



# City of Ann Arbor

## Meeting Minutes

### Transportation Commission

301 E. Huron St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

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Wednesday, June 18, 2025

7:00 PM

Electronic Meeting

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This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99. To Dial in, call 206-337-9723 or 888 788 0099 and enter Meeting ID: 934 6385 2907. To join the webinar, click the following link and enter passcode 664194: <https://a2gov.zoom.us/>

**I.) CALL TO ORDER (Bret Hautamaki)(1 Minute)**

*Chair Bret Hautamaki called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.*

**II.) ROLL CALL (Christopher Cespedes) (2 Minutes)**

- *Non-voting Commission members in attendance: Lieutenant Mike Scherba, Cynthia Redinger, Nick Hutchinson*
- *Non-voting Commission members absent: Liz Margolis, Ben Stupka,*
- *Present city staff, speakers, and/or guests: Christopher Cespedes, Christopher Wall, Carmelle Tremblay, Andy Kaspor, Vaughn Martin*

**Present:** 9 - Bret Hautamaki, Peter Houk, Wonwoo Lee, Larry Keeler, Matt Carpenter, Erich Zechar, Kate Flewelling, Dharma Akmon, and Rachel Jacobson

**Absent:** 1 - April Conway

**III.) CONSENT AGENDA (Bret Hautamaki)(2 Minutes)**

III.A.) Approval of Agenda

III.B.) Approval of Minutes

**25-1205** Transportation Commission - Meeting Minutes May 2025

**Attachments:** Meeting\_Minutes-MAY-2025.pdf

*A motion was made by Akmon, seconded by Keeler to recommend the approval of the agenda and last month's meeting minutes. On a unanimous voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried. The motion was approved unanimously by the Commission and forwarded to City Council.*

**IV.) PUBLIC COMMENT - 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER (Bret Hautamaki)****25-1206**

Email Correspondence - June 2025

**Attachments:** Improvements needed at Lincoln\_&\_Wells.pdf, Improvements requested at Lincoln Ave and Wells St.pdf, The System is Broken.pdf, Urgent need for crosswalk after many years of advocacy.pdf, GridSmart Pedestrian Detection.pdf

*Live public comments summarized below:*

*- Kathy Griswold urged the Commission to prioritize safety outcomes over infrastructure delivery, citing rising crash rates and a need for more assertive action. She called for the removal of the Miller Avenue two-way cycle track, installation of the Sunset sidewalk, enforcement of sightline ordinances near the DDA, and an updated MDOT crash severity chart that accounts for modern vehicle sizes.*

*-Kirk Westphal raised concerns about Packard Street's alignment with Vision Zero goals. He questioned the lack of vertical traffic-calming features, such as raised crosswalks, and called for clearer integration of design-speed limits into project planning.*

*-Adam Jaskiewicz supported installing a crosswalk on Stadium Boulevard between Packard and South Industrial, noting nearby curb cuts, public requests, and high demand from schools, parks, and housing in the area.*

**V.) BUSINESS**

V.A.) There are no business items scheduled for this meeting

## VI.) INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

VI.A.) Packard Street Project Updates (Chris Wall - WadeTrim) (30 Minutes)

### 25-1333

#### Packard Street Improvement Project

**Attachments:** Packard Street - Slides for Transportation Commission Meeting.pdf

*Commissioner questions and comments:*

- Commissioners requested clearer explanation of the proposed safety features, particularly those addressing the corridor's Tier 1 designation and "all ages and abilities" goals. Several asked for clarification on the purpose and design of flush concrete aprons, accessible pedestrian signals, and buffered bike lanes.
- There was strong interest in understanding how the design would reduce vehicle speeds and improve intersection safety. Commissioners inquired whether raised crosswalks, roundabouts, or other physical traffic calming elements were considered.
- Multiple commissioners questioned whether the plan provided enough physical protection for cyclists, comparing the proposed buffer with more separated bike facilities used in other major corridors.
- Concerns were raised about the effectiveness and durability of flexible posts, as well as how they would be spaced to prevent vehicles from swerving into bike lanes to pass turning cars.
- Commissioners highlighted potential signal confusion at skewed intersections and urged attention to reducing visual clutter. Specific intersections like Hill and Division were cited as areas where additional separation, markings, or vertical elements may be needed to prevent driver encroachment into bike infrastructure.
- Questions were also raised about lane widths, particularly the narrowing to 10 feet near State Street, with one comment noting potential safety risks for buses and large vehicles.

