

Resolution to Restore Community Connections with Continuous, Comfortable Walking and Biking Facilities across US-23

Whereas, The US-23 freeway was built along the east side of the City of Ann Arbor in 1962;

Whereas, The eight crossing opportunities along the east side of Ann Arbor were designed for high-speed motor vehicle movement and without accommodation for people walking and biking;

Whereas, The land adjacent to US-23 has developed across decades with a dense mix of residential, commercial, professional, medical, educational, and recreational purposes;

Whereas, Human demand to cross US-23 outside of a motor vehicle has existed since the freeway's opening, growing as more people live, work, and play in its immediate vicinity;

Whereas, The walking and cycling environments across US-23 are, in general, incomplete and hostile to people traveling outside of a motor vehicle;

Whereas, The A²ZERO carbon neutrality plan calls for reducing vehicle miles traveled by 50% by 2030, which will require significant mode shift to walking, biking, and transit use;

Whereas, The Moving Together Towards Vision Zero Transportation Plan calls for addressing dangerous driving behavior and improving the safety and comfort of people walking and biking;

Whereas, The Moving Together Towards Vision Zero Transportation Plan calls for creating an All Ages and Abilities Bike network citywide;

Whereas, Safe, comfortable places to walk and bike promote community health, equity, social connection, and economic vitality;

Whereas, The Michigan Department of Transportation is undertaking an Environmental Assessment study to develop and evaluate alternatives to improve operations and safety;

Whereas, The Michigan Department of Transportation is preparing to make a generational \$250 million investment in rebuilding this section of US-23;

Whereas, The Michigan Department of Transportation has decided that bridges and overpasses along US-23 that do not require replacement should be preserved as-is and were excluded from the project's scope and budget;

Resolved, The Transportation Commission recommends that City Council pass a resolution that requests the Michigan Department of Transportation include safe, comfortable walking and biking facilities on all eight US-23 crossings as a specific Purpose and Need in the Environmental Assessment;

Resolved, The Transportation Commission recommends that City Council pass a resolution that requests the Michigan Department of Transportation reevaluate the resources needed to rebuild the US-23 freeway while completing the walking and biking connections across US-23;

Resolved, The Transportation Commission recommends that City Council direct staff to coordinate with Ann Arbor Township, Pittsfield Township, the Washtenaw County Road Commission, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Michigan Department of Transportation to build

continuous, comfortable, safe places for people to walk and bike across the entire US-23 Environmental Assessment study area.