road diets and preparing a plan for engaging the public on each location. More information will be shared with the Transportation Commission at the February meeting.

**Fuller Road Sidewalk Extension:**

This project will extend the sidewalk on the south side of Fuller Road from the entrance of Gallup Park to approximately 450 west, and relocate the existing crosswalk to the new westerly extent of the sidewalk. This project originated from a road safety audit that was conducted in 2017 which found that the safest location for a crosswalk in this area would ideally be further west than the existing location. Construction is anticipated for the summer of 2019. An overview of the project was presented at the Ann Arbor Public Schools Transportation Safety Committee's April 24 meeting and at the May Transportation Commission meeting. A public engagement meeting was held May 29 at Huron High School.

A second round of public engagement was undertaken in October and November. Staff presented the proposed project to Huron High School students at a lunchtime "pop-up" workshop on October 17<sup>th</sup>, and received over 115 feedback forms. A public meeting was also held on the evening of November 1<sup>st</sup>. A summary of the feedback obtained from all the public meetings can be found on the [project website](#).



The first of the series of Special Assessment Resolutions was presented to City Council on September 17. City Council postponed a decision on this item until the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, requesting that staff conduct additional public engagement in the interim (see above description). The first special assessment resolution was approved by Council on November 19, but was brought back for reconsideration at the December 3 meeting and tabled. A separate resolution was passed directing staff to complete a comprehensive analysis of various potential improvements to the existing crosswalk. This effort is currently underway and will be provided to the Transportation Commission and City Council as soon as it can be completed, likely by the end of February.

### **Washtenaw/Pittsfield Crosswalk:**

Designs and cost estimates for this project were recently drafted and are under review by MDOT. The project is expected to move forward in 2019.

### **People Friendly Streets Initiative**

City and DDA staff continue working toward MDOT support for Huron Street transportation elements and anticipate beginning construction in spring 2019. In addition, the DDA Board shifted construction of the William Street bikeway to 2019 to begin making progress on the City's protected bike lane network. The project team is continuing detailed design for First and Ashley Streets, planned for construction in 2020.

Learn more at [peoplefriendlystreets.org](http://peoplefriendlystreets.org)

### **DDA Annual Bike Parking Installations**

The seasonal on-street bike racks have been stored to allow for winter snow removal. Anecdotally, demand for year-round bike parking continues to grow. As a result, the DDA installed 32 covered bike parking spaces in the 4<sup>th</sup> & Washington Parking Structure and they continue to look for opportunities to increase covered bike parking options. Overall, the DDA installed over 60 new permanent bike parking spaces this past year.

### **Ann/Ashley Parking Structure Expansion**

The DDA Board is pursuing a 3 story/400 space expansion of the Ann/Ashley Parking Structure. The goal is to encourage development of surface parking lots in the Main Street area. In addition to vehicle parking spaces, the project includes expanded bike parking, improved storm water management, LED lighting, and added capacity for electric vehicle charging stations.

### **Other Updates and Information**

#### **Ann Arbor Station:**

AECOM has resumed work on the environmental review. An update schedule is being developed. Generally, the effort will result in a revised Environmental Assessment report informed by prior comments and knowledge gained during the Preliminary Engineering (PE) effort. Once the revised Environmental Assessment (EA) is approved



by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) a public review period will be scheduled. For additional background please visit the [project website](#).

**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. MDOT, in cooperation with WATS and the City, convened an initial stakeholder meeting to address the 2022 N. Main Street project planning and design process. MDOT has encountered an issue with retaining design contractors for this effort. Best information is that the stakeholder process will be delayed until early 2019. City, WATS and MDOT staff are coordinating information regarding a possible meeting. MDOT offered to share their internal preliminary traffic modeling and the City will work with those files in advance of future meetings.

**Traffic Calming Program Submittals:**

The updated Traffic Calming Program, approved by City Council on November 19, 2018, will be used for the petitions currently under consideration.

Updates on recent Traffic Calming Program petitions are provided below:

- Scio Church Service Drive (Seventh to Chaucer): The first project meeting with the neighborhood is scheduled for February 21, 2019.
- Crest (Liberty to Buena Vista): A petition for Traffic Calming was received and is currently being reviewed.
- Fernwood (Lorraine to Packard): A petition for Traffic Calming was received and is currently being reviewed.

**Transportation Plan update:**

Sam Schwartz team has initiated work and are currently collecting transportation system data as well as drafting a Public Engagement Plan (PEP). A kick-off meeting with the steering committee will occur once the PEP is complete. The PEP is needed to establish the steering, advisory and general public meeting expectations. Updates for the Commission will be scheduled as the project advances.

