



## Transportation Project Updates July 2019

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### **2018 Construction Projects**

#### **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. Most of the work included in this year's project was completed, however work on one residential street (Wynnstone Dr.) was unable to be completed in 2018 and was completed in 2019. Repaving of some asphalt paths along Ann Arbor-Saline Road has also been deferred to this year and is scheduled to be completed yet this summer. A full list of streets that were included in this project can be found at: [a2gov.org/RoadConstruction](http://a2gov.org/RoadConstruction).

#### **Scio Church (Main to Seventh):**

The Scio Church resurfacing project finished in mid-June. The project included: filling the sidewalk gap on the south side of the road; addition of a sidewalk on the north side of the road adjacent to the Pioneer High School property; crosswalk improvements at the Scio Church/Seventh intersection; a midblock crossing at Chaucer; narrowing of the existing pavement to provide a traffic calming effect; adding a pedestrian refuge island on S. Seventh at the Scio Church Service Drive; a reduced impervious surface; and additional space for stormwater management features.

#### **Fifth Avenue (Kingsley to Catherine):**

Road reconstruction project including watermain replacement, stormwater management improvements, ADA ramp replacement, crosswalk improvements, and streetscape improvements. The project was designed as a joint effort between the City and the DDA. Early onset of cold weather and some issues with materials delayed this project. Concrete work has been completed, and temporary pavement has been placed. The remaining work (brick placement) is currently scheduled to be substantially completed prior to Art Fair.

### **2019 Construction Projects**

#### **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. Major road projects included in this year's program include: Stone School Road (Eisenhower to I-94); Traverwood Drive (Huron Parkway to Plymouth); Platt Road (Washtenaw to Huron Parkway); State Street (Stimpson to Oakbrook – concrete repairs); Fuller Road asphalt path at Huron High; as well as additional capital preventative maintenance treatments on several other major streets. Work is currently occurring on Stone School Road, and in the Water Hill



neighborhood. Work on Platt Road has been completed. A full list of streets included in this project can be found on the website at: [a2gov.org/roadconstruction](http://a2gov.org/roadconstruction).

### **Annual Sidewalk Repair Program:**

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](http://a2gov.org/sidewalks). Construction has begun on this project and is scheduled to go through October.

### **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 late this summer.

### **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 fourth monthly progress report of upgrades to existing crosswalks will be shared with City Council in July 2019 and will include 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;
- 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.
- 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.
- Pedestrian refuge island was installed on S. Seventh Street at the Scio Church Service Drive
- 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.
- 98 in-road crosswalk signs (R1-6A) were deployed at 44 locations; 6 damaged signs were replaced.
- Pedestrian crossing signs (W11-2 assembly) were upgraded at 2 locations.
- Installed a new crosswalk on Galake Ave. near Lakewood Elementary school entrance

In addition to the improvements listed above, 19 streetlights were installed: 10 City locations; 4 DTE locations; and 5 locations as part of other projects. Additionally, DTE serviced 185 streetlight outages since April 1, 2019.

### **School Safety Improvements:**

A list of priority items identified by the A2 Safe Transport group has been shared with the Transportation Safety Committee (TSC). City and Ann Arbor Public Schools staff identified work to be implemented in FY18 & 19. This will be considered to be the Tier 3 School Safety improvements. Implementation of the Tier 3 items will be accomplished through a combination of City crews and utilizing existing construction contracts, such as the Annual Sidewalk Repair Program. A listing of upcoming Tier 3 School Safety Improvements was provided on page 7 and 8 of the [2018 Work Plan](#). Approximately 60% of the improvements were completed in 2018, and the remainder will be completed in 2019. Per the listing compiled for City Council as discussed above, school safety improvements were made at 101 locations over the past three years.

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

The City has plans to install RRFBs during the 2019 construction season at the following locations:

- Green Road @ Greenbrier (holdover from 2018)
- Geddes Road – east of Earhart
- North Maple – near Circle Dr.
- North Maple – between Pamela and Sequoia
- South Maple – between Bens St. and Russell St.



- Eisenhower Pkwy @ Plaza Drive (HSIP Grant)
- Huron Street – near Thayer (likely a HAWK signal instead – dependent on MDOT approval)

Currently, concrete work is being done at many of these locations to prepare for the RRFB installations.