VI.B.) North University Avenue Project Updates (Chris Wall - WadeTrim) (30 Minutes)

**25-1332**

North University Avenue & Thayer Street Improvements Project

**Attachments:** North U Transportation Commission Slides 06-18-25.pdf

*Commissioner questions and comments:*

- *Commissioners expressed appreciation for the inclusion of race and demographic data in the fatality summary and requested additional transparency around data sources and definitions, especially concerning how speed-related crashes and racial equity impacts are measured.*
- *Multiple commissioners emphasized the need to disaggregate fatal crash data by factors such as location context (e.g., posted speed limits, roadway classification) and demographics, in order to better identify systemic disparities in safety outcomes.*
- *Questions were raised about how the City defines “speeding” in crash reporting and whether current data accurately reflects the severity of unsafe driving behaviors. Some commissioners encouraged staff to pursue supplemental data sources if current reports are incomplete or inconsistent.*
- *Commissioners also encouraged staff to share more detailed narratives when discussing fatal crashes, to help the public better understand the context and inform potential design or policy interventions.*
- *The Commission voiced strong support for using Vision Zero as a policy framework to drive not only engineering changes, but broader systemic accountability in traffic safety enforcement, equity, and communication strategies.*

**VII.) COMMUNICATIONS**

VII.A.) Staff Report and Updates (Cynthia Redinger) (15 Minutes)

**25-1209** Transportation Project Updates - June 2025

**Attachments:** Transportation Project Updates - June 2025.pdf, May 2025 Monthly Offense and Pedestrian Report.pdf

*Commissioner questions and comments:*

- *Commissioners asked for clarification on the timeline and rationale for removing flex posts along Division, especially whether their removal was tied to budget constraints or a shift in design philosophy.*
- *There was concern about ensuring the remaining infrastructure still communicates safe, protected space for cyclists, particularly at the intersection of Division and Packard, where commissioners noted ambiguity in the current design.*
- *Commissioners also inquired about the broader goals and timeline of the Division resurfacing project, asking how temporary removals or adjustments would align with long-term infrastructure planning.*

VII.B.) Liaison Reports (Bret Hautamaki) (5 Minutes)

*Liaison Reports:*

- *Planning Commission: Commissioner Lee reported that the second draft of the Comprehensive Plan is available online and will be reviewed in late June or early July. He encouraged attention to land use and transition zones, particularly along Packard. He also shared updates on major developments at Arbor South, 1208 South University, and Briarwood Mall.*
- *Commission on Disability Issues: Commissioner Keeler relayed concerns about (1) stairs on 3rd Street near Liberty, (2) a request for an APS at Packard and Fernwood, and (3) the need for a crosswalk on Plymouth Road. Staff confirmed the 3rd Street project is planned, and noted the other items will be evaluated.*
- *Staff Update: Christopher Cespedes announced his transition to a new role and thanked the Commission for their collaboration.*

VII.C.) Commission Member Communications (Bret Hautamaki) (2 Minutes)

*No commissioner member communications were made.*

**VIII.) NEXT AGENDA ITEMS (Bret Hautamaki) (2 Minutes)**

*Proposed agenda topics includes:*

- *Fleet Vehicle Sizing and Street Design Impacts.*
- *Crosswalk Design Guidelines & Mapping Review*
- *Residential Snow Removal & Winter Accessibility*
- *Snow Removal Rule (4-inch threshold) – Local Roads*
- *Treeline Trail Updates*
- *Signal Design – AECOM*
- *Lane Reduction Study*

**IX.) ADJOURNMENT (Bret Hautamaki) (1 Minute)**

*The meeting was adjourned by Chair Hautamaki at 9:00pm*