



## Transportation Project Updates October 2019

Subscribe to receive monthly Transportation Project Updates by visiting [a2gov.org/TransportationCommission](http://a2gov.org/TransportationCommission).

### **2018 Construction Projects**

#### **Fifth Avenue (Kingsley to Catherine):**

The construction is now substantially complete, and the road is open to traffic. Due to a shortage of the bricks that were specified for the project, some of the temporary bricks are currently being replaced. This work should be complete in the coming weeks.

### **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. Work is currently occurring in the Water Hill neighborhood and on Traverwood Drive. Work on Liberty, Division, Green, Platt and Stone School has been completed, as well as the pedestrian island on Fuller Road at Huron High. A full list of streets included in this project can be found on the website at: [a2gov.org/RoadConstruction](http://a2gov.org/RoadConstruction).

#### **Annual Sidewalk Repair Program:**

This program is 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](http://a2gov.org/Sidewalks). Construction has begun on this project and is scheduled to go into early November.

#### **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 sharrows on the northbound lane). The striping for this project is anticipated to occur late this summer.

#### **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 has prepared a high-level cost estimate to bring crosswalks into compliance with the crosswalk design guidelines. This was [shared with City Council on April 15](#).

The sixth monthly progress report of upgrades to existing crosswalks was shared with City Council in September 2019 and included the following updates (note: the October report was not yet ready at the time of this writing). This is a running list and new/changed language is *italicized*:

- The crosswalk signage at Stadium Blvd. and Edgewood Ave. in front of Pioneer High School was completely rebuilt to include overhead Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs);
- School “reduced speed when flashing” zone signs were installed on Fuller Rd. and Huron Parkway around Huron High School;
- School “reduced speed when flashing” zone signs were installed on Seventh Street, Stadium Boulevard, and Main Street around Pioneer High School
- School “reduced speed when flashing” zone signs were installed on Stadium Boulevard around Tappan Middle School.
- School “reduced speed when flashing” zone signs were installed on Plymouth Road around the Michigan Islamic Academy.
- School “reduced speed when flashing” zone signs were installed on Industrial Hwy around the Central Academy.
- The school zone signs on Platt Road south of Redwood Ave were replaced and upgraded;
- Bumpouts were installed on Runnymede Blvd and Waltham/Warwick by Dicken Elementary.
- A new crosswalk was installed on Dicken Dr. to connect to the school pathway to Dicken Elementary.
- Preventive maintenance was done on all RRFBs in the City.
- A pedestrian refuge island was installed on S. Seventh Street at the Scio Church Service Dr.
- A new crosswalk was installed across Scio Church Rd. just west of Chaucer Dr.
- A new raised crosswalk was installed as part of the traffic calming project on the Scio Church Rd. service drive just west of Chaucer Dr.
- 101 in-road crosswalk signs (R1-6A) were deployed at 46 locations; 37 damaged signs were replaced.
- Pedestrian crossing signs (W11-2 assembly) were upgraded at 3 locations.



- Installed a new crosswalk on Gralake Ave. near Lakewood Elementary school entrance.
- *Installed a new crosswalk at Liberty St. and Dartmoor Rd.*
- New RRFBs were installed at S. Main St. and Fieldcrest St.
- New RRFBs were installed at Green Rd. and Green Brier Blvd.
- New RRFBs were installed on Geddes Rd. outside of Concordia University
- *New RRFBs were installed on N. Maple Rd. outside the Peace Neighborhood Center*
- *New RRFBs were installed on N. Maple Rd. outside the Alano Club*
- *New RRFBs were installed on N. Maple Rd. near Walter Dr.*
- *New RRFBs were installed on Eisenhower Pkwy. at Plaza Rd.*
- *New RRFBs were installed on S. Maple Rd. near Bens Dr.*

In addition to the improvements listed above, 26 streetlights were installed: 10 City locations; 11 DTE locations; and 5 locations as part of other projects. Additionally, DTE serviced 382 streetlight outages since April 1, 2019.

