



...to foster excellence in the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of a sustainable and resilient multimodal transportation network...

1

City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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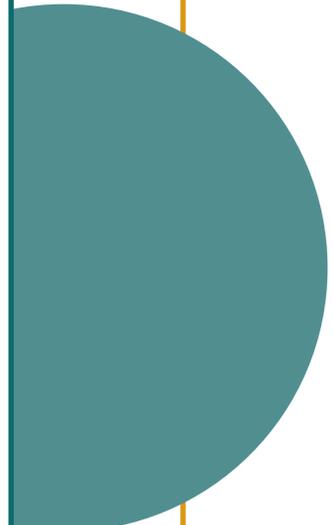
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AT A GLANCE

TOPICS

Street
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And
More!

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Improvements
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LOGISTICS

10 Voting Members
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Appointments

45 Staff & Commissioner
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FOREWORD

FROM THE CHAIR

The last year was a difficult one for our community, full of hardship and heartbreak. We would be remiss to reflect on the work of the Transportation Commission in 2020 without first acknowledging the pain of the pandemic, and the losses of so many lives and livelihoods both in Ann Arbor and around the world. Despite this unprecedented context, after making the transition to Zoom meetings the Transportation Commission continued to work effectively with City Council and staff to help move Ann Arbor toward our transportation safety, inclusion, accessibility, and Vision Zero goals. The Commission plays an important part in Ann Arbor's planning and policy process, and Commissioners bring their wide range of expertise and experience to help the city address transportation challenges, decision making, and future planning. Details of our work are contained in this report, and a few highlights are below.

Statewide Crosswalk Law - In January, TC approved a set of recommendations for an acceptable statewide crosswalk law. Ann Arbor's crosswalk ordinance, passed in 2011, requires drivers to stop for pedestrians waiting to cross as opposed to requiring pedestrians to put their bodies into the street in order to make drivers stop. Despite its success and effectiveness, some members of City Council referred it back to TC repeatedly for reconsideration, and have advocated for a state law that would supersede and weaken Ann Arbor's ordinance. The recommendations reiterate the Transportation Commission's strong support of Ann Arbor's crosswalk ordinance and its opposition to efforts to weaken it or override it.

Comprehensive Transportation Plan - The Transportation Commission had multiple opportunities to review and provide feedback on drafts of Ann Arbor Moving Together Toward Vision Zero: City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Commissioners offered evidence-based recommendations on features including key mobility strategies, the proposed low-stress all-ages bicycle network, "paint and post" quick-build tactical urbanism, and improved pedestrian safety at crossings and intersections, and many of those suggestions were incorporated in the final draft of the plan that City Council voted to circulate to key stakeholders. This new transportation plan envisions an Ann Arbor that is safer, greener, and more accessible and inclusive to all road users, a vision that the Transportation Commission shares.

Healthy Streets - In response to changes in traffic patterns due to the Covid-19 pandemic, along with new needs in the community for more outdoor space to move around while remaining at a safe distance from others, Ann Arbor enacted a Healthy Streets program in the summer of 2020. Despite several unfortunate delays, the program was quite successful. The Transportation Commission provided feedback and recommendations to City Council encouraging the adoption of Healthy Streets, reviewed staff's report on Healthy Streets, and passed a resolution encouraging City Council to instruct staff to do Healthy Streets again in 2021.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as Transportation Commission chair this year. Though our city and country are still in the thick of the pandemic, with many challenges yet to come, I look forward to continuing to serve out my term as chair, and to work in partnership with City Council to build back better and safer for all road users.

COMMISSION ROSTER

VOTING MEMBERS

CURRENT

Molly Kleinman (Chair)

Julie Boland (Vice Chair)

Bradley Parsons

Linda Diane Feldt

Tim Hull (Commission on Disability Issues)

Bryan Smith (AAATA Designee)

James Summers (Transportation Business Rep)

Erica Briggs (Councilmember)

Bret Hautamaki

Areli Balderrama

FORMER

Tim Sanderson (AAATA)

Deanna Lernihan

Wendy Woods (Planning Commission)

Kathy Griswold (Councilmember)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

CURRENT

Steve Dolen (U of M)

Liz Margolis (AAPS)

