



Transportation Project Updates March 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.

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.

A public workshop/open house regarding recent modifications to the S. Seventh/Scio Church and S. Seventh/Stadium Boulevard intersections was held on March 13. An [online survey](#) is available until March 18 at 9:00 a.m. More information is available online at the project websites a2gov.org/seventh and a2gov.org/sciochurch

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 can be found on the website 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 2019 target areas can be found at 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.

RRFB Installations:

The City has plans to install RRFBs during the 2019 construction season at the following locations:

- Green Road @ Greenbrier (holdover from 2018)
- Geddes Road – east of Earhart
- North Maple – near Circle Dr.
- North Maple – between Pamela and Sequoia
- Eisenhower Pkwy @ Plaza Drive (HSIP Grant)
- Huron Street – near Thayer (pending MDOT approval)
- Huron Pkwy @ Glazier Way
- Huron Pkwy @ Baxtet

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. Additionally, an online map-based survey which allows residents to identify suggested locations for crosswalks is currently available until the end of March. 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.

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 bringing a Resolution to Council to approve a contract with Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. to perform the construction engineering, administration, inspections, surveying, and testing for the project. The project is expected to be in MDOT's June bidletting, and construction is anticipated to start late summer.

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 scheduled for Wednesday, April 3 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at Clague School, 2616 Nixon Road. During this meeting, the City will provide a description of the proposed work, and provide information about the cost estimates and special assessments. 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.

Final plans were submitted to MDOT in late February for final review and bidding. Construction is expected to start in the June of 2019 after the end of the AAPS school year. The final special assessment resolution and approval of the City-State Agreement is currently scheduled to go before Council on May 6.

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. Construction is scheduled to begin in May and be completed in November.

**Huron Street Improvements:**

DDA improvements on Huron Street (Third Street to Division Street). Physical improvements include new sidewalks, permeable pavers, street and pedestrian lighting, landscaping, and trees. The DDA and City Transportation staff continue to coordinate with MDOT for approval of the transportation and safety elements, which includes non-rush hour parking, a permissive-protected left turn signal at 5th Avenue, a full signal to replace the Hawk signal at Third and Huron, restricted right turn on red along the corridor, and leading pedestrian intervals. Construction is scheduled to begin April 2019.

William Street Improvements:

DDA and City improvements on William Street (Fourth Street to State Street). The project includes advisory bike lanes from 4th Street to First Street and a two-way protected bike lane from First Street to State Street. The project also addresses street resurfacing and watermain consolidation within the project limits. Construction bids are due March 15, 2019, with construction scheduled to begin following UM commencement in May 2019.

DDA Annual Bike Parking Installations

The seasonal on-street bike racks will be placed as weather allows, typically in late April/early May. Around this same time, the DDA begins evaluating for annual bike parking repairs and additions. If you have suggested locations or other feedback, please contact Amber Miller, DDA Capital Projects Manager at amiller@a2dda.org.

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 continues to appeal this decision.

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. 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 preparing a plan for engaging the public on each location. The first meeting for Earhart Road is scheduled to occur on April 11. Information was 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 feet 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, and received over 115 feedback forms. A public meeting was also held on the evening of November 1. 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 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 analysis was completed in February and a report was submitted to City Council. The report can be found [here](#). Staff's recommendations have not changed after



performing this analysis. Council is expected to bring back first Special Assessment Resolution for consideration shortly.

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

The William and Huron Street projects are moving toward construction in spring 2019. The project team is continuing detailed design for First and Ashley Streets, planned for construction in 2020.

Learn more at peoplefriendlystreets.org

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, LED lighting, and added capacity for electric vehicle charging stations.

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

AECOM continues work on the revised environmental review. The draft of the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) is to be provided to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) by March 15. The revised Final Environmental Assessment is being drafted to incorporate responses to earlier public and agency comments. Once the revised Final EA is approved by 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 occurred on February 21, 2019. The second meeting is scheduled to occur March 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:

The Sam Schwartz team has drafted a Public Engagement Plan (PEP). Steering and Advisory Stakeholder lists are being finalized with scheduling for a first round of meetings in the planning stages. Additionally, materials to facilitate early phase focus group sessions are undergoing development. 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 was not approved by City Council on February 19, 2019. However, staff was directed by Council on March 4, 2019 to include the Lower Town Area Study in the budget process.

Quiet Zone/Train Horn Noise:

The technical report indicating what is needed to implement a FRA compliant Quiet Zone was released for public review via an online survey. As of the drafting of this update over 530 responses have been received. A summary and proposed next steps will be prepared once the survey feedback is compiled and evaluated.

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.



ArborBike – Planning is underway for relaunch of the ArborBike system in the next month. AAATA is overseeing the Contractor on behalf of the bikeshare partnership that includes the City, the AAATA, the UM and AADDA. We are excited to have an experienced operator, Shift Transit, leading the relaunch. Look for updates and further information detailing how to register to become a bikeshare participant.

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, a new transportation engineer will start in March 2019.
2. **Road Design – Adopt City Policy of Using Safe Systems to Design Roadways** – Work to update the City’s street design standards (known as the “orange book”) have begun. The Transportation Plan Update may also provide suggestions on the hierarchy of needs for the City’s roads..
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. Preliminary discussions have also been had with Traverse City, Grand Rapids and Detroit about statewide initiatives that can assist cities improve the safety of roadways within their jurisdiction.
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.

**Office of Sustainability and Innovations Update:**

The City's Green Fleets Team (GFT) has been reviewing low-use vehicles (defined as using less than 200 gallons of fuel each year) in the fleet for possible removal, including meeting with vehicle sponsors to hear why their low-use vehicles should stay in the fleet. The GFT is also exploring adding in a carshare option to the fleet like Maven or Zipcar. Lastly, the GFT is planning internal outreach to staff about how to reserve and use pool vehicles such as the new Chevy Bolt pool car.

The Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Subcommittee of the Energy Commission continues to meet to learn about the options for an EV Readiness Ordinance through our zoning code. The Subcommittee is currently learning about what is in ordinances passed by other cities for the residential, commercial, and multifamily sectors. We are also hoping to recruit a member of the Transportation Commission and the Planning Commission to join this sub-committee so we can ensure alignment across priority areas within the City.

Staff is leading the development of a grant proposal for Ann Arbor and a group of other cities to visit Los Angeles to learn more about their groundbreaking low-income EV carsharing program, BlueLA.

Upcoming Sustainability Forums:

- March 21 - Climate Change 201
- April 18- Racial Equity in Washtenaw County

Save the date – the 19th 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)