### **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 was considered to be the Tier 3 School Safety improvements. A listing of Tier 3 School Safety Improvements was provided on page 7 and 8 of the [2018 Work Plan](#). Tier 3 work has now been completed.

Per the listing compiled for City Council as discussed under 'Crosswalk Improvements,' above, school safety improvements were made at 101 locations over the past three years.

### **Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) Installations:**

RRFBs were installed during the 2019 construction season at the following locations:

- Green Road @ Greenbrier (holdover from 2018)
- Geddes Road – east of Earhart
- North Maple – near Peace Neighborhood Center
- North Maple – near Alano Club
- North Maple – near Walter Dr.
- South Maple – between Bens St. and Russell St.
- Eisenhower Pkwy @ Plaza Drive (HSIP Grant)  
South Main at Fieldcrest

The City is also hopeful that it can proceed to install additional RRFBs at the following locations this year:

- S. Industrial at Rosewood St.
- S. Industrial at Jewett Ave
- S. Industrial at Astor Ave



- S. Industrial at The Ride building

**Allen Creek Berm Opening:**

The necessary easements to construct this project have now been obtained and the project is moving forward. The project was included in MDOT's September bidletting and four bids were received. The low bid for the project was approximately 33% over the Engineer's estimate, which has been attributed to the uniqueness of the project and the inherent risk. Therefore, the City plans to accept this bid and move forward with the project as planned. Construction is anticipated to start in the winter/spring of 2020 and to be completed by the fall of 2020.

**Dhu Varren Sidewalk Gaps:**

This project will fill sidewalk gaps on the north side of Dhu Varren Road from Omlesaad to the west property line of the Nixon Farms development, utilizing Federal aid. Special Assessments for this project were approved by City Council on July 15. Construction is now substantially complete.

**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 began on May 6 and is scheduled to be completed in November. Hoover, as well as the block of Greene Street south of Hoover, are now substantially complete and open to traffic. The project is now focusing on the north block of Greene Street and the Hill Street work.

**Southside Interceptor Sanitary Diversion:** While not a transportation project per se, this project will have a significant impact on traffic, as it will close Fuller Street at Glen Avenue in order to perform some major sanitary sewer work. Due to delays caused by Amtrak, this project is being postponed until 2020. The project area has now been restored and is open to traffic.

**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. Construction began in April and is scheduled to wrap up in November. To avoid leaving closures and barricades up during the winter months, work between 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Main Street on the north side of the street is being deferred to spring 2020. A DTE gas main replacement project is scheduled to finish this week.

MDOT provided some response regarding the requested transportation and safety elements:

1. Overall Signal Pedestrian Timing: MDOT is of the opinion that adequate walk time already exists at all of the signals. City/DDA staff will follow up to discuss in more detail.



2. Third and Chapin full signal: MDOT is waiting for school to be back in session to conduct a field review at this location and finalize the study.
3. Restricted Right Turns: Approved, MDOT will install the signs this fall.
4. Permissive/Protected left turn phase at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue: Approved, MDOT will install in 2020.
5. Non-Rush Hour Parking: Denied.

**William Street Improvements:**

DDA and City improvements on William Street (Fourth Street to State Street). The project includes advisory bike lanes from Fourth 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 began May 13, 2019 and is scheduled to be completed in November. A public celebration of the project is scheduled to occur on October 27 at 2 p.m. on William Street, between 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Division Street. In addition, educational resources have been developed and can be found at <http://www.peoplefriendlystreets.org/educational-resources/>

**Washtenaw/Pittsfield Crosswalk:**

This work has been completed.

**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. The City and AAATA have executed an agreement. Construction is expected in the spring of 2020.

