



Transportation Project Updates December 2019

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2019 Construction Projects

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.

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. Construction for the 2019 program is now complete.

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. Construction for the 2019 program is now complete. A full list of streets that were completed as part of the 2019 project can be found on the website at: a2gov.org/RoadConstruction.

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 ninth monthly progress report of upgrades to existing crosswalks will be shared with City Council in December 2019 and includes the following updates. 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;
- A new pedestrian refuge island was installed on Fuller Rd. at the pedestrian crossing near Gallup Park which serves 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.
- 102 in-road crosswalk signs (R1-6A) were deployed at 47 locations; 64 damaged signs were replaced.
- R1-6A signs that were removed along Liberty Street and Seventh Street due to construction have been reinstalled.
- 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. and the crosswalk was relocated
- New RRFBs were installed on Geddes Rd. outside of Concordia University
- A new crosswalk was installed with pedestrian crossing signs on Earhart Rd. north of Geddes Rd.



- A new crosswalk and RRFBs were installed on N. Maple Rd. outside the Peace Neighborhood Center
- A new crosswalk and RRFBs were installed on N. Maple Rd. outside the Alano Club
- A new crosswalk and RRFBs were installed on N. Maple Rd. near Walter Dr.
- A new crosswalk and RRFBs were installed on Eisenhower Pkwy. at Plaza Rd.
- A new crosswalk and RRFBs were installed on S. Maple Rd. near Bens Dr.
- New RRFBs were installed on Eisenhower Pkwy. at Plaza Rd.
- A damaged RRFB on Stadium Blvd near Ferdon Rd was replaced
- A new pedestrian signal was installed on Washtenaw Ave. at Pittsfield Blvd.
- New pedestrian crossing signs were added on Dhu Varren Rd. at Carrot Way
- New pedestrian crossing signs were added on Dhu Varren Rd. at Olson Park
- New crosswalks and R1-6A signs were installed on Fifth Ave. by Kerrytown as part of DDA's project.
- New school crossing signs were installed on Green Rd at Burbank Dr/Gettysburg Rd.
- New pedestrian crossing signs were installed on Hoover Ave and Division St.
- A demonstration bumpout was installed at Fifth Ave. and Beakes St.
- Restriped/refreshed 178 Major Street crosswalk markings
- Restriped/refreshed 166 Minor (local) Street crosswalk markings

In addition to the improvements listed above, 31 streetlights were installed: 13 City locations; 13 DTE locations; and 5 locations as part of other projects. Additionally, DTE serviced 818 streetlight outages since April 1, 2019.

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 included 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 now substantially complete.

Huron Street Improvements:

To avoid leaving closures and barricades up during the winter months, work between 5th Avenue and Main Street on the north side of the street is being deferred to spring 2020. Installation of pedestrian lighting continues and is expected to wrap up this month.

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 5th Avenue: Approved, MDOT will install in 2020.
5. Non-Rush Hour Parking: Denied.

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 sharrow on the northbound lane). The striping for this project is anticipated to occur spring 2020.

William Street Improvements:

The bikeway is substantially complete. Given the temperatures, some pavement markings will be temporarily applied and refreshed in the spring.

Education is on-going. Resources can be found at <http://www.peoplefriendlystreets.org/educational-resources/>

Projects Currently in Design/Planning**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.

At this time, the City is planning to proceed with the sidewalk improvements that were included in the original project scope, and not add the additional sidewalk construction at the west end of the project. Staff has also proposed removing on-street parking on the eastern portion of the project in order to install bike lanes. The Transportation Commission approved the parking removal, and recommended Council approval at their October meeting. A resolution to approve the removal of on-street parking appeared before Council on November 18. The item was postponed by Council until the second meeting in January, and staff was directed to do further polling of the neighborhood on this issue. Staff has mailed out survey postcards to all properties abutting the affected



roadway, and will tally and summarize the results of this and all the polling done in advance of the second Council meeting in January.

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 signal is warranted at this location. The City and AAATA have executed an agreement. Construction is expected in the spring of 2020.

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 can be found on the project website at:

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 January 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
- Stimson (both sides) from State Street east

An initial public meeting for the Fuller Court and Nixon/Traver sidewalk gaps was held on December 11th. A summary of this public meeting will be posted on the [project website](#) when available.

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). 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.

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

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) Installations:

Completed RRFBs are reported above in the Crosswalk Improvement section. 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

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 (in addition to those already voted on by Council) were:

- South Industrial (Stadium to 800 feet south of Stimson) – staff will work on an engagement strategy over the winter.
- Platt Road (Packard to Canterbury) – analyzed and found to be not viable
- West Oakbrook Drive (Ann Arbor-Saline to S. Main) – staff will work on an engagement strategy over the winter.

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) for review. The document has been forwarded by FRA planning and environmental staff to FRA's legal office for final legal review prior to authorizing the release the document to the public. For additional background please visit the [project website](#).

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.

Crosswalk Streetlight Implementation:



As reported above, lighting was installed at 31 locations. It should also be noted that all crosswalk lighting is installed to provide positive contrast lighting to the pedestrian when in the crosswalk.

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 project kicked-off in October and the consultant is beginning to collect data and conduct stakeholder interviews.

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. Some projects currently being coordinated with MDOT include:

- N. Main St. – MDOT is expected to kick-off engineering in the winter with public input in Spring 2020
- I-94 Operations study – MDOT held a public meeting on November 7, 2019.
- Jackson Ave. – MDOT denied the request for an enhanced crosswalk at Jackson Ave near Weber's Inn, citing that an enhanced crosswalk was not warranted per their analysis. The City continues to appeal this decision.
- Huron and Thayer crosswalk – 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.

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.

City Council passed a [resolution in support of creating a plan to achieve Ann Arbor community-wide climate neutrality by 2030](#) at their November 4, 2019 meeting.

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 – Recruitment for a new transportation engineer has begun.
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”) has 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 –Outreach is ongoing on the Transportation Plan Update and the Crest Avenue Traffic Calming project. The City will also run dozens of employees through an intensive public outreach training in February and March.
5. Amend the Traffic Calming Program – Complete.
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. The Transportation Plan update (detailed above) has a focus of Vision Zero and is establishing a vision for Ann Arbor’s future transportation network. The Community Advisory Committee for the plan update is serving as a Vision Zero Task Force.

Traffic Calming Program Submittals:

Updates on recent Traffic Calming Program petitions are provided below:

- Crest (Liberty to Buena Vista; and Buena Vista to Washington): Polling of the final design concepts for the two project areas is complete. There was less than 50% support for both project areas and therefore will not be constructed.
- Fernwood (Lorraine to Packard): The public engagement process has been initiated for traffic calming
- Glenwood (Override to Washtenaw): The public engagement process has been initiated for traffic calming.
- 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.
- Northside (Barton to Pontiac): A petition for Traffic Calming was received and is currently being reviewed.
- Granger (State to Packard): A petition for Traffic Calming was received and is currently being reviewed.



- Granger (S. Forest to Olivia): A petition for Traffic Calming was received and is currently being reviewed.

Transportation Plan Update:

A second Open House was held on November 20, 2019, in the City Hall lobby. Approximately 50 citizens attended the meeting. Attendees were provided a review of work to-date and opportunity to participate in two activities: the first opportunity was provide input related to focus corridors; the second sought input on defining and identifying a low-stress bicycle network. A presentation to the Transportation Commission was provided on November 20. Additional information is available on the project website: a2gov.org/A2MovingTogether. Those interested in receiving project updates can [subscribe](#) for email notifications.