

**PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2014
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: R. Johnson, C. Zuellig, P. Hollifield, N. Sandberg, A. Bedogne,

Absent: H. Jugenitz (excused) Scott Straley

Staff: Teresa Gillotti, Community Development Director
Nan Schuette, Executive Secretary

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. I-94 Pedestrian Cross Options

Chairman Johnson noted that while this is not a public hearing, Bob Krzewinski, Chairman of the Non-Motorized Committee, was in attendance and would be allowed to comment on this issue. The Planning Commission has been asked to make a recommendation to go forward to City Council.

Ms. Gillotti, Community Development Director, stated that WATS has put together a lot of information since they have been leading this effort in response to the HUD Sustainable Communities Grant. The Huron I-94 Steering Committee was formed in 2013 and consists of members from various entities, including Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County Road Commission, AATA, Washtenaw County Parks and the Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Committee, who have all been involved in this process.

MDOT was consulted throughout the process to ensure crossing concepts developed for public participation remain feasible within the department. MDOT have also been considering aligning implementation of a preferred alternative crossing with other department projects and provided guidance regarding potential funding sources.

We have held many focus groups on finding out how people would be using the pedestrian crossing, either bicycling, driving or walking, but what has become apparent are scenarios that would be not approved by MDOT. An on-line survey was taken and more than 350 people participated as well as having public meetings.

Ms. Gillotti reviewed the five scenarios that were developed for consideration based on several factors, i.e. best for pedestrians, best for bicycles, MDOT preferred and public acceptability. Both Alternatives 2 and 5 are rated highly by the public but come with significant implementation and cost hurdles. Alternatives 3 and 4 are low-cost center options, and garner lots of support if considered as combined. Alternative 1 is a low-cost option that was the lowest option “preferred” by respondents. All options are viable, recommended options for selection by the committee are:

Option #4 - Center-running option is viable overall based on public input; low-cost option would lead to potentially quickest implementation; and #4 is preferred over #3 as it provides more space for bicycles in combined two-way facility and also conforms to MDOT preferences.

Option #5 - High cost option but most preferred by respondents; preferred by pedestrians and auto users as most separation of pedestrians from traffic; will not be the preferred option for bike users.

Bob Krzewinski added that the Non-Motorized Committee were very supportive of WATS. One commissioner asked about the preference of Ypsilanti Charter Township and Ms. Gillotti responded that they were comfortable with Option #4 as preferred and #1 as a back-up.

Several questions were asked by commissioners, i.e. road diet, to which Ms. Gillotti responded. Mr. Ralph Lange, City Manager, who was in attendance added that he would follow up on the reconditioning of Hamilton Street.

Commissioner Zuellig moved to recommend to city council Alternative #4 of the Huron I-94 Non-motorized Pedestrian Crossing (median pedestrian path and two-way cycle track) as the preferred alternative by the Planning Commission (Support: N. Sandberg) and carried unanimously.

V. FUTURE BUSINESS DISCUSSION/UPDATES

1. Zoning Ordinance public meeting schedule

Ms. Gillotti stated that she will be sending out the revised zoning map on Friday to commission members prior to the 9/17 Planning Commission meeting. A public meeting will be held on 9/13 with the Heritage Park Neighborhood Group. She also gave potential dates for future public hearings on the zoning as well as the potential date to go to City Council for their resolution.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Since there was no further business, Commissioner Bedogne moved to adjourn the meeting (Support: P. Hollifield). The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.