

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES STAFF REPORT

For Planning Commission Meeting of September 10, 2013

SUBJECT: Master Plan Amendment: 2013 Update to the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan

PROPOSED CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MOTION

The Ann Arbor City Planning Commission hereby adopts the 2013 Update to the Non-motorized Transportation Plan as an amendment to the City Master Plan.

PROPOSED CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MOTION

The Ann Arbor City Planning Commission hereby recommends that the City Council adopt the 2013 Update to the Non-motorized Transportation Plan as an amendment to the City Master Plan

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the 2013 Amendment to the Non-Motorized Plan be **adopted** as an amendment to the City Master Plan. Staff also recommends that the 2013 Amendment to the Non-motorized Plan be forwarded to City Council for **approval**.

STAFF REPORT

Background – The draft 2013 Amendment to the Non-motorized Plan reflects a desire to update the existing 2007 Non-motorized Plan to reflect non-motorized improvements that have been implemented since 2007, include current best practices for non-motorized systems, and develop updated recommendations for constructing new non-motorized systems. The 2007 Plan was the City’s first non-motorized plan, replacing the City’s “Bicycle Master Plan”. Many of the recommendations of the 2007 Plan are still pertinent. However, after implementing the plan for the past 6 years, staff and the Planning Commission determined that the time was ripe for an amendment to refresh the document. The amendment will be separate document that will be “attached” to the existing plan.

Public Engagement – The draft 2013 Amendment to the Non-motorized Plan was developed after a public engagement process that included two public workshops, six focus group meetings, multiple meetings with the City’s Alternative Transportation Committee, a number of meetings with the Planning Commission’s Master Plan Revisions Committee, and public comment received as part of the required 42 day notification period. Over 100 people participated in the public meetings. Staff created the attached public process report, which describes the extensive public process involved with developing the draft amendment.

Plan Format – The 2013 amendment includes the following three main sections:

1. *Planning and Policy Updates* – This section evaluates new types of bicycle and pedestrian facilities and programs that have emerged since 2007 as proven strategies for building a comprehensive and sustainable non-motorized system.
2. *Near Term Recommendation Updates* – This section revisits near term recommendations from the Non-motorized Plan that have proven to be non-implementable. The update provides a description of the original Plan recommendation, a discussion of the revised recommendations for the area, and detail maps of the new recommendations. Near term recommendations include cost-effective and easily-implemented changes that do not require road reconstruction. Examples of near term changes include re-striping the road surface to install bike lanes and adding crossing islands.
3. *Long Term Recommendations* – This section revisits the long term recommendations from the Non-motorized Plan that have proven to be non-implementable. The long term solutions present the ideal implementation for a particular corridor, often requiring significant physical adjustments to the cross section of a roadway. Due to the significant costs of construction required, long term projects are typically completed as independent improvements or as elements of other projects.

Public Notice – City Council authorized distribution of the draft plan amendment on June 3, 2013, consistent with State requirements of Public Act 285, and requested comments from adjoining jurisdictions and stakeholders. The 42-day comment period ended on July 15, 2013. Now that the comment period is over, the Planning Commission will hold the required public hearing on September 10, 2013 and consider any comments received.

Planning Commission Review and Action - The Planning Commission's Master Plan Review (MPR) Committee met with staff throughout the two-year process of creating the update to the Non-motorized Transportation Plan. The MPR Committee reviewed the draft 2013 Update on August 7, 2013. Comments from this review were provided to Systems Planning staff, and these comments have been taken into consideration in the September 6, 2013 draft document.

The Planning Commission may choose to adopt the plan as an amendment to the City of Ann Arbor Master Plan. If the Commission adopts the plan amendment, then City Council will hold a public hearing and review the plan amendment for adoption as part of the Master Plan.

Prepared by Jeff Kahan
Reviewed by Wendy Rampson

c: City Administrator
Community Services Area Administrator
City Attorney's Office
Parks & Recreation Services Unit
Project Management Services Unit
Systems Planning Unit

Attachments: 2013 Amendment to the Non-motorized Transportation Plan – 9/6/13 Draft
Public Process Report