

Ann Arbor Transportation Commission

Healthy Streets Committee

February 18, 2021 Meeting Notes

Attendees: Kayla Coleman, Molly Kleinman, Erica Briggs, Areli Balderrama, Bret Hautamaki, Raymond Hess, Ezra Keshet

Discussion of 2020 Health Streets Implementation Report Summary:

- Citizens expressed desire to more easily express negative feedback and input into planning; that will be easier to do through the engagement tools this year
- Concern over consistency of applications, and the use of construction barricades and signage
- Neighborhood streets had a bit of a haphazard feel due to their being self-selected via the map survey
- Observed a striking satisfaction difference in survey results between users of the Healthy Streets facilities and those that didn't

Further discussion, ideas and plans for 2021 implementation:

- Try to better address gaps in the bicycle network with Healthy Streets this year
- The plan is to do more of a proper road diet on the S Main implementation this year (4 to 3 lanes)
 - o Design will occur through the end of Feb, finalized early March, then put out to bid
 - o Requires thought about waste collection, road re-striping, other road diet considerations
- There is no budget allocation for Health Streets implementation; it will go to Council as a proposal with requested funding
 - o Hoping for second Council meeting in April
- Contracts will require time to be mobilized so deployment probably won't happen until late April/early May in a good-case scenario
- Consider sidewalk gap locations for priority in Healthy Streets treatments
- Consider permanent installations such as diverters, or a wider variety of temporary installations if they exist
 - o Consideration for the experience of that street's residents must be made, and has been an impediment to diverters on Washington St as an example
 - o Also need to be mindful of creating a spillover effect onto nearby streets
- Can we perhaps start implementing updated Transportation Plan ideas into Healthy Streets?
 - o Already experimenting with quick-build treatments around town, done by staff. Don't anticipate including contractors on that work.

Discussion of cut-through traffic considerations:

- There may be continued concern about drivers detouring into neighborhoods around arterial Health Streets implementations, as well as parallel street detours within neighborhoods around Neighborhood Slow Streets

- The spillover effect may be easier to monitor in Neighborhood Slow Streets areas
- May need to consider engaging with residents of effected nearby streets regarding their desires and experiences from 2020
 - o Covid engagement can be difficult, so perhaps signs, flyers, outdoor meetings?
- Do we need to do data collection on spillover streets in order to address those residents' possible concerns?

Engagement discussions:

- Cmr Hess wants from this Committee ideas on how to improve the program from 2020, how to obtain input from residents of neighboring streets as well as residents of directly-affected streets, attendance at biweekly Healthy Streets staff meetings
- Need to ensure equitable engagement overall
- Would like to get in touch with residents neighboring arterial corridors that received Healthy Streets in 2020 for their thoughts on the experience and input for 2021
- Need improved methods for getting the word out about how to nominate streets for the program
- Would like to explore ways of encouraging greater use of these spaces
 - o Possible spotlighting of one Neighborhood Slow Street per week to host special events
 - o Engage and appeal to youth for event hosting in these spaces
- Engage youth and AAPS for possible help with data collection, project design, or public engagement work on the program
- Explore crowdsourcing of data collection
- There has been no analysis of online survey vs in-person responses for 2020 as far as equitable engagement
 - o Looking for demographic improvements on engagement
- Possibly create new creative tools to communicate with citizens
 - o Videos, etc, to help explain the nomination process, the program itself, how to use the spaces

Next meeting: Cmr Hess to share what staff is thinking in regards to design and deployment. Kayla to coordinate with Cmr Balderrama about attendance of biweekly Friday Healthy Streets staff meetings. We should also as committee members think about how to better communicate the benefits and excitement of the Healthy Streets program throughout the community. There is a general reminder that the overall process will need to move quickly – design details, outreach, bids, approvals, etc, for a successful 2021 implementation of Healthy Streets.