

Ann Arbor City Council Regular Session: March 21, 2022
Email Redactions List Pursuant to Council Resolution R-09-386

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<u>Sent Time</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>CC</u>	<u>Redactions</u>	<u>Reason for Redaction</u>
2	8:08 PM	Jen Eyer	Peter Houk		Personal Contact Information	Privacy
3	8:28 PM	Jacqueline Beaudry	Christopher Taylor		Personal Contact Information	Privacy
4	8:33 PM	Christopher Taylor	Jacqueline Beaudry		Personal Contact Information	Privacy
5	8:37 PM	Lisa Disch	John Fournier		Personal Contact Information	Privacy
6	8:53 PM	Erica Briggs	Sandra Andrade		Personal Contact Information	Privacy
7	8:53 PM	Linh Song	Sandra Andrade		Personal Contact Information	Privacy

From: Peter Houk [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 8:08 PM
To: Eyer, Jen
Subject: Re: Scio Church Crosswalks

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Jen. I just wanted to follow up on some of the things we talked about wrt comparison of Scio Church and other nearby roads.

1. Scio Church is straighter than the road diet portion of Stadium, which has a curve near Greenview.
 2. Scio Church is flatter than Jackson, which has hills.
 3. We didn't talk about this one, but Scio Church is wider than Jackson (at the road diet), Dexter (only 2 car lanes), or Miller (only 2 car lanes).
 4. The three lane portion of Scio Church is MUCH longer than the three lane sections of either Jackson (3000 feet) or Stadium (4100 feet). Further, the Stadium and Jackson road diet sections are bookended by 4- and 5-lane roads, so impatient drivers can pass slower cars either before or after the road diet. Scio Church, on the other hand, is either 2 or 3 lanes all the way from Main to Wagner--2.5 miles = 13,200 feet. If you get stuck behind a slowpoke at Main, you might have to be behind him until Wagner!
- 1, 2 and 3 enable passing in the center lane by making it feel "safe" (even though it's not) and 4 gives people an incentive to do something they probably know they shouldn't.

Thanks for the chat tonight.

Pete

On Wed, Mar 16, 2022 at 8:21 PM Peter Houk [REDACTED] wrote:
Sure thing! Any time after 4:00 works.

On Wed, Mar 16, 2022 at 7:47 PM Eyer, Jen <JEyer@a2gov.org> wrote:
Hey can we touch base on this tomorrow?

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From: Peter Houk [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 7:42:40 PM
To: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@a2gov.org>
Cc: Hess, Raymond <RHess@a2gov.org>; Redinger, Cynthia <CRedinger@a2gov.org>; Carson, Chris <CCarson@a2gov.org>; Eyer, Jen <JEyer@a2gov.org>; Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Cooper, Eli <ECooper@a2gov.org>; Molly Kleinman <mollykleinman@gmail.com>; Suzette Wanninkhof

[REDACTED] Larry Deck [REDACTED]

Seth Peterson [REDACTED]

Nelson, Elizabeth

<ENelson@a2gov.org>

Subject: Re: Scio Church Crosswalks

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Thanks for the chance to speak tonight. The updated Scio Church Crosswalks document that I mentioned is attached. It includes:

--summary of the alternatives that I mentioned (pages 10-14)

--Link to the Facebook group I started. It is public and you can see the content, even if you don't join (page 9)

Thanks

Peter Houk

On Wed, Feb 23, 2022 at 4:25 PM City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission

<TransportationCommission@a2gov.org> wrote:

Peter,

Thank you for contacting the City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission. Your comment concerning Scio Church crosswalks will be provided as a communication item on the March 16 Transportation Commission Agenda.

Transportation staff are also copied here so that they are also aware of your comment.

Respectfully,

Eli Cooper, A.I.C.P.

Transportation Program Manager

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ecooper@a2gov.org | www.a2gov.org

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and delete/destroy all copies of the original message and attachments.

Thank you.

