



## Transportation Project Updates May 2020

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### **2020 Construction Projects**

#### **Allen Creek Berm Opening:**

The Allen Creek Berm opening Stormwater and Pedestrian Tunnel project took a huge step forward this week with installation of the three culvert sections under the Wolverine Line railroad tracks. Two of the culverts are stormwater features designed to address the long-standing flooding issue existent in this area. The third tunnel is designed to provide a bicycle and pedestrian, shared-use path, connection linking the north and west downtown neighbors directly with the Border-to-Border trail. This soon to be complete tunnel will provide safe, convenient and legal access to the Argo Cascades for the first time in over one hundred years! Placing the culverts occurred during a scheduled rail service suspension. A time lapse video of this phase of the project is available for public viewing on [YouTube](#); it was captured and posted by W.A.P. John, a long-term resident and local businessman. Work will continue through the spring and summer with construction of the trail to access the tunnel and a bridge over the Allen Creek Outlet, west of the newly placed tunnel. More information is available on the [project website](#).

#### **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 2020 target areas can be found at [a2gov.org/Sidewalks](https://a2gov.org/Sidewalks). Construction began the last week of April, starting in the downtown area. Work is expected to continue through October.

#### **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. Included in the 2020 program are Boardwalk (Eisenhower to north end), Granger (State to Packard), Geddes Ave (Church to Observatory), asphalt path resurfacing on Oakbrook and South Main Street, and a number of residential street resurfacing projects, which will be concentrated in the neighborhood around Dicken Elementary School. A full list of streets is posted on the website at: [a2gov.org/RoadConstruction](https://a2gov.org/RoadConstruction). Construction began May 11, and is expected to continue into November.

#### **Barton Drive (M-14 to Pontiac):**

The scope 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.



Staff is moving ahead with the proposal to install sidewalk on the north side of Barton Drive from Brede to Pontiac, and at the Barton/Starwick intersection. Resolutions #4 to approve the final special assessment roll for both of these locations were approved by City Council at the May 4 Council meeting. Construction is currently scheduled to start right after Memorial Day.

### **Huron Street Improvements:**

Huron Street sidewalk improvements are substantially complete. The requested transportation and safety enhancement work will be performed by MDOT as follows:

1. Leading pedestrian intervals (LPis) at signalized intersections between First and Division Streets: MDOT initially shared that adequate walk time already existed and noted that adding pedestrian walk time could negatively affect the vehicular operations at the subject intersections. Subsequently, MDOT approved LPis at the First and Ashley Street intersections with installation as part of the First and Ashley Street Improvements in 2020 and 2021. City/DDA staff will continue to follow up on this request.
2. Third and Chapin full signal: Approved. MDOT installation planned for spring 2021.
3. Restricted Right Turns: Approved. MDOT installation planned for late summer 2020.
4. Permissive/Protected left turn phase at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue: Approved. MDOT installation planned for spring 2021.

### **Jackson Avenue and Washtenaw Avenue Sidewalk Gap Project:**

This project includes filling gaps in the sidewalk system on Jackson Avenue (south side) from Westover Avenue to Park Lake Avenue. Also included is the construction of a Non-motorized Path along the south side of Washtenaw Avenue (north of the service drive) from S. Huron Parkway to Pittsfield Boulevard.

Construction is scheduled to begin on the Washtenaw segment of the project in the week of May 18. The cost of the Jackson Ave portion of the project will be specially assessed to the adjacent property owners as it is first-time construction. Resolution #4 to approve the final special assessment roll, as well as the Public Hearing, are scheduled for the May 18 Council meeting.

### **Other Sidewalk Gap Work**

In addition to the sidewalk gap projects referenced above, the following additional locations are planned for 2020, to be done as part of other projects:

- Stimson (both sides) from State Street east – part of Sidewalk Repair Program. Special Assessment Resolution #2 is anticipated to go to City Council on July 6
- Boardwalk Drive (2875 & 2775), east side – part of Resurfacing project. Special Assessment Resolution #2 is anticipated to go to City Council on July 6
- Hollywood Dr. (Maple to Alison), both sides – part of Resurfacing project (this work postponed to 2021)

**Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) Installations:**

The following RRFB installations are planned for 2020:

- S. Industrial at Rosewood St. – completed January 2020
- S. Industrial at Jewett Ave – completed January 2020
- S. Industrial at Central Academy – completed January 2020
- S. Industrial at Astor Ave – completed December 2019
- Huron Parkway at Glazier Way – construction anticipated for early fall 2020
- Huron Parkway at Baxter Rd – construction anticipated for early fall 2020
- Note: additional locations may be identified

**Projects Currently in Design/Planning****Fuller Court/Nixon/Traver Sidewalk Gap Project:**

This project includes the filling of sidewalk gaps on Fuller Ct. (south side) from Fuller Road to 2250 Fuller Ct. and on Nixon/Traver (west/north side) from end of existing sidewalk to Logan Elementary. City Council approved the special assessment rolls for both locations at their May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

At this time, construction is likely going to be delayed until the spring of 2021.