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

The City is starting design on this project, the scope of which 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 possible filling of sidewalk gaps at this location. A public meeting was held September 19 to introduce the project to the public, gain feedback on project scope, and to help inform the design process. More information will be posted on the website at: [a2gov.org/BartonDrive](http://a2gov.org/BartonDrive)

**Hollywood Drive (Maple to Allison):**

This project consists of the first time paving of a gravel street, which was petitioned by residents in 2017 and subsequently included in the Capital Improvements Plan. The current scope of the project includes paving the street, installation of sidewalks, construction of curb and gutter where necessary, and stormwater improvements consistent with the City's Green Streets policy. An initial public meeting was held on October 2. More information will be posted on the project website at: [a2gov.org/Hollywood](http://a2gov.org/Hollywood).

**Scio Church Road (Maple to Seventh):**

This project is a federal aid project scheduled for construction in 2021. The current scope of the project includes street resurfacing, bike lanes, crosswalks, filling of sidewalk gaps, and some minor watermain work. An initial public meeting for this project is being scheduled for fall 2019 or winter 2020.

**Sidewalk Gap Projects:**

There are sidewalk gap projects scheduled for multiple locations in 2020, which include:

- Jackson Avenue (south side) from Wagner to Park Lake
- Washtenaw Ave Service Drive from Huron Parkway to Pittsfield
- Fuller Ct. (south side) from Fuller Road to 2250 Fuller Ct.
- Nixon/Traver (west/north side) from end of existing sidewalk to Logan Elementary

The design phase for these projects is just getting underway. More information will be provided on these projects once it becomes available.

**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](http://a2gov.org/Nixon)). The design of this project is being undertaken by Wade Trim Associates and is expected to continue through fall 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. Construction of the first phase of the project is currently shown in the CIP for 2025. Council passed a budget amendment indicating a desire to explore moving the first phase of construction up to 2021. A report is due to Council in February of 2020 that will outline updated costs, funding sources, and impacts of moving the project forward.

**Road Diets:**

Staff evaluated the feasibility of lane conversions of several segments of roadway and presented the findings to the Transportation Commission in February 2019. Among those up for consideration were:

- Traverwood Drive (from Huron Parkway to Plymouth Rd) – the project entails: reducing the number of and narrowing the vehicular; adding a bicycle lane; and adding on-street parking. City Council approved this reconfiguration at their meeting



on August 5, 2019 and again on September 26, 2019. The project is currently under construction as part of the resurfacing project (as detailed above).

Other locations evaluated by staff include:

- South Main (Madison to Stadium)
- South Industrial (Stadium to 800 feet south of Stimson)
- Platt Road (Packard to Canterbury)
- West Oakbrook Drive (Ann Arbor-Saline to S. Main)

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

The William and Huron Street projects are in the construction phase. The DDA Board approved a [final design](#) for First and Ashley Streets, planned for construction in 2020. Learn more at [peoplefriendlystreets.org](http://peoplefriendlystreets.org)

### **Ann/Ashley Parking Structure Expansion:**

The DDA Board is pursuing a three story/400 space expansion of the Ann/Ashley Parking Structure. The goal is to encourage development of surface parking lots west of Main Street. In addition to vehicle parking spaces, the project includes expanded bike parking, LED lighting, stormwater infiltration, and added capacity for electric vehicle charging stations.

The project was approved by Planning Commission in May. The DDA will bring a request to bond the project before City Council in October 2019.

### **Other Updates and Information**

#### **Ann Arbor Station:**

The draft Final Environmental Assessment (EA) incorporating responses to earlier public and agency comments was submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) on September 6, 2019. 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 State projects within the City. MDOT allows for local installed improvements on their facilities, subject to their review. The review of proposals for the design of the N. Main Street project is now complete and MDOT is expected to kick-off engineering in the fall with public input in Spring 2020. Additionally, the City is working with MDOT to improve the mid-block crossing on Huron near Thayer. MDOT has agreed to a pedestrian hybrid beacon (aka HAWK) at this location and the City is currently working with MDOT on the implementation timeline. MDOT has also commenced an operations study for I-94.