From: Peter Houk [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 9:30 PM
To: Allen, Jane (Engineering) <JAllen2@a2gov.org>
Cc: Eyer, Jen <JEyer@a2gov.org>; City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@a2gov.org>; Hess, Raymond <RHess@a2gov.org>; Nelson, Elizabeth <ENelson@a2gov.org>; Molly Kleinman [REDACTED] Redinger, Cynthia <CRedinger@a2gov.org>; Carson, Chris <CCarson@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Scio Church Crosswalks

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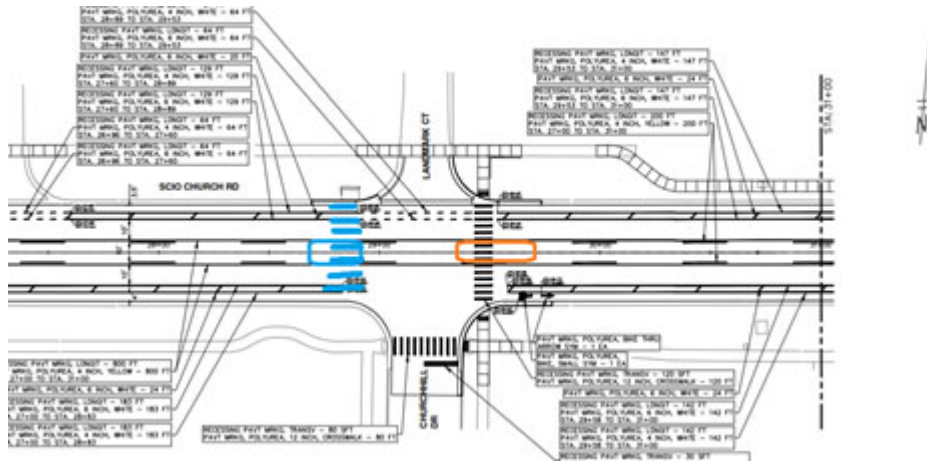
Greetings, all. I had a conversation with Cynthia recently about the Scio Church project and I understand that the plans that are posted on the project web site are not going to be changed to include any refuge islands, since they can't fit without inhibiting left turns or driveway entrances.

However, if the crosswalk and a refuge island were installed on the west side of Churchill (in blue in the picture below), then the only turning movements that would be affected would be those going onto Landmark Ct. There are only 4 residences on Landmark Ct. Can the left turns onto Landmark happen from the through lane? If so, then a refuge island may fit. But if we put the crosswalk on the east side (as planned now) then adding a refuge island now or in the future is not an option without moving the entire crosswalk.

Please have a look and let me know what you think.

Thanks

Peter Houk



On Mon, Oct 25, 2021 at 10:14 PM Peter Houk [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Jane. Did that review happen yet? I am looking forward to seeing the new design.

Thanks

Pete

On Thu, Sep 2, 2021 at 12:57 PM Allen, Jane (Engineering) <JAllen2@a2gov.org> wrote:

Peter,

Thank you. The design team has made some adjustments, but we are waiting on review from the transportation team. I will let you know.

Jane Allen, P.E., Civil Engineer IV

Engineering, Public Services

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From: Peter Houk [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 4:18 PM
To: Allen, Jane (Engineering) <JAllen2@a2gov.org>
Cc: Eyer, Jen <JEyer@a2gov.org>; City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@a2gov.org>; Hess, Raymond <RHess@a2gov.org>; Nelson, Elizabeth <ENelson@a2gov.org>; Molly Kleinman [REDACTED] Redinger, Cynthia <CRedinger@a2gov.org>; Carson, Chris <CCarson@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Scio Church Crosswalks

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Jane. I'm just wondering if your design team has had a chance to look at this yet. Thanks!

On Fri, Jul 30, 2021 at 2:18 PM Peter Houk [REDACTED] wrote:

Thanks for the update, Jane. I understand you probably have timing constraints to get bids from contractors. Adding changes before construction begins sounds like a good plan.

Thanks!

On Wed, Jul 28, 2021 at 11:20 AM Allen, Jane (Engineering) <JAllen2@a2gov.org> wrote:

Pete,

We do not have time to make possible changes to the location of the crosswalk at Churchill and the possibility of adding medians at that crosswalk and near Covington, however it is something that could be added after the project advertisement. Our design staff can revisit your concerns before construction.

In regard to the pavement width, we have added a buffered bike lane on both sides of the street which utilizes that extra 5 feet you mentioned. This also reduces the crossing length for pedestrians as well as adding protection for cyclists.

Jane Allen, P.E., Civil Engineer IV

Engineering, Public Services

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From: Eyer, Jen <JEyer@a2gov.org>

Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 2:17 PM

To: Peter Houk [REDACTED] City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission
<TransportationCommission@a2gov.org>

Cc: Hess, Raymond <RHess@a2gov.org>; Nelson, Elizabeth <ENelson@a2gov.org>; Molly Kleinman [REDACTED] Redinger, Cynthia <CRedinger@a2gov.org>; Allen, Jane (Engineering) <JAllen2@a2gov.org>

Subject: Re: Scio Church Crosswalks

Thank you, Pete.

