

To: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission

From: Reid Pinkham

Subject: Main Street Reconfiguration

Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021

Hi,

I originally contacted my council members with feedback, but they directed me to you.

I'm a resident of Ward 4 who has to commute to work on UM's north campus. I've in general been hesitant to the healthy streets initiative on both Division and Main st because they both have caused a significant backup for my commute. **In particular, this recent change to one lane each direction on S. Main st to add bicycle lanes has caused multi-minute backups every day.** There has to be a better solution to enable safe biking other than to cause a traffic jam every day at rush hour. When the number of commuters return to pre-pandemic levels, these multi-minute backups will increase even further. I'd like nothing more than to be able to take public transit to work, but as the bus routes are now it is a 40 minute bus ride with a transfer, a 30 minute bike ride (weather permitting), or a 15 minute drive to go from ward 4 to UM's north campus. Until either an efficient driving route around downtown exists or a competitively fast public transit option is in place, we have to consider that the implementation of the lane reconfigurations being considered for downtown on S. Main St and Division cause everyone who has to commute via car a major inconvenience. I feel that in general the lane closures have inconvenienced the majority of commuters without providing a realistic alternative for the sake of the small subset of bike commuters.

Reid

To: Reid Pinkham

From: Raymond Hess

Subject: Main Street Reconfiguration

Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021

Mx Pinkham,

Thank you for sharing your observations and providing feedback on changes to South Main Street, a part of the City's [Healthy Streets program](#). It is my understanding there were several issues including construction closures on nearby streets as well as streets closed due to a water main break impacting traffic in, and around, the area last week. This in addition to the UM student move in that always results in many new drivers along our City streets created a lot of new traffic challenges recently.

Hopefully, the situation has begun to improve as move-in is over and traffic starts to normalize and adjust to these conditions. The safety, effectiveness, and usage of the City's Healthy Streets program will be monitored throughout the fall period. Staff will adjust the program as needed based on data and

observation. The S. Main changes as well as all neighborhood Healthy Streets will be removed no later than November 29, in advance of anticipated snow removal operations.

As to adjustments, City staff have been observing traffic, to ascertain if any improvements, or adjustments, are needed to address emerging traffic or safety issues. We are in the process of observing traffic patterns combined with traffic signal timing and continuing to consider additional measures to assist traffic flow. Please be patient as adjustments are made to the Healthy Streets deployment. We anticipate traffic will improve once further adjustments are implemented.

Please contact Eli Cooper at ecooper@a2gov.org, if you have any further questions or concerns.

Respectfully

Raymond