**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. A second public meeting is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. More information can be found on the project website at: [a2gov.org/Hollywood](http://a2gov.org/Hollywood). Construction for this project has been postponed until the spring of 2021.

**People Friendly Streets Initiative:**

First Street construction is scheduled to begin May 1, 2020, Ashley Street is scheduled to begin spring 2021.

In December 2019, the DDA Board approved funding for another round of People-Friendly Streets Projects – a collaborative effort with City Engineering. This next round of projects will continue the community conversation about safe, equitable streets in coordination with other on-going efforts, including the City's Transportation Master Plan and Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The DDA is exploring ways to pilot some future improvements as a way to engage the community and help fill a current need for safe access and recreation. Design and public engagement are scheduled to begin spring/summer 2020.



## **Other Updates and Information**

### **ArborBike:**

The onset of COVID-19 has complicated the relaunch of ArborBike and the project will not relaunch this year as planned. The pandemic has made the relaunch infeasible in 2020 because: a) the AAATA is experiencing significant budgetary challenges; b) managing and cleaning the system will be difficult with limited personnel; and c) City agreements and permits had not yet been finalized.

### **Curbside Management Study:**

These activities and studies are on hold due to significant impacts to the public parking system fund and significant short-term changes to curbside use. Staff will provide updates as studies and activities resume.

In the meantime, the City and partner agencies are participating in a Transportation for America (T4A) smart cities collaborative on curb management. Ann Arbor is a peer community in this initiative which means it will be part of the conversation, share ideas, help influence, and learn from pilots in Boston, Minneapolis, and Bellevue (WA). More information is available at: <http://smartcities.t4america.org/>

### **“Healthy Streets” - Transportation opportunities for social distancing**

Staff shared a memo with the Transportation Commission in April describing some of the considerations of how the public rights-of-way could be used differently to better accommodate social distancing. An updated memo was shared with the Transportation Commission in May. Additionally, an online engagement tool was launched in May that will gather suggestions from the public on where there is support for “Healthy Streets.” [www.a2gov.org/HealthyStreetsSurvey](http://www.a2gov.org/HealthyStreetsSurvey)

### **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. In addition to the updates provided above under Huron Street updates, some projects currently being coordinated with MDOT include:

- Huron and Thayer crosswalk – MDOT has agreed to an improved pedestrian crossing at this location. The State Historic Preservation Office is reviewing the project which may result in design changes. It is unknown if the improvement will be RRFBs mounted on the side of the road and island, or overhead pedestrian hybrid beacons (aka HAWK). As of now, this project is scheduled for construction in spring 2021.
- North Main Street – public engagement for the North Main Street project was scheduled to begin in Spring 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MDOT is unsure if the project schedule can be maintained.

### **Office of Sustainability and Innovations Update:**

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. A



website for the initiative known as A2Zero can be found at: <https://www.a2zero.org/>. A Town Hall to share the strategies was held on February 22, 2020. Strategies related to mobility focus on reducing the total number of vehicle miles travelled and transitioning remaining vehicle miles travelled to electric vehicles. The draft plan is now available for review on the project website. City Council received the A2Zero Carbon Neutrality Plan on April 20, 2020 and further directed staff to develop a funding plan.

Adaptation and Resilience Sustainability forum: Join us on Tuesday, May 19, at 7 p.m. for a virtual sustainability forum focused on adaptation and resilience. During this forum, you'll hear from Beth Gibbons, the executive director of the American Society of Adaptation Professionals, Rebecca Esselman, the executive director of the Huron River Watershed Council, a liaison from the Red Cross (invited), and learn a bit about how resilience is integrated into the newly released Ann Arbor Carbon Neutrality Plan, A2Zero. Please [register](#) for this event. If you have questions, please contact Elizabeth Santiago ([esantiago@a2gov.org](mailto:esantiago@a2gov.org)).

**Streetlight Implementation:**

20 new streetlights were installed so far in 2020. 564 streetlight outages have been addressed by DTE in 2020.

**Traffic Calming Program Submittals:**

Updates on recent Traffic Calming Program petitions are provided below:

- Fernwood (Lorraine to Packard): The first public engagement meeting was held on March 5, 2020. The second public engagement will be held in June via Zoom.

**Transportation Plan Update:**

With the current COVID-19 limitations on public gatherings, the team is looking into strategies to continue public engagement moving forward. Currently, an on-line survey addressing bicycling system elements is in development and will be released shortly. The Project Team is continuing to develop concepts and recommendations which will be publicly vetted later this year. Please [subscribe](#) to receive updates on this project.