



## Transportation Project Updates July 2020

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### **2020 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. Included in the 2020 program are Boardwalk (Eisenhower to north end), Granger (State to Packard), Geddes Ave (Church to Observatory), asphalt path resurfacing on Oakbrook and South Main Street, and a number of residential street resurfacing projects, which will be concentrated in the neighborhood around Dicken Elementary School. A full list of streets is posted on the website at: [a2gov.org/RoadConstruction](https://a2gov.org/RoadConstruction). Construction is currently active in the Dicken neighborhood. Work on Geddes Ave has been completed, and the repaving of the asphalt path on Oakbrook is scheduled to be completed the week of 7/13. Work on Boardwalk and the repaving of the asphalt path on South Main (Ann Arbor-Saline to Eisenhower) is expected to start the week of 7/13. Work on the overall project is expected to continue into November.

#### **Barton Drive (M-14 to Pontiac):**

The scope includes street resurfacing, watermain improvements, new sidewalk construction, and intersection reconfiguration at the Chandler intersection. Also included in the project is the reconfiguration of the Barton/Starwick intersection, and the filling of sidewalk gaps at this location.

This project included plans to install sidewalk on the north side of Barton Drive from Brede to Pontiac, and at the Barton/Starwick intersection. Resolution #4 to approve the final special assessment roll for both of these locations were approved by City Council at the May 4 Council meeting. However, Council moved to reconsider the Brede to Pontiac portion of the project at their June 15 meeting, and postponed the Resolution #4 until December. This effectively removes this work from the current contract. Staff will look at potentially rescheduling the work for a later time, depending on whether or not the New Sidewalks Millage passes in November. The sidewalk work at the Barton/Starwick intersection will proceed as planned.

Construction on this project is currently underway and is expected to extend through August.

#### **Jackson Avenue and Washtenaw Avenue Sidewalk Gap Project:**

This project includes filling gaps in the sidewalk system on Jackson Avenue (south side) from Westover Avenue to Park Lake Avenue. Also included is the construction of a



Non-motorized Path along the south side of Washtenaw Avenue (north of the service drive) from S. Huron Parkway to Pittsfield Boulevard.

Construction has begun on the Washtenaw segment of the project in the week of May 18. The cost of the Jackson Ave portion of the project will be specially assessed to the adjacent property owners as it is first-time construction. Resolution #4 to approve the final special assessment roll went before Council on May 18 and was postponed to the June 15 meeting. At the June 15 meeting, Council tabled this item, which effectively removes it from the current construction contract. Staff will look at potentially rescheduling the work for a later time, depending on whether or not the New Sidewalks Millage passes in November.

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

Based on public feedback received in 2018, there was overwhelming support among the neighborhood to keep the on-street parking. In response to this feedback while filling in a missing link in the bike network, the City added a buffered bike lane on southbound lane and a sharrow on the northbound lane in June 2020. The project website has been updated to reflect changes to Seventh street which have occurred over the past year ([a2gov.org/seventh](http://a2gov.org/seventh)).

#### **Other Sidewalk Gap Work**

In addition to the sidewalk gap projects referenced above, the following additional locations are planned for 2020, to be done as part of other projects:

- Stimson (both sides) from State Street east – part of Sidewalk Repair Program. Work on this project has been put on hold, pending the status of the New Sidewalk Millage in November.
- Boardwalk Drive (2875 & 2775), east side. Work on this project has been put on hold, pending the status of the New Sidewalk Millage in November.

#### **Plymouth Road Capital Maintenance**

This project consists of cold-milling and repaving of the asphalt surface from Murfin/Upland Roads to Nixon Road. Vehicular lanes will be reduced uniformly to 10 feet and a modified buffered bike lane will be introduced. The work is currently scheduled to start around the week of June 22.

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

##### **Fuller Court/Nixon/Traver Sidewalk Gap Project:**

This project includes the filling of sidewalk gaps on Fuller Ct. (south side) from Fuller Road to 2250 Fuller Ct. and on Nixon/Traver (west/north side) from end of existing sidewalk to Logan Elementary. City Council approved the special assessment rolls for both locations at their May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. However, Council moved to reconsider the Nixon/Traver portion of the project at their June 15 meeting, and postponed the Resolution #4 until December. This effectively removes this work from the current



project. Staff will look at potentially rescheduling the work for a later time, depending on whether or not the New Sidewalks Millage passes in November.

In addition, the University of Michigan has withdrawn financial support for the construction of the sidewalk adjacent to their property (at the corner of Fuller Road and Fuller Court), due to COVID-related budgetary issues. Therefore, this portion of the project is also being removed. Final plans for the remaining sidewalk work on Fuller Court have been submitted to MDOT for approval.

At this time, construction is scheduled for the spring of 2021.

### **People Friendly Streets Initiative:**

First Street construction is underway, Ashley Street is scheduled to begin spring 2021.