All: I'm glad to hear about the RRFBs as well. I do, however, share Pete's remaining concerns about the design with regard to width of the road and drivers' frequent and dangerous abuse of the turn lane.

Best regards,

Jen

From: Peter Houk [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 1:02 PM
To: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@a2gov.org>
Cc: Hess, Raymond <RHess@a2gov.org>; Eyer, Jen <JEyer@a2gov.org>; Nelson, Elizabeth <ENelson@a2gov.org>; Molly Kleinman [REDACTED] Redinger, Cynthia <CRedinger@a2gov.org>; Allen, Jane (Engineering) <JAllen2@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Scio Church Crosswalks

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Thanks, all, for your time last night, and for the excellent news about adding RRFBs.

I'd like to follow up on a few ideas that were discussed yesterday.

Firstly, refuge islands might inhibit left turns, but this can be mitigated at two of the crosswalks. At Churchill, an island on the east side of the intersection (where the crosswalk is now planned) would indeed inhibit left turns into Churchill Downs neighborhood, which has approximately 100 residences. But adding that feature to the west side of the intersection would inhibit left turns onto Landmark Ct., which has only 4 residences and no outlet. Maybe one option would be to move the crosswalk west and add a refuge island there. Similarly, at the Covington crosswalk, there is no southbound street at that intersection. Adding a refuge island or a narrow median on the east side of the intersection would not inhibit any left turns.

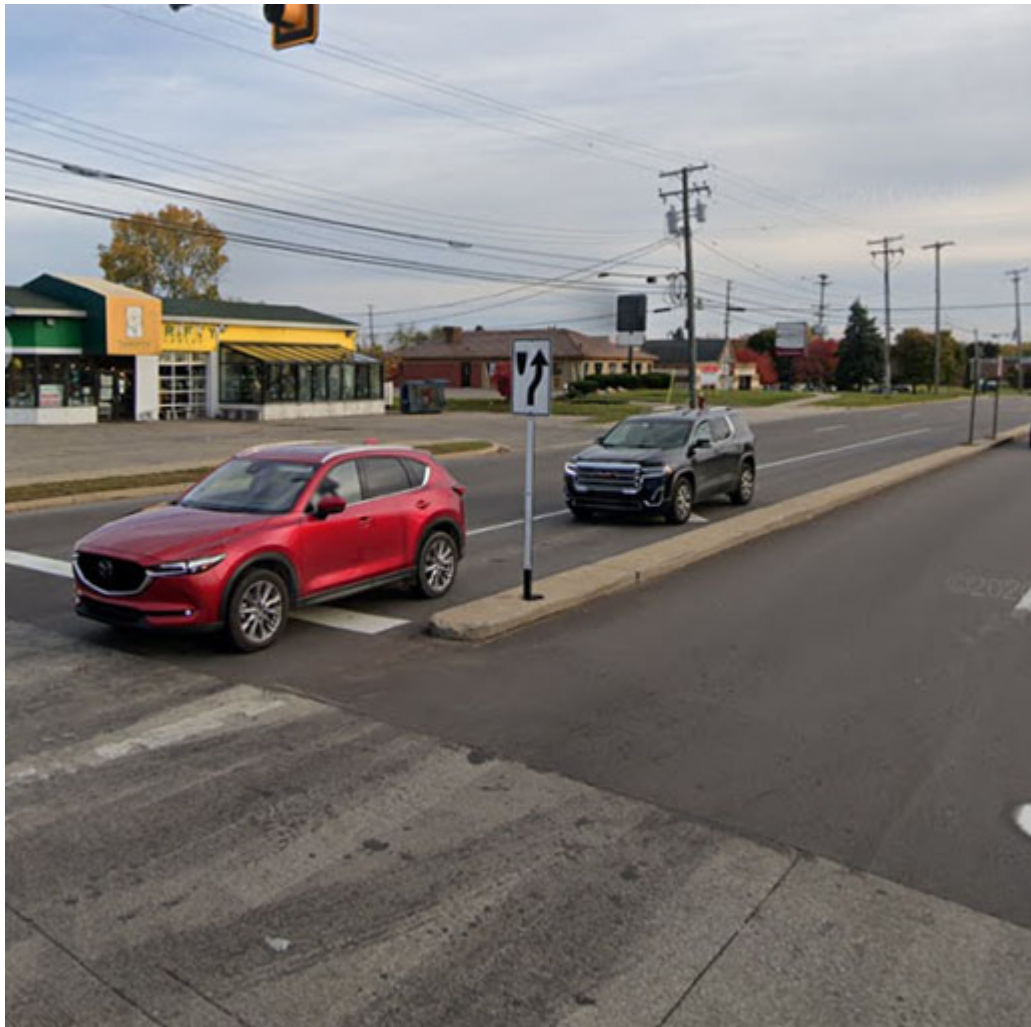
I'd also like to draw attention to the extreme width of Scio Church. With 45', we would have room for two 5' bike lanes, two 10' through lanes, one 10' turn lane and still have 5' left over for a refuge island. I don't necessarily think that's the best plan, but it does illustrate exactly how much pavement there is on this road. Please, let's try and repurpose more of it to support safety features for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.