**Lower Town Mobility Study:**

This study is planned to be conducted in response to the request from City Council to review and update previous studies of vehicular, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian movement leading to and traveling through the Lower Town area. The Request for Proposals process is complete and City Council was presented a consultant contract on November 19, 2018 and January 21, 2019, but postponed action. The contract will be brought back to Council on February 19, 2019.

**Quiet Zone/Train Horn Noise:**

The consultant, SRF Consulting, developed a draft technical report based on existing conditions and information obtained during the October field investigation. Staff will present at the February Commission meeting.

**Crosswalk Streetlight Implementation:**

City Council lifted the moratorium on the installation of street lights and budgeted funding for implementation over the past few years. To deal with the backlog of requests for streetlights, City staff developed a prioritization model criteria to determine how to implement the lights with the potential for the greatest impact. The evaluation criteria were centered on crosswalks and included additional consideration of: the history of crashes; crash potential; proximity to transit stops; City vs. DTE system addition; proximity to activity generators/destinations; current lighting levels; street classification; and public requests/desire. It is anticipated that 25 to 40 locations will be able to be implemented with this funding in the coming year – 10 City locations; 4 DTE locations; and 5 other locations (as part of other projects) have been completed this fiscal year. It should also be noted that all crosswalk lighting is installed to provide positive contrast lighting to the pedestrian when in the crosswalk. City Council was provided an update on this streetlight implementation at their meeting on September 4, 2018.

**Speed Reduction Committee Recommendations:**

Staff will begin the process to define metrics on how best to measure progress to achieve the recommendations set forth in the Speed Reduction Committee Recommendations. In the interim, this section is meant to provide an update on which projects align with the recommendations.

1. Dedicated Funding and Staff – The formation of the Transportation Group including the hiring of the Transportation Manager are the first steps to align staff resources for speed reduction. Additionally, recruitment for a new transportation engineer is complete and the new employee is expected to start in March.
2. Road Design – Adopt City Policy of Using Safe Systems to Design Roadways – Staff are currently contemplating how to advance this recommendation.
3. Increase Enforcement Efforts – Staff are currently contemplating how to best coordinate efforts between the Police Department and the Engineering Department. Efforts currently underway that can feed into this initiative include: the Driver Behavior Study, analysis of data collected from the speed reader signs, and integrating other speed data collected as part of other efforts.
4. Expanded and Sustained Public Outreach Campaigns – recent campaigns include the recent “In Ann Arbor, we stop for pedestrians at crosswalks. Period.”; Staff has also started discussions about how to share pertinent information on the website. City staff and DDA staff are also strategizing on an outreach campaign that would accompany the ribbon cutting of the William Street cycle track. Staff will also formulate new outreach strategies over the winter before the next construction cycle begins next spring.
5. Amend the Traffic Calming Program – the modified update to the Traffic Calming Program was adopted by City Council on November 19, 2018.
6. Lobby for speed changes on state-owned roads, starting with Washtenaw Avenue – communication was shared with MDOT about concerns raised at the intersection of Washtenaw and Hill.
7. Create a Vision Zero Task Force – The Transportation Commission passed a resolution of support for a Vision Zero Task Force at their July meeting. The





Transportation Plan update (detailed above) will have a focus of Vision Zero and will set the vision for Ann Arbor's future transportation network. The steering committee for this initiative could serve the intent of the Vision Zero Task Force.

### **Sustainability and Innovations:**

The City of Ann Arbor's first three electric vehicles are coming soon! This is the first step in a larger green fleets program the city is operating.

Join us for the City's Sustainability Forums:

- Tuesday, February 19 - Adapting to a changing climate
- March 21 - Climate Change 201
- April 18- Racial Equity in Washtenaw County

We are launching a new volunteer solar program. Volunteers will be trained to help install solar panels on city property. If you'd like to learn more and potentially volunteer, please contact Josh MacDonald ([jmacdonald@a2gov.org](mailto:jmacdonald@a2gov.org)).

Save the date – the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Ann Arbor Green Fair is scheduled for Friday, June 14 from 6-9pm on Main Street. More details will be coming shortly. To learn more, sponsor a booth, or sponsor the event, please contact Christine Schopieray ([cschopieray@a2gov.org](mailto:cschopieray@a2gov.org))

### **Energy Commission- Electric Vehicle Sub-committee Ordinance:**

The Electric Vehicle (EV) sub-committee met and discussed the scope of the EV readiness ordinance. The ordinance is meant to establish infrastructure to support the adoption of EVs, specifically requiring electrical conduit to be laid to support EV chargers. The sub-committee discussed whether the ordinance should include the multi-family, commercial, and/or single family sectors and the percentage of parking spots that should be required to be "EV ready". Next, the group will discuss City ordinances in other comparative cities.