Lieutenant Mike Scherba (Chief of Police Designee)

Raymond Hess (Transportation Manager)

Ben Stupka (RTA)

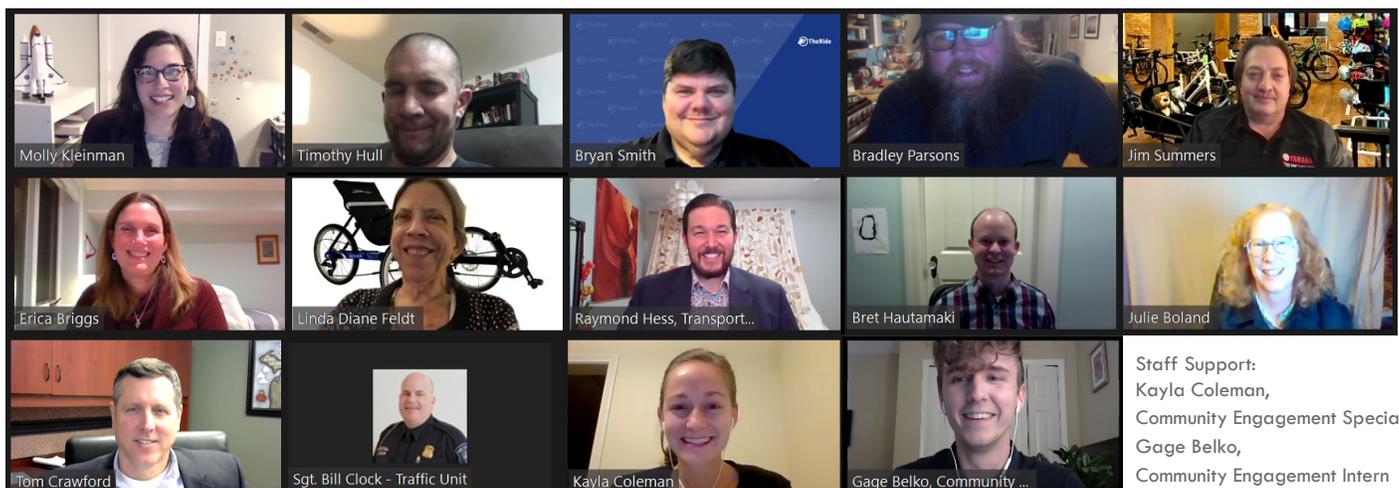
Tom Crawford (City Administrator)

FORMER

Sergeant Bill Clock (Chief of Police Designee)

Howard Lazarus (City Administrator)

Visit a2gov.org/TransportationCommission for more information.



MOTIONS & ACTIONS

JANUARY 15

2019 Annual Report

On a unanimous voice vote, the Transportation Commission 2019 Annual Report was Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council to be returned by 2/18/2020.

Statewide Crosswalk Law

On a voice vote, with one no-vote, the Statewide Crosswalk Law Commission Recommendations were Approved by the Commission and forwarded to the City Council to be returned by 2/18/2020.

Chair and Vice-Chair Re-elections

On a unanimous voice vote, the election of Kleinman as Chair and Boland as Vice Chair was approved by the Commission.

FEBRUARY 19

Seventh Street Process Committee Appointment

On a unanimous voice vote, the appointment of Seth Peterson to the Seventh Street Process Committee was Approved by the Commission.

MARCH - APRIL

The March 18 and April 15 meetings were cancelled due to local and statewide COVID-19 public health measures. Virtual meetings on Zoom began in May.

MAY 20

Micro-Mobility Committee Appointment

On a unanimous voice vote, the appointment of Jim Summers to the Micro-Mobility Committee was Approved by the Commission.

Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update Funding

On a unanimous voice vote, the Commission Recommended that City of Ann Arbor staff complete the work outlined in the “Resolution to Appropriate \$21,700 from General Fund to Fund Additional Tasks Associated with the Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update Project and to Approve an Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Sam Schwartz Consulting, LLC (\$373,370)” and forwarded this Recommendation to the City Council to be returned by 6/15/2020.

JUNE 17

Healthy Streets

On a unanimous voice vote, the Commission Recommended that Council approve the Healthy Streets Pilot Requests (as described in the attached PDF) as soon as possible and that no additional renderings be needed and forwarded this Recommendation to the City Council to be returned by 7/6/2020.

