

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES STAFF REPORT

For Joint Planning Commission/Transportation Commission Meeting of April 20,
2021

SUBJECT: City of Ann Arbor Master Plan Amendment: Ann Arbor Moving Together Towards Vision Zero – City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Transportation Plan Adoption

Proposed City Planning Commission Motion

Resolved by the Ann Arbor City Planning Commission that the Ann Arbor Moving Together Towards Vision Zero – City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Transportation Plan, inclusive of all appendices, is adopted as an element of the City of Ann Arbor Master Plan; and

Resolved that the following documents are hereby repealed:

- The Ann Arbor Transportation Plan – 2009
- The Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (2007) and Update (2013)

Proposed City Planning Commission Motion

The Ann Arbor City Planning Commission hereby recommends that the City Council adopt The Ann Arbor Moving Together Towards Vision Zero – City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Transportation Plan as an element of the City of Ann Arbor Master Plan, and repeals the previous documents that this update replaces:

- The Ann Arbor Transportation Plan – 2009
- The Non-Motorized Transportation Plan – 2007 and Update 2013

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Ann Arbor Moving Together Towards Vision Zero – City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Transportation Plan, be **adopted** as an element of the City of Ann Arbor Master Plan, and recommended to City Council for approval.

STAFF REPORT

Chapter 8 of the City Code directs that the Planning Commission prepare a master plan for the development of the City. Consistent with these regulations and the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, the City has developed the Ann Arbor Moving Together Towards Vision Zero – City of Ann Arbor Comprehensive Transportation Plan (the “Plan”) (https://www.a2gov.org/departments/engineering/Documents/Ann%20Arbor%20Moving%20Together_April%202021%20-%20FINAL%20v2%20Reduced%20%281%29.pdf).

Additionally, Chapter 8 and the Michigan Planning Enabling Act prescribe the procedures for adoption of the Master Plan. If approved, this Plan would be added to the following documents which, in total, would constitute the City’s Master Plan:

- Sustainability Framework (2013)
- Land Use Element (2009) including State Street Corridor Plan (2013)
- Downtown Plan (2009)
- Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan (2016)
- Natural Features Master Plan (2004)
- Treeline Allen Creek Urban Trail Master Plan (2018)

Adoption Process

Through the Michigan Planning Enabling Act and City Code, the following steps are required for the adoption of the Plan:

Completed:

1. After preparation of the Plan, the Planning Commission submitted the Plan to the City Council for review and comment on December 1, 2020.
2. On January 4, 2021, the City Council authorized the distribution of the Plan to neighboring jurisdictions and applicable agencies for a 63 day comment period on the proposed Plan. A summary of the comments received and City responses are provided here:
<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/engineering/Documents/Copy%20of%20Plan%20Responsiveness%20Summary%20with%20ec.pdf>

Upcoming:

3. Approval of the Plan by the Planning Commission shall be considered at the meeting of April 20, 2021, after a public hearing. A 2/3 majority of the Planning Commission is required for adoption.
4. If approved, the Secretary of the Planning Commission will forward the Plan to the City Council.
5. After receipt, the City Council shall approve or reject the Plan.

The Plan

The Plan development was led by the City Engineering Department, Sam Schwartz, and AECOM. The development plan included a Technical Advisory Committee, comprised of other City departments and transportation agency stakeholders provided guidance, input, and direction through the process of development. A Community Advisory Committee was also established to provide feedback on plan development, and specifically, strategies to engage with the public over the course of the project.

Through discovery, ideation, and action plan phases, the Plan reflects:

- The opportunities and challenges regarding transportation in the City.

- Development of transportation goals, and the ideas for projects, policies, and programs to achieve them.
- The organization and prioritization of actions, including timeframes, responsible entities, and potential resource needs.

The Plan, resulting from a robust community engagement process, sets forth the following goals for the City of Ann Arbor transportation systems:

1. **Vision Zero:** By 2025, we have eliminated fatalities and serious injuries resulting from traffic crashes.
2. **Carbon Neutrality:** By 2030, we have transitioned to a carbon-neutral transportation system.

From these goals, the Plan establishes five “Mobility Values”, that spur, organize, and provide measurement for the City’s success in reaching our transportation goals:

1. **Safety** – Ann Arbor is a safe city where everyone participates in creating an environment in which people feel confident and comfortable traveling.
2. **Mobility** – Ann Arbor prioritizes moving people and goods efficiently; making it easier for people to choose sustainable modes of transportation.
3. **Accessibility for All** – In Ann Arbor, people of all abilities, ages, and stages of life, income, race, cultures and ethnicities have equitable access to the places where they live, work and play.
4. **Healthy People & Sustainable Places** – Ann Arbor’s transportation system supports a healthy population, sustainable environment, and robust economy, while celebrating and enhancing a unique quality of place.
5. **Regional Connectivity** – Ann Arbor prioritizes moving people and goods efficiently; making it easier for people to choose sustainable modes of transportation.

The Plan proceeds to apply these goals and values, through the development of 22 distinct and specific mobility strategies to achieve the City’s transportation goals. These strategies incorporate policy decisions, advocacy direction, educational opportunities, and specific tools/treatments/approaches that can be considered for the City to advance its transportation goals and be faithful to the Goals and Values prescribed in the Plan.

The Plan and related appendices can be found here:

<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/engineering/Pages/Ann-Arbor-Moving-Together-Towards-Vision-Zero.aspx>

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