

Hess, Raymond

Subject: FW: MDOT plans for W. Huron / Jackson

From: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2021 4:49 PM

To: 'Adam Goodman' <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>

Cc: Hess, Raymond <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>; Liu, Luke <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>; Redinger, Cynthia <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>

Subject: RE: MDOT plans for W. Huron / Jackson

Adam,

Thank you for contacting the City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission. Your comment concerning MDOT's plans for W. Huron and Jackson Avenue will be provided as a communication item on the January 19 Transportation Commission Agenda.

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

Respectfully,

Eli Cooper, A.I.C.P.

Transportation Program Manager

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Thank you.

From: Adam Goodman <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>

Sent: Monday, December 27, 2021 9:02 PM

To: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@a2gov.org>

Subject: MDOT plans for W. Huron / Jackson

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Greetings, Commissioners and transportation staff,

I read last month's Transportation Project Updates on MDOT plans for the W. Huron and Jackson Ave corridor with great interest, as I live along this corridor (in the Virginia Park area). I wanted to offer a few quick bits of feedback on these items.

First of all, I'm very excited to hear that there may be some progress in getting mid-block crosswalks added. These are badly needed, and the locations identified (Huron @ Crest, Jackson @ Virginia, Jackson @ Worden, Jackson @ Vets Park, along with potential improvements to the Huron/Dexter/Jackson intersection) sound like excellent choices to me. I appreciate the city's efforts here and hope we can see these installed soon!

I'm less thrilled, however, about MDOT's potential plans to restrict southbound left turns at Huron/7th. I suspect that this will simply lead to people making left turns onto other neighborhood streets (3rd, 8th, Crest, etc.), which could actually be worse, both in generating more neighborhood "cut-through" traffic and also in creating more unpredictability along the corridor. While the intersection with 7th is a persistent problem, at least it's a predictable one, and frequent users of that corridor have learned that it's wise to stick to the outside lanes in that location. (Perhaps if southbound left turns were prohibited for the entire stretch from 3rd to Revena, that would produce a better outcome, but I'm not sure about that either.)

Ultimately, however, I believe there's only one "good" answer for W. Huron: a 4-3 road diet from (roughly) First St. to Jackson Ave, continuing the work that's already been done on Jackson itself. In my regular experiences driving down W Huron, it's often the case that at any given point, only one lane is "usable" anyway, between cars stopped to complete left turns, delivery trucks stopped at the side of the road, etc. Switching to a 3-lane configuration with a center turn lane would make traffic movements smoother, more predictable, and ultimately much safer, as has already been proven on Jackson and many other roads within the city.

I realize that this is, under current arrangements, MDOT's call rather than Ann Arbor's. However, if MDOT is not willing to consider such a change, then Ann Arbor should seriously consider taking over jurisdiction of this road, as Kalamazoo has - for example - done with its [former] state trunk-lines.

Thank you for your attention to these issues.

- Adam