Lastly, the real issue here is that drivers misuse the center lane. It's possible that the existing crosswalk design (plus RRFBs!) would be adequate, IF some other features would deter misuse of the center

lane. A narrow median at the intersections (like the attached picture) would make it obvious that the center lane is only for left turns and not to be used as a through lane or for passing.

Thanks again for your effort on this project!

Peter Houk



On Wed, Jul 21, 2021 at 2:08 PM City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@a2gov.org> wrote:

Peter Houk,

Thank you for contacting the City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission. Your feedback is included as a [public communication](#) item on the [July 21](#) Transportation Commission agenda.

Sincerely,

Kayla Coleman

Transportation Commission Staff Liaison

Kayla Coleman (she/her/hers), **Community Engagement Specialist**

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From: Peter Houk [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 9:30 PM
To: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@a2gov.org>
Cc: Hess, Raymond <RHess@a2gov.org>; Eyer, Jen <JEyer@a2gov.org>; Nelson, Elizabeth <ENelson@a2gov.org>
Subject: Scio Church Crosswalks

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Transportation Commission,

I live near Scio Church Rd. and I am a daily user of this roadway as a driver, cyclist, and pedestrian. I am concerned that the plan for Scio Church Rd. improvements and crosswalks does not offer enough protection for pedestrians. Misuse of the center turn lane is rampant on Scio Church Rd., and the new plan does not do enough to correct this. Based on my review of the plans and my emails with staff, the crosswalk infrastructure is limited to paint, signs, and seasonally installed flexible bollards.

Scio Church Rd. needs a year-round solution to deter misuse of the center turn lane and protect crossing pedestrians.

I am planning to speak during the public comment time in this week's Transportation Commission meeting. I'll be referencing some of my personal experiences that are pictured in the attached file.

Please contact me with any questions. You can reach me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Thank you,

Peter Houk
[REDACTED]

cc: Ward 4 Council Members; Raymond Hess

From: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 8:28 PM
To: Beaudry, Jacqueline
Subject: DC-6

Plz add me as co-sponsor

From: Beaudry, Jacqueline
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 8:33 PM
To: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor)
Subject: RE: DC-6

All set.

Jacqueline Beaudry, City Clerk (she/her/hers)
2nd Vice President, Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks
2019 Michigan City Clerk of the Year
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From: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 8:28 PM
To: Beaudry, Jacqueline <JBeaudry@a2gov.org>
Subject: DC-6

Plz add me as co-sponsor

From: Fournier, John
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 8:37 PM
To: Disch, Lisa
Subject: RE: An articulate set of concerns about snow removal policy

CM Disch,

Thank you for sending this into us. We are intending to do more work this summer and fall on our winter sidewalk maintenance program, and will keep these thoughts in mind as we address our sidewalk maintenance ordinance in that time.

Best,
John

From: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 5:30 PM
To: Request For Information City Administrator <RFIAAdministrator@a2gov.org>
Subject: An articulate set of concerns about snow removal policy

Dear Mr. Dohoney,

We have spoken about this issue before and I think you mentioned that you planned to set up a committee to review this policy. I thought this constituent does a good job of enumerating some of the communication and enforcement problems I've heard from a handful of residents this Winter, all of whom live in the same part of my Ward.

Last month I received a citation for an alleged violation of the city's sidewalk snow removal ordinance. I believe that I had followed both the spirit and the letter of the ordinance, according to the city code and the police department's [web page on the topic](#), so I asked for an informal hearing. I had prepared a slide deck with photo evidence supporting my argument, which you can view [here](#).