JULY 15

No motions or actions were taken at this meeting.

AUGUST 19

CIP Recommendations

On a unanimous voice vote, the CIP Recommendations as amended by the Commission were Approved by the Commission and forwarded to staff and the City Planning Commission to be returned by 10/6/2020.

Chapter 40 Ordinance Amendments

On a voice vote, with one no-vote, the Commission Recommended that City Council refer the Ordinance to Amend Sections 3:16 and 3:17 of Chapter 40 (Trees and Other Vegetation) of Title III of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor to the Environmental Commission for consideration to be returned by 9/8/2020.

AUGUST 19 continued

Fernwood Traffic Calming

On a unanimous voice vote, that the Transportation Commission Recommended that City Council approve the “Resolution to Approve the Installation of Traffic Calming Devices on Fernwood” and forwarded this Recommendation to the City Council to be returned by 9/8/2020.

SEPTEMBER 16

CIP Committee Disbanding

On a unanimous voice vote, the Proposal to Disband the CIP Committee was Approved by the Commission.

Maintaining Healthy Streets

On a voice vote, with one no-vote, the Commission Recommended that Council defeat any resolution that would end the Healthy Streets Initiative prematurely as reflected in resolution file 20-1430, and forwarded this Recommendation to the City Council to be returned by 10/19/2020.

OCTOBER 21

Scio Church Parking Removal

On a unanimous voice vote, the Commission Recommended that City Council approve the “Resolution to Prohibit On-Street Parking on the north side of Scio Church Road between South Maple Road and Greenview Drive” and forwarded this Recommendation to the City Council to be returned by 11/16/2020.

NOVEMBER 18

Transportation Plan Distribution

On a unanimous voice vote, the Commission Recommended that the Planning Commission and City Council authorize distribution of the draft A2 Moving Together Toward Vision Zero Transportation

Plan to adjoining jurisdictions and stakeholders in accordance with the Michigan Municipal Planning Act (PA-33 of 2008) and Chapter 8 of the Ann Arbor Code of Ordinances and referred this Recommendation to the City Planning Commission to be returned by 12/1/2020.

DECEMBER 16

Glenwood Traffic Calming

On a unanimous voice vote, the Commission Recommended that Council approve the “Resolution to Approve the Installation of Traffic Calming Devices on Glenwood Avenue” and forwarded this Recommendation to City Council to be returned by 1/4/2021.

Healthy Streets

On a unanimous voice vote, the Commission Recommended that Council pursue Healthy Streets implementation and necessary budget allocations for April 2021. Further, to include neighborhood streets in the implementation. The Commission strongly recommended identifying locations where previous Healthy Streets reconfigurations could be made permanent and forwarded these Recommendations to Council to be returned by 1/19/2021.

3. Right: Healthy Streets outdoor dining on Liberty St.



4. Left: Traffic Calming device installation on Fernwood Ave.

FEATURED AGENDA ITEMS & PRESENTATIONS

JANUARY 15

2020 Resurfacing Projects

Dave Dykman

Statewide Crosswalk Law Recommendations

Molly Kleinman

FEBRUARY 19

Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Eli Cooper & Stacey Meekins

A2Zero Carbon Budget Analysis

Missy Stults

Street, Bridge, and Sidewalk Millage

Raymond Hess

MARCH - APRIL

Meetings cancelled due to local and statewide COVID-19 public health measures.

MAY 20

A2Zero

Missy Stults

DDA Parking/Curbside Management

Linda Diane Feldt

Healthy Streets

Raymond Hess

Comprehensive Transportation Plan Supplemental Work

Raymond Hess

JUNE 17

FY21 Budget

Marti Praschan

Street, Bridge, Sidewalk & New Sidewalk Millages

Nicholas Hutchinson

How Speed Limits are Set

Cyrus Naheedy

Crosswalks and Lighting

Cynthia Redinger

Healthy Streets

Raymond Hess

JULY 15

Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)