#### **Traffic Calming Program Submittals:**

Updates on recent Traffic Calming Program petitions are provided below:



- Crest (Liberty to Buena Vista; and Buena Vista to Washington): The traffic calming process for this petition kicked-off in early July. The northern segment (Buena Vista to Washington) submitted a qualifying petition and the City is facilitating parallel but separate processes for the two adjacent traffic calming project areas. The first public meeting was held on August 1, 2019 at which time the program was described in detail and starter ideas were shared. An on-site meeting was held on September 19, 2019 to discuss the revised project ideas and garner additional feedback. Polling of the final design concept is expected to go out to later in October.
- Fernwood (Lorraine to Packard): A petition for Traffic Calming was received and is currently being reviewed.
- Glenwood (Overridge to Washtenaw): A petition for Traffic Calming was received and is currently being reviewed.
- Rosedale (Redwood to Packard): A petition for Traffic Calming was received and is currently being reviewed.
- Longman (Dexter to Jackson): A petition for Traffic Calming was received and is currently being reviewed.

**Transportation Plan update:**

The second Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting was held on September 19, 2019. The meeting included an opportunity for public comment. The meeting agenda, presentation and summary is posted on the project website. The project team will host an event for additional community input on Tuesday, October 15 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. at the [Peace Neighborhood Center](#), located at 1111 North Maple in Ann Arbor. Similar to the outreach at the Mayor's Green Fair in July, the project team will be present to inform people of what is happening, the process and gather feedback on how people choose to get around Ann Arbor as well as the challenges they face in doing so; all are welcome to attend. Technical analysis of the transportation data continues. Additional information is available on the project website: [a2gov.org/A2MovingTogether](http://a2gov.org/A2MovingTogether). Those interested in receiving project updates can [subscribe](#) for email notifications.

**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 awarded the contract on September 3, 2019. The project is expected to kick-off in the ensuing months.

**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; 11 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.

**ArborBike:**

Planning remains underway for relaunch of the ArborBike system. AAATA is overseeing the Contractor on behalf of the bikeshare partnership that includes the City, the AAATA, the UM and AADDA. Shift Transit (the operator) is working on final revisions to bikeshare dock drawings to secure City approvals for dock locations. City of Ann Arbor staff are working to finalize the license agreement for right-of-way occupancy.

**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 –A new transportation engineer started in March 2019 and the approved budget for FY 2020 identifies a new senior transportation engineer. Recruitment for this position will begin shortly now that the new fiscal year has begun. Research on job descriptions from other communities is currently underway.
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 Seventh/Scio and Seventh/Stadium intersections; Earhart, Green, and Traverwood lane reconfiguration projects; pavement preservation project; N. Maple crosswalks; and the Scio Church service drive traffic calming. City staff and DDA staff are also strategizing on an outreach campaign that would accompany the ribbon cutting of the William Street cycle track. Outreach is ongoing on the Transportation Plan Update and the Crest Avenue Traffic Calming project.
5. Amend the Traffic Calming Program – the modified update to the Traffic Calming Program was adopted by City Council on November 19, 2018 and was successfully applied to the Scio Church Service Drive Traffic Calming project, and is being used for the Crest Avenue Traffic Calming projects.



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. .
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:**

One year into the implementation of the new Green Fleets policy, the City’s Green Fleets Team (GFT) will be soon making suggestions to revise the policy. The GFT is also researching plug-in and hybrid options for patrol vehicles for AAPD. The Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI) continues to work with Finance and the City Administrator to find funds to electrify the City’s fleet as soon as possible. The Electric Vehicle Readiness Subcommittee of the Energy Commission is working with Planning staff to finalize draft recommendations for the new electric vehicle parking and charging ordinance.

Ann Arbor Public Schools have won a [grant from the state to buy four electric buses for their fleet](#). The City is thrilled that Ann Arbor school kids will soon be having green commutes to school. There are talks about how to best utilize the school buses during an emergency. One thought is to pair them with solar at emergency centers for off-grid solar power. The buses could also be used as mobile cooling centers during hot weather.