I appeared for my hearing on March 2, but the officer did not appear and my case was dismissed, which meant that unfortunately I was not able to get a magistrate's opinion on whether the citation was justified under the city code. However, I did talk to the officer while he was preparing the citation, and I have read the code and the city's website carefully regarding snow removal regulations. Based on that, I have three points I think the city should address:

1. **The ordinance itself is ambiguous.** While the general idea of "take care of sidewalks in front of your property within 24 hours of snow or ice" sounds reasonable on the face of it, when one gets into what is specifically required from residential property owners, the city code and the implementation of the code are ambiguous and contradictory. For example, the warning I received 24 hours before my citation said, "Remove snow/ice from the constructed width of the sidewalk" but on the same warning it says "Residential Property Owners are required to treat ice and to remove any accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch..." The city code uses similar language about "treating ice" and removing any "accumulation of snow greater than one inch" but then later "Compliance with this section requires making

sidewalks, walks, and ramps *free of snow and ice* for their entire constructed width and length.” I would think that a reasonable reading of this would be that there can be up to 1 inch of snow on the sidewalk and that there can be ice as long as it is treated to not be slippery, but the officer who cited me clearly did not share that view, because he pointed to patches of packed snow and ice on my sidewalk as the reason for the citation, although he recognized that I had salted the ice and snow and it was not slippery. Does that mean I can leave snow on the sidewalk as long as it is not more than one inch thick after it has fallen, but as soon as it crosses the 1-inch mark it needs to be cleared to the pavement? It is very confusing.

2. **The way that citations are generated pits neighbors against each other and violates due process.** When I pointed out to the officer that most of the other sidewalks in my neighborhood (including city-maintained sidewalks) were covered with a layer of snow or ice similar to or thicker than mine, the officer told me that they only give citations in response to complaints via See-Click-Fix or calls to the city. Putting aside the fact that the police department’s own website says they will inspect all properties on the same block “to ensure equitable treatment,” this is arbitrary enforcement, which probably makes it a violation of constitutional due process rights. What makes it worse is that residents are in effect encouraged to “snitch” on each other, singling out other residents for punishment from the city. This is different than reporting a pothole or broken park bench, which is simply alerting the city to a problem that they can solve through the city’s own departments. Further, since my standard of snow removal was indistinguishable from the majority of property owners in my neighborhood and across the city, it is different than a noise violation or other civil infraction where one is clearly violating community norms.
3. **Let’s help before we punish.** We know that most of the time, the best way to get a person to change their behavior is not through punishment, but by making it easier to do the desired behavior. Instead of threats and quickly escalating punishments, what if the city offered help to people who were not complying with the ordinance? When the officer was preparing my citation, he told me that I could have called the Community Standards Unit and asked for more time to comply, but even if I thought I was out of compliance, how would I know that I could ask for more time? Nowhere on the warning or even on the department’s website does it say that. As I was investigating the snow removal ordinance I came across information that I could pick up free sand/salt mixture from the city, but I have lived in my house for 20 years and I had never heard of that until now. (My neighbor who has lived in his house even longer had never heard of it either.) And when I went one evening to pick up the mixture at Leslie Park, it was not easy — the road was pitch dark and (ironically) covered with ice. Couldn’t the time and cost of inspections and citations be better spent helping residents get the materials and tools they need to correct the problem, or at least refer residents to agencies or service providers who could help?

And that last point is why this is an equity issue. I was privileged to have the time to challenge my citation in court, and the money to pay my fine if I lost. But if I had been sick or injured, or away from my house for a day, or if I had been depending on someone to help who didn’t show up or didn’t do a “good enough job,” I would have been out \$60, which then could have quickly escalated to \$250 and \$500 with no further warnings. Yes, I could have asked the court to reduce or waive the fine by “admitting responsibility with explanation,” but that takes time and savvy, and the result is not guaranteed. I do understand that there are property owners and landlords who are genuinely negligent, but I think most residents are trying their best and want to make our sidewalks safe and usable for their fellow community members. Don’t residents deserve an offer of help and support before the city decides they are lawbreakers?

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron Street

Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live At: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx>

From: Sandra Andrade <sandra@mainstreetannarbor.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 8:53 PM
To: Song, Linh
Subject: thank you!!

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Thank you so much for the shout out and whoa for so gracefully responding to Ali's comments. You're the best!!! Your support is greatly appreciated. ❤️

Sandra

--

Sandra Andrade, Executive Director
[Main Street Ann Arbor](#)
P.O. Box 7596, Ann Arbor, MI, 48107
810.730.8853

From: Sandra Andrade <sandra@mainstreetannarbor.org>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 8:53 PM
To: Briggs, Erica
Subject: Thank you!!

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hey Erica,

Thank you so much for your support, it is greatly appreciated!!!

Sandra

--

Sandra Andrade, Executive Director
[Main Street Ann Arbor](#)
P.O. Box 7596, Ann Arbor, MI, 48107
810.730.8853