Deborah Gosselin

Annual Crash Data Report

Cynthia Redinger

Effective Commission Communications

Julie Boland & Linda Diane Feldt

Effective Committee Work

Kayla Coleman

AUGUST 19

TheRide/AAATA Service Restoration Plans

Bryan Smith

Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) Prioritization

Bret Hautamaki

Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) Recommendations

Bret Hautamaki

AUGUST 19 continued

Chapter 40 Trees and Vegetation Ordinance

Councilmember Griswold

Fernwood Avenue Traffic Calming

Kayla Coleman

SEPTEMBER 16

Annual Crash Data Report

Raymond Hess

Council Mobility Committee

Councilmember Griswold

Pedestrians and Roundabouts

Raymond Hess

Capital Improvements Plan Prioritization

Bret Hautamaki

CIP Committee Disbanding

Molly Kleinman

Commissioner Feedback - Materials/Communications

Kayla Coleman

Healthy Streets

Councilmember Griswold & Raymond Hess

OCTOBER 21

Pedestrians and Roundabouts

Cynthia Redinger

Scio Church Road Improvements

Jane Allen

Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Eli Cooper & Stacey Meekins

NOVEMBER 18

Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Eli Cooper & Stacey Meekins

DECEMBER 16

Lower Town Area Mobility Study

Luke Liu & Steve Loveland

Seventh Street Process Committee

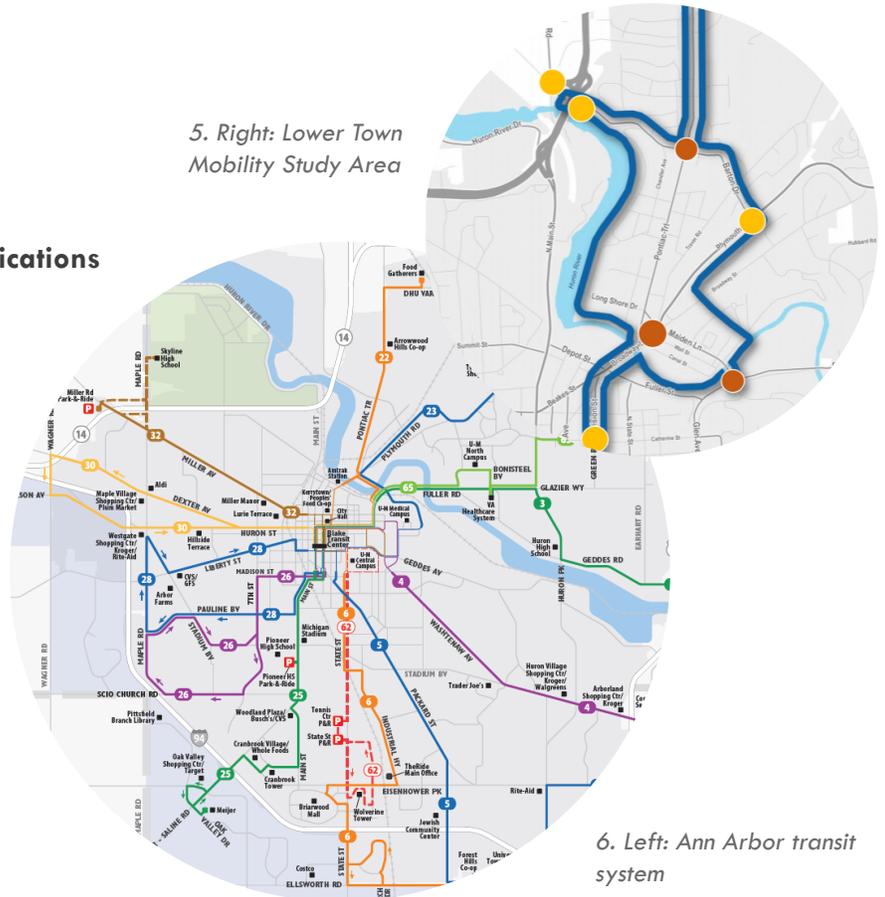
Julie Boland, Linda Diane Feldt & Seth Peterson

Glenwood Traffic Calming

Kayla Coleman

Healthy Streets

Raymond Hess



5. Right: Lower Town Mobility Study Area

6. Left: Ann Arbor transit system

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

JANUARY 15

Recommendation to City Council -
State of Michigan Crosswalk Laws

Transportation Commission Recommendations Regarding Michigan Statewide Crosswalk Laws