The City is also hopeful that it can proceed to install additional RRFBs at the following locations this year:

- South Main at Fieldcrest
- S. Industrial at Rosewood St.
- S. Industrial at Jewett Ave
- S. Industrial at Astor Ave
- S. Industrial at The Ride building

### **North Maple Road Restriping and Crosswalks:**

Based on the results of the analysis by City Engineering staff, the conversion to a three-lane section of this portion of North Maple was determined feasible. This conversion was completed in June 2018 following the completion of the surface treatment work. Staff will continue to monitor how the conversion is working.

The City held a public workshop on December 13 to solicit feedback on desired locations for crosswalks along Maple between Dexter and Miller. Additionally, an online map-based survey which allows residents to identify suggested locations for crosswalks is currently available until the end of March. About 30 people attended the workshop and their input will be used to guide the design and location of crosswalks. Lastly, a webpage was created for North Maple to provide background of the project as well as project updates: [a2gov.org/NorthMaple](http://a2gov.org/NorthMaple). These crosswalks are anticipated to be completed this year (see RRFB installations above).

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

The necessary easements to construct this project have now been obtained and the project is moving forward. The project is expected to be in MDOT's August bidletting, and construction is anticipated to start either in the Fall or in Spring of 2020. Either way, work will likely extend into the spring of 2020 for final completion.

### **Dhu Varren Sidewalk Gaps:**

Filling sidewalk gaps on the north side of Dhu Varren Road from Omlesaad to the west property line of the Nixon Farms development, utilizing Federal aid. This project previously included a sidewalk gap on the west side of Nixon Road from Traver to the south property line of the Nixon Farms development. However, this portion of the project was removed for consideration along with the Nixon Road Corridor design (see above). This project is currently in the design phase. A public meeting was held Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. During this meeting, the City provided a description of the proposed work, and information about the cost estimates and special assessments. A summary of the meeting will be posted when available on the project website at:



<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/engineering/Pages/Dhu-Varren-Road-Sidewalk-Project.aspx>. A Public Hearing and the final special assessment resolution are scheduled for the July 15 City Council meeting. Construction is scheduled to start in late July or early August.

### **Ann Arbor STEAM Safe Routes to School Project**

City Council did not approve the final special assessment resolution on May 20. Without an approved special assessment roll, the project cannot proceed. Therefore, the project in its current form is considered to be terminated.

### **Fuller Road Crosswalk/Sidewalk Extension:**

After months of contemplation of several factors including public input, engineering modifications, and alternatives evaluation, Council passed Resolution [R-19-118](#), which directed staff to leave the crosswalk at the existing location, widen the road, and install a pedestrian island. This work is scheduled to be completed by the end of August.

### **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 includes 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<sup>th</sup> and is scheduled to be completed in November.

**Southside Interceptor Sanitary Diversion:** While not a transportation project per se, this project will have a significant impact on traffic, as it will be closing Fuller Street at Glen Ave in order to perform some major sanitary sewer work. Work is currently on hold pending the resolution of issues with the railroad.

### **Huron Street Improvements:**

DDA improvements on Huron Street (Third Street to Division Street). Physical improvements include new sidewalks, permeable pavers, street and pedestrian lighting, landscaping, and trees. Construction began in April and is scheduled to be completed in November. A DTE gas main replacement is also underway from Fourth Avenue to Thayer.

MDOT provided some response regarding the requested transportation and safety elements, approving a permissive-protected left turn signal at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and denying non-rush hour parking. The DDA and City Transportation staff continue to coordinate with MDOT for approval of a full signal to replace the Hawk signal at Third and Huron, restricted right turn on red along the corridor, and leading pedestrian intervals.

### **William Street Improvements:**

DDA and City improvements on William Street (Fourth Street to State Street). The project includes advisory bike lanes from Fourth Street to First Street and a two-way protected bike lane from First Street to State Street. The project also addresses street



resurfacing and watermain consolidation within the project limits. Construction began May 13, 2019.

### **DDA Annual Bike Parking Installations**

[Seasonal on-street bike racks](#) have been installed at the following locations:

- 100 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue near Blom Meadworks
- 113 E. Liberty Street near Spencer
- 336 S. State Street near Bivouac
- 217 N. Main Street near Heidelberg
- 100 S. Main Street near Workantile
- 200 W. Liberty near Bill's Beer Garden
- 415 N Fourth Avenue, near Kerrytown Concert House

Additional racks have been ordered to expand the program this season. The DDA will soon begin evaluating for annual bike parking repairs and additions. If you have suggested locations or other feedback, please contact Amber Miller, DDA Capital Projects Manager at [amiller@a2dda.org](mailto:amiller@a2dda.org).

