

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES STAFF REPORT

For Planning Commission Meeting of August 15, 2017

SUBJECT: Master Plan Amendment: The Treeline – Allen Creek Urban Trail

PROPOSED CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MOTION

The Ann Arbor City Planning Commission hereby recommends that the Mayor and City Council authorize distribution the Treeline – Allen Creek Urban Trail Master Plan, an amendment to the City Master Plan, for review and comment to adjoining jurisdictions and stakeholders in accordance with MCL 125.37b of the State of Michigan Municipal Planning Act (PA-285 of 1931 as amended).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission **approve** the motion to request that the Mayor and City Council authorize distribution of the Master Plan Amendment: The Treeline – Allen Creek Urban Trail Master Plan for review and comment to adjoining jurisdictions and stakeholders as required by state law.

STAFF REPORT

On January 9, 2002, the State of Michigan amended the Municipal Planning Act (Public Act 265 which amended PA-285) that requires adjoining jurisdictions and other stakeholders to have an opportunity to provide comment on draft master plan amendments prior to their adoption. The Act's "notice of intent to plan" section requires that adjoining municipalities and stakeholders have up to 42 days to provide comment. All comments are advisory only, but modifications to the plan can be made. After comments have been received, the City Planning Commission is required to hold a public hearing, then approve the plan as an element of the City of Ann Arbor Master Plan. Finally, the plan element will be reviewed by City Council for adoption as part of the City of Ann Arbor Master Plan.

In August 2011, The Ann Arbor City Council passed a *Resolution in Support of the Allen Creek Greenway*. City Council identified the Allen Creek Greenway (now known as The Treeline – Allen Creek Urban Trail) as a priority project in 2016, recognizing inadequate non-motorized connections within the community and to the Huron River. The overall master plan objective includes developing a master plan document that describes a feasible approach for the future development of The Treeline from Argo Cascades to South State Street, primarily along the Ann Arbor Railroad corridor. The preferred route for The Treeline has been developed in collaboration with a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), local stakeholders, and the public at large.

The City Planning Commission will have an opportunity to discuss the content of the plan at greater length at the upcoming public hearing on the plan after comments have been received from adjoining jurisdictions and stakeholders.

The following organizations will be asked to comment on the draft plan:

Planning Agencies

- Ann Arbor Township Planning Commission
- Barton Hills Village Long-Range Planning Committee
- Pittsfield Township Planning Commission
- Scio Township Planning Commission
- Lodi Township Planning Commission
- Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners
- Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

Public Utilities

- DTE Energy Services (electricity and gas)
- Norfolk-Southern Railroad

Other Government Entities

- Ann Arbor Transportation Authority
- University of Michigan (non-mandated)
- Ann Arbor Public Schools/Board of Education (non-mandated)
- Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority (non-mandated)
- Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (non-mandated)

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