The Ann Arbor Transportation Commission supports the adoption of a statewide crosswalk bill, provided the bill meets the following conditions:

- The bill does not supersede local ordinances that have more stringent stopping requirements for crosswalks;
- The bill requires motorists on both sides of the street to stop for pedestrians waiting at the crosswalk, and does not require pedestrians to have any part of their person or belongings in the roadway in order for vehicles to stop OR the bill includes the curb, curb ramp or curb line in its definition of the crosswalk;
- The bill does not abolish or nullify the use of pedestrian activated beacons at crosswalks;
- When a vehicle is stopped at a crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the bill requires that the driver of another vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake or pass the stopped vehicle.
- The bill does not increase penalties for pedestrians crossing without a crosswalk OR the bill reduces penalties for pedestrians crossing without a crosswalk.

The Ann Arbor Transportation Commission does not support a state crosswalk bill that does not meet these conditions.

7. Ann Arbor Mobility Values



Safety



Mobility



Accessibility



Sustainability



Connectivity

AUGUST 19

Recommendation to Planning Commission - Capital Improvements Plan Update

CIP Recommendations

The Transportation Commission Requests that staff incorporate, and Planning Commission approve, the following project modifications and additions for the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP):

- Modify the scope of these existing CIP projects to accelerate the construction of bicycle lanes infrastructure downtown to provide a network of safe, dedicated bicycle infrastructure lanes that interface with arterials like Packard, Main, Huron, etc.:
 - People-Friendly Streets Part 2 (TR-AT-20-06): Focused on downtown (DDA area) and includes active transportation connectivity as a key scope item.
 - Bicycle Network Gap project (TR-AT-20-04): to start addressing gaps identified in the Transportation Plan.
- Modify the scope of Streetlights: Packard (State to Stadium)(TR-OT-20-04) to note that this is viewed as the top priority streetlight project by the Transportation Commission due to midblock crosswalk visibility concerns.
- Implement as soon as fiscally feasible the recommendations from the South State Street Corridor Plan (TR-SC-20-17 through TR-SC-20-19), including the following:
 - Traffic reconfiguration and streetscape improvements around the I-94/Mall area of State St
 - Buffered bike lane, and other bicyclist safety improvements as applicable, north to the University of Michigan central campus area
 - Enhance this major gateway with improved wayfinding/simplification of traffic patterns

- Aesthetic improvements for this major gateway

- Implement projects from the Healthy Streets Program in a permanent capacity: downtown core closures seasonally/weekly; outside of downtown arterial changes; and neighborhood slow streets

The Transportation Commission also reinstates these prior CIP recommendations that have not yet been implemented:

- August 2019 Recommendations (final Transportation Commission action: 9/18/19)
- October 2017 Recommendations (final Transportation Commission action: 10/18/17)

Aknowledgments

Prepared by Bret Hautamaki



8. Healthy Streets signage

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A

Transportation Commission Ordinance

1:207. - Transportation Commission.

(1) The Transportation Commission is established to foster excellence in the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of a sustainable and resilient multimodal transportation network for the City of Ann Arbor. The Transportation Commission will serve as an advisory body to the City Council and the City Administrator on transportation policy with a focus on accessibility, mobility, equity, and safety for all citizens.

(2) The Transportation Commission shall consist of 11 voting members. Appointments should be of individuals who, insofar as is possible, have an interest in the various forms and modes of transportation needs of the community. Members shall be appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council unless otherwise stated.

(a) To support a holistic evaluation of the community's concerns, the voting members of the Transportation Commission shall be as follows:

1. Six members of the public.
2. One owner or operator of a transportation business operating in Ann Arbor.
3. One member of the Planning Commission, appointed by the Planning Commission.
4. One member of the Commission on Disability Issues, appointed by the Commission on Disability Issues.
5. One individual appointed by the board of the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority.
6. One member of the City Council.

(b) The City Administrator, the Transportation Manager, and the Chief of Police shall be nonvoting members of the Transportation Commission. The City Administrator shall designate staffing to support the Transportation Commission.

(c) The Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan, the University of Michigan, and the Ann Arbor Public Schools may each appoint one nonvoting member to the Transportation Commission.