### **Projects Currently in Design/Planning**

#### **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 traffic signal is warranted at this location. This project is moving forward for construction this summer.

#### **Jackson Avenue Crosswalk:**

The City is planning for a crosswalk installation on Jackson Avenue near Weber's Inn. The crosswalk would include the installation of an RRFB. Because one leg of this crossing is owned by MDOT, the City prepared plans for submittal to MDOT to obtain permission to install the crosswalk in MDOT's right-of-way. MDOT denied this application, citing that in their analysis, an enhanced crosswalk was not warranted. The City continues to appeal this decision.

#### **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](http://a2gov.org/Nixon)). The design of this project is being undertaken by Wade Trim Associates and is expected to continue through late summer 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.

### **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 were:

- Earhart Rd (from US23 to South Waldenwood) – the project entails: reducing the number of vehicular travel lanes from four to two; adding roundabouts at the intersections of Earhart/Glazier and Earhart/Waldenwoods/Greenhills; and adding a buffered bicycle lanes and improved crosswalks. A public meeting was held on April 11 and an online survey was available from April 12 to April 29. More information is available at [www.a2gov.org/earhart](http://www.a2gov.org/earhart);
- Green Road (from Burbank Dr to Plymouth Rd) – the project entails: reducing the number of and narrowing the vehicular travel lanes; and adding bicycle lanes. A public meeting was held May 9 and an online survey was available from May 9 to May 24; and
- Traverwood Drive (from Huron Parkway to Plymouth Rd) – the project entails: reducing the number of and narrowing the vehicular; adding a bicycle lane; and adding on-street parking A public meeting was held May 9 and an online survey was available from May 9 to May 24.

At their June 17 meeting, City Council referred the matter back to the Transportation Commission. If the Transportation Commission takes action at their July meeting, then the resolutions will be forwarded back to City Council for their consideration at the first meeting in August.

Other locations evaluated by staff include:

- South Main (Madison to Stadium)
- South Industrial (Stadium to 800 feet south of Stimson)
- Platt Road (Packard to Canterbury)
- West Oakbrook Drive (Ann Arbor-Saline to S. Main)

### **Washtenaw/Pittsfield Crosswalk:**

Designs and cost estimates for this project were recently drafted and are under review by MDOT. A Transportation Work Authorization has been approved by MDOT and the project is expected to move forward in 2019.

### **People Friendly Streets Initiative**

The William and Huron Street projects are in the construction phase. The project team is continuing detailed design for First and Ashley Streets, planned for construction in 2020. Learn more at [peoplefriendlystreets.org](http://peoplefriendlystreets.org)

### **Ann/Ashley Parking Structure Expansion**

The DDA Board is pursuing a 3 story/400 space expansion of the Ann/Ashley Parking Structure. The goal is to encourage development of surface parking lots west of Main



Street. In addition to vehicle parking spaces, the project includes expanded bike parking, LED lighting, stormwater infiltration, and added capacity for electric vehicle charging stations.

The project was approved by Planning Commission in May. The DDA will bring a request to bond the project before City Council in the coming months.

### **Other Updates and Information**

#### **Ann Arbor Station:**

The revised draft Final Environmental Assessment incorporating responses to earlier public and agency comments was submitted to FRA on June 7, 2019. Once the revised Final EA is approved by FRA a public review period will be scheduled. For additional background please visit the [project website](#).

#### **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. The review of proposals for the design of the N. Main Street project is now complete and MDOT is expected to kick-off engineering in the fall with public input in Spring 2020. Additionally, the City is working with MDOT to improve the mid-block crossing on Huron near Thayer. MDOT has agreed to a pedestrian hybrid beacon (aka HAWK) at this location and the City is currently working with the State on the implementation timeline.

#### **Traffic Calming Program Submittals:**

The updated Traffic Calming Program, approved by City Council on November 19, 2018, will be used for the petitions currently under consideration.

