



## **Border-to-Border Trail: Barton-Bandemer Connection Project**

### **Public Meeting Comments Summary**

A public meeting was held on February 26, 2019 at 6:30pm at Forsythe Middle School to seek initial public feedback to the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC) regarding the Border-to-Border Trail (B2B) Barton-Bandemer Connection Project. 60 members of the public signed in at the meeting, which consisted of a brief presentation by staff, followed by open discussion questions, then open house format with more detailed maps and staff/consultants at each.

In total, 60 written comments have been received for this project as of March 12, 2019 – all of which are included as part of this packet. 19 written comments were collected by the end of the initial meeting and staff received 13 emails and 28 on-line form submissions during the two weeks afterwards. The meeting's power point and maps were posted on the same site as the comment sheets to provide as much information as possible to the public who were unable to attend the meeting. Per the request of some members of the public, the comment period has been re-opened and left open-ended.

#### **Common themes expressed** *(not representative of quantity of expression):*

- The tunnel is essential for the future success of the B2B and bike and pedestrian traffic to move in to and out of the City in the North Main/Huron River Drive area.
- Support for the tunnel portion of the project because of a clear desire for the pedestrian connection and a desire by the rail to prevent crossing the tracks
- Concern that the project will take too long to implement and a desire to implement the project quickly
- Concern for how the trail and tunnel will change demand for the current parking lot near Barton Dam and the use of any of the nature trails in Bird Hills and surrounding nature areas.
- Request of the team to make the tunnel feel safe through use of sight lines, lightning, and other measures.
- Support for the tunnel because it also connects the hiking and biking trails of the adjacent nature areas to parking areas and the B2B in Bandemer Park
- Support for the overall project to provide a safe bike route along N. Main at the M-14 interchange.
- Concern for overall project costs and how to pay for it.
- Overall project would be a benefit to the community
- Why can't we build a gated crossing instead of a tunnel, it would be much cheaper?
- Support or no concern for paving the main (existing woodchip) trail through Barton Nature Area as long as it is part of a regional system.
- Build the tunnel but don't touch the nature area because it is nice as-is.
- Support of paving in the nature area if disturbance and path width is kept to a minimum to keep as much existing vegetation and feel.
- Concern for stormwater runoff from a paved trail in the nature area

- Is it possible to add a limestone or dirt path next to the paved path for runners?
- Consider alternate materials to asphalt for the trail in the nature area such as porous paving or limestone.
- Support of improving ADA connections and improving safety
- Current woodchip trail is often muddy and difficult to use, paving would solve this
- Oppose paving the wood chip trail in the nature area.
- Have all of the alternatives to paving the trail been explored?
- Concern for increased incursion into natural areas

Please see the separate comment sheets for complete information.