(d) Unless otherwise stated in this subsection, voting members of the Transportation Commission shall be appointed to three-year terms, which shall be staggered so that approximately one third of the terms expire each year. Initial terms may be for less than three years so that the terms are staggered. The City Council member shall be appointed for a one-year term in the same manner as for City Council committee appointments. Members appointed by other City boards or commissions shall continue to serve until they are no longer members of the appointing board or commission or until the appointing board or commission appoints a different member. The member appointed by the board of the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority shall continue to serve until the board appoints a different member.

(3) The Transportation Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) Advise the City Council and City Administrator on:

1. Transportation grants.
2. Streets and highways.
3. The use of, restrictions on, and upkeep of public rights-of-way.
4. Bus and rail service.
5. Pedestrian and bikeway programs and

projects.

6.Safety-related programs and projects.

7.Regulation of vehicles for hire, including taxicabs, transportation network and ride-sharing entities, pedicabs, and other transportation vehicles; and all related matters including permits, annual permits, franchise permits, transportation franchise requests, renewals, rate adjustments, and hours of operation.

(b) Provide comments to the Planning Commission, City Council, Downtown Development Authority, and the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority on transportation policy, and the impact of proposed projects to the same.

(c) Recommend to the City Council and the City Administrator priorities and budget allocations related to transportation.

(d) Provide recommendations on the City's transportation master plans including the City Transportation Plan and Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

(e) Report annually to the City Council and the City Administrator regarding the activities of the Transportation Commission, which shall reflect the effectiveness of the city's transportation strategy process and make recommendations for any changes thereto.

(f) Make proposals and recommendations to achieve and maintain a holistic and inclusive transportation ecosystem that meets the mobility needs of all people, including the mobility-impaired.

(g) Form special purpose task forces and subcommittees to carry out the business of the commission.(h)Perform other duties as directed by City Council.

(Ord. No. 16-26, § 1, 11-21-16; Ord. No. 18-23, § 1, 9-17-18)

ATTACHMENT B

Commissioner Involvement in City Process

Linda Diane Feldt

May 30, 2019 to Present

Member of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for the City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update.

Bret Hautamaki

August 2020

Participated at 3 prioritization update meetings for the Capital Improvements Program - Active Transportation section.

ATTACHMENT C

Image Credits

1. TheRide: theride.org

2. pedbikeimages.org

3. Jacob Hamilton: mlive.com

4. City of Ann Arbor

5. City of Ann Arbor, Lower Town Mobility Study

6. TheRide: theride.org

7. City of Ann Arbor, Comprehensive Transportation Plan

8. Doug Coombe: secondwavemedia.com

THANKS FOR READING!

Over the past year, the Commission greeted new members, made recommendations on both local and state laws, and engaged with numerous projects affecting residents across the city, including road resurfacing, traffic calming, crosswalks, and healthy streets initiatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for taking an active interest in the Transportation Commission and we hope to see continued community engagement into the coming year.

This is my third year on the Transportation Commission and my first year as Vice Chair. Each year, I am impressed by the dedication and breadth of knowledge of both the volunteer commissioners and the support staff. I enjoy working beside them as we evolve towards a safer, more sustainable city that meets the needs of all of our residents, across different transportation modalities. Looking ahead, I am pleased that we are shifting towards data-driven, system-wide solutions, guided by the development of a new Transportation Plan and the City's commitment to Vision Zero and Carbon Neutrality.



-Julie Boland

Though I joined the commission in March, it feels like years have gone by during this COVID-impacted period. I began my time being so impressed by city staff's ability to quickly innovate, adopt, and adapt solutions to our new normal. Implementation of the Healthy Streets program downtown, in neighborhoods, and on thoroughfares has improved quality of life for residents at a critical time. Revisions to the CIP process will allow us to achieve targets in the all-new Transportation Plan, positively affecting residents' daily quality of life for years to come. I am honored to be among the residents that collaborate with such a dedicated, knowledgeable, and thorough staff. As life for Ann Arborites surely will change in 2021, I am excited to be a small part of a group dedicated to making getting around safer, more rewarding, healthier, and more inclusive.



- Bret Hautamaki

Please visit a2gov.org/TransportationCommission for more information.