Updates on recent Traffic Calming Program petitions are provided below:

- Scio Church Service Drive (Seventh to Chaucer): The project is now complete and installed speed humps and a raised crosswalk in June.
- Crest (Liberty to Buena Vista): The traffic calming process for this petition kicked-off in early July and the initial questionnaire was mailed to the project area. Additionally, a questionnaire was sent to the residents/property owners to the north (Buena Vista to Washington) to gauge interest in pursuing a separate but parallel traffic calming process with them since staff had received interest from several residents in this area.
- Fernwood (Lorraine to Packard): A petition for Traffic Calming was received and is currently being reviewed.

#### **Transportation Plan update:**

The project team is compiling and analyzing comments received during the committee and public meetings held in late-May and mid-June. Technical analysis of the transportation data continues. Additional Updates for the Commission will be scheduled as the project advances.



**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 Request for Proposals process is complete and City Council was presented a consultant contract on November 19, 2018 and January 21, 2019, but postponed action. The contract was not approved by City Council on February 19, 2019. However, staff was directed by Council on March 4, 2019 to include the Lower Town Area Study in the budget process. Staff is currently evaluating next steps now that the new fiscal year has started.

**Quiet Zone/Train Horn Noise:**

A summary of the technical effort and public comments received has been reported to City Council. Staff has asked Council to provide direction if further action is to be pursued on this matter.

**Crosswalk Streetlight Implementation:**

City Council lifted the moratorium on the installation of street lights and budgeted funding for implementation over the past few years. To deal with the backlog of requests for streetlights, City staff developed a prioritization model criteria to determine how to implement the lights with the potential for the greatest impact. The evaluation criteria were centered on crosswalks and included additional consideration of: the history of crashes; crash potential; proximity to transit stops; City vs. DTE system addition; proximity to activity generators/destinations; current lighting levels; street classification; and public requests/desire. It is anticipated that 25 to 40 locations will be able to be implemented with this funding in the coming year – 10 City locations; 4 DTE locations; and 5 other locations (as part of other projects) have been completed this fiscal year. It should also be noted that all crosswalk lighting is installed to provide positive contrast lighting to the pedestrian when in the crosswalk. City Council was provided an update on this streetlight implementation at their meeting on September 4, 2018. Staff gave an overview of the streetlight program to the Transportation Commission on June 19, 2019.

**ArborBike** – Planning is 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. Currently, Shift Transit (the operator) is working to secure approvals for dock locations. City of Ann Arbor staff are working to finalize the license agreement for right-of-way occupancy.

**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 –A new transportation engineer started in March 2019 and the approved budget for FY 2020 identifies a new senior transportation



- engineer. Recruitment for this position will begin shortly now that the new fiscal year 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”) have 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 – recent campaigns include: the Seventh/Scio and Seventh/Stadium intersections; Earhart, Green, and Traverwood lane reduction projects; pavement preservation project; N. Maple crosswalks; and the Scio Church service drive traffic calming. City staff and DDA staff are also strategizing on an outreach campaign that would accompany the ribbon cutting of the William Street cycle track. Outreach is ongoing on the Transportation Plan Update and the Crest Avenue Traffic Calming project.
  5. Amend the Traffic Calming Program – the modified update to the Traffic Calming Program was adopted by City Council on November 19, 2018 and was successfully applied to the Scio Church Service Drive Traffic Calming project.
  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. Preliminary discussions have also been had with Traverse City, Grand Rapids and Detroit about statewide initiatives that can assist cities improve the safety of roadways within their jurisdiction.
  7. Create a Vision Zero Task Force – The Transportation Commission passed a resolution of support for a Vision Zero Task Force at their July meeting. The Transportation Plan update (detailed above) will have a focus of Vision Zero and will set the vision for Ann Arbor’s future transportation network. The steering committee for this initiative could serve the intent of the Vision Zero Task Force.

**Office of Sustainability and Innovations Update:**

The City’s Green Fleets Team (GFT) has been reviewing low-use vehicles (defined as using less than 200 gallons of fuel each year) in the fleet for possible removal, including meeting with vehicle sponsors to hear why their low-use vehicles should stay in the fleet. The GFT is also exploring adding in a carshare option to the fleet like Maven or Zipcar. Lastly, the GFT is planning internal outreach to staff about how to reserve and use pool vehicles such as the new Chevy Bolt pool car.

The Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Subcommittee of the Energy Commission continues to meet to learn about the options for an EV Readiness Ordinance through our zoning code. The writing of a draft Ann Arbor EV readiness ordinance is currently under way and they anticipate having a draft ready for comment in the coming months.