In December 2019, the DDA Board approved funding for another round of People-Friendly Streets Projects – a collaborative effort with City Engineering. This next round of projects will continue the community conversation about safe, equitable streets in coordination with other on-going efforts, including the City’s Transportation Master Plan and Capital Improvement Program (CIP). On Monday, July 6, City Council approved [Healthy Streets Pilot Projects Downtown](#), which will help fill the current need for safe access and social distancing and allow for engagement and discussion about permanent changes.

### **Plymouth Road (Murfin to lower Broadway)**

With the elimination of the South Main Street Sidewalk Gap Project from the 2021 budget, this project has been added so that the Federal aid that was scheduled for that project can still be captured. This project is envisioned as a preventative maintenance project (partial depth milling & repaving), very similar in scope to the work that is underway further east on Plymouth. The scope of this project is currently under development, but it is expected that it may be possible to include some non-motorized improvements.

### **Other Updates and Information**

#### **Downtown Curbspace/Accessible Parking**

Street closures associated with R-20-194, “[Resolution to Approve Downtown Street Closures for Restaurant and Retail Use During the Time of Mandated Physical Distancing](#)” (approved by Council June 1, 2020) includes 10 handicapped parking spaces that would be impacted temporarily if the full scope of street closures are implemented (note: closures are being requested and managed through the merchant associations). Accessible spaces were not eligible for other Healthy Streets efforts such as pick-up/delivery staging and extended curbside dining through sidewalk occupancy permits.

Generally, when a temporary street closure impacts accessible spaces they are not replaced elsewhere. Given that the Council approved closures are recurring and



potentially long-term, City and Republic Parking staff have worked together to relocate the handicap parking spaces outside of the closure area, where feasible. All potentially impacted accessible parking spaces have been replaced as either on-street spaces outside of the impact area (six) or surface parking lot spaces (four). Locations of new spaces are as follows:

- 500 Church St., west side, 2 spaces
- 200 E William, south side, 1 space
- 400 S State, west side, 2 spaces
- 700 E Washington, south side, 1 space
- Library Lane, north side, 1 space
- Palio surface parking lot (Main & William), 1 space
- South Ashley surface parking lot (William & Ashley), 2 spaces

Additionally, [a2dda.org/getting-around/](http://a2dda.org/getting-around/) provides a map of accessible parking spaces in downtown Ann Arbor. The DDA website is currently in transition and has not yet been updated with changes to accessible parking as a result of Healthy Streets.

#### **“Healthy Streets” - Transportation opportunities for social distancing**

Staff has continued to advance the Healthy Streets initiative consistent with City Council Resolution R-20-158, “[Resolution to Promote Safe Social Distancing Outdoors in Ann Arbor.](#)” Staff installed 18 neighborhood slow street treatments July 8-10 based on streets that have significant pedestrian and/or bicycle traffic, provide logical connections to parks and recreation areas, have gaps in the sidewalk system, are important places where it is desirable to maintain social distancing, and/or have public support.

Based on a Transportation Commission suggestion, the threshold for consideration has been lowered – staff looked for multiple requests but not necessarily 30% support from the neighborhood (as originally identified in the May memo). Additionally, based on suggestions from City Council members, staff will place signs one week in advance of implementing the slow streets treatments in order to a) notify the neighborhood of the coming change; and b) allow for residents to voice concern. If objection is received from more than 20% of affected neighbors, then the treatment will not be installed or be removed.

For non-residential streets, several different efforts were authorized by City Council and are underway. First, City Council passed Resolution R-20-194, “[Resolution to Approve Downtown Street Closures for Restaurant and Retail Use During the Time of Mandated Physical Distancing.](#)” This resolution was spearheaded by the downtown merchant associations and approved weekend closures on various downtown streets to allow them to be used for social distancing and outdoor dining. Second, City and DDA staff worked together on a series of other suggested lane reconfigurations. Expanded walking and biking space downtown and outside of downtown was approved by City Council on July 6, 2020 for a 90-day installation period. Installation is anticipated toward the end of July. The City’s “Healthy Streets” website ([a2gov.org/HealthyStreets](http://a2gov.org/HealthyStreets)) and the DDA’s People Friendly Streets website (<https://www.peoplefriendlystreets.org/>) will be kept up to date to reflect the latest updates on the Healthy Streets Initiative.

**Lower Town Mobility Study:**

The strategy for the first round of public engagement is being finalized. Public engagement and outreach is expected to occur in late July or early August.

**Streetlight Implementation:**

27 new streetlights were installed so far in 2020. 615 streetlight outages have been addressed by DTE in 2020.

**Traffic Calming Program Submittals:**

Updates on recent Traffic Calming Program petitions are provided below:

- Fernwood is currently on Step 5 (Final Polling) of the Traffic Calming Program. Polls must be postmarked on or before July 23 to count. All results will be published in early August.

**Transportation Plan Update:**

With the current COVID-19 limitations on public gatherings, the team is looking into strategies to continue public engagement moving forward. Recently, an online survey about [comfortable bike routes](#) was completed. Results will be used in the ongoing planning process. The Project Team is continuing to develop concepts and recommendations which will be publicly vetted later this year. Please [subscribe](#) to receive updates on this project.