



## FARMINGTON PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

7:00 p.m.

Minutes

February 9, 2022

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Susan A. at 7:05 pm.

### 2. ROLL CALL

#### **Present**

- Susan Arlin
- Bill Gesaman
- Joe VanDerZanden
- Chris Weber
- Tim Prince
- Brent Bartman
- Kevin Christiansen

#### **Absent**

- Sue Lover
- Maria Taylor

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved by Brent, supported by Bill

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting Minutes, January 12, 2022

Moved to approve by Tim, supported by Brent

### 5. OLD BUSINESS

#### a. UPDATE ON M-5 OVERPASS

-Bill gave an update on his presentation at FH Beautification Committee and learned this project is on their capital improvement plan, under the sidewalk section. Found MDOT made a fix on it, patched a drop-off with asphalt. Bill shared he contacted MDOT with a thanks and inquired about graffiti removal for the bridge.

- Discussed in meeting possible suggestions for artwork – entities that could be approached, DDA, art commission – (Farmington/Farmington Hills joint project), downtown art committee

#### b. FREEDOM ROAD UPDATE

- Discusses the issue of uneven shoulders on Freedom Road between Farmington and Farmington Hills sections, considering plan to obtain permits to widen the Farmington Hills section to make the shoulder even and safer for bikes – not marked as a bike lane currently. It was reported that this was discussed with Farmington city engineers. Suggested to communicate with FH about sharing costs to correct.

#### c. 9 MILE NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAY UPDATE

Chris shared he had discussion with engineers of Farmington and Farmington Hills about collaboration on this project. This path fits into Oakland County plan, SEMCOG may collaborate with funding, discussion of talking and collaborating with nearby cities to the East such as Southfield, Ferndale, and Oak Park, also possibly collaborate with Novi to connect to ITC trail, to work together to include more communities and population to apply for grants.

Committee identified that the suggested path is vague and unspecific, questioned whether it would include dirt road 9 mile or below M-5, specifics of where it would travel along the road and possible width. Susan A questioned if Pathways Committee could play a role in choosing and advocating for an ideal route or connections to the route. Chris suggested a field trip biking 9 Mile Rd. to explore pathway opportunities and suggested possible connections to points of interest along the way, such as local parks and the skate park on 8 Mile Rd.  
- Tim volunteered to take part in the next meeting about the 9 Mile Non-motorized pathway.

d. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Chatham Hills to Longacre connection Update

Discussed perceived viability of a new pathway or improved route, priorities of the committee and possible next steps on this project. Chris suggested reaching out along with Sue L. to the grant coordinator – Katie Alexander

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2022 WORK PLAN

i. REVIEW OF BYLAWS

– reviewed the first-year activities of the committee, including having presented to city council.

-Reviewed the bylaws. Discussed adherence to meeting the requirements of the bylaws, particularly discussion of planning to engage the community by surveying interests, gaining input and ideas.

ii. Goals of the committee in 2022 and going forward

The question was asked of what the committee wants to target and try to accomplish, including the role of the committee and what change it can affect, whether able to create a funding opportunity for a project, identify projects, or if role is more to make City Council aware of pathways related issues and ideas.

- Committee planned to discuss prioritizing projects to focus on in the coming months and discussed committee

members' personal ideals for what the committee can accomplish

– Committee planned to engage community interest in pathways related issues in 2022, including planning to survey community interest in existing Pathways Committee project ideas and soliciting the community for new ideas.

Planned to look at past surveys of community interest on pathways type projects to see past ideas and interests as well as for examples of how to conduct future community surveys. The possibility was discussed of using a trail cam or other method to measure the amount of pedestrian traffic the McGee Hill path and bridge receives.

b. ANY NEW TARGET AREAS?

i. WALKABILITY IDEAS BETWEEN THE DDA AND THE DOWNTOWN

Discussed the idea of a walkway from City Hall to Memorial Park – crosswalk, signage, use of QR codes to link to information, connect and encourage walking to Warner Mansion, tie into historical information on Women's Park on the way to Warner Mansion.

ii. SMART BUS STOPS

Chris brought up his recent experience of riding the Smart Bus and identified safety issues crossing Grand River as bus stops are far from crosswalks and physical challenges, especially to those with mobility issues, climbing over grass and plowed snow. Committee discussed related danger, possibilities, and challenges to improving and MDOT responsibility.

Committee planned to look at bus stop issue again next meeting with all members present.

iii. Freedom Rd. crossing at Drake

It was identified that there is no crosswalk from this corner to cross Freedom Rd. from Drake to the bridge over M-5 to the south, and no ramp from the sidewalk, requiring walking over grass. A ramp had been removed in the past as it was identified as unsafe (by MDOT) to encourage pedestrian crossing. While there is a wide shoulder for car trouble, it was not intended for pedestrian traffic or bikes. It was discussed that a pedestrian bridge being added and connected to the sidewalk with crosswalk and ramp would be ideal.

iv. M-5 underpass sidewalk

Committee discussed possibilities to Improve the attractiveness and function of the sidewalk underpass under M-5 on Farmington Rd., possibility of making it more welcoming and like a gateway to Farmington with art or artistic signage.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

No committee member comments

9. ADJOURNMENT

Bill moved, Brent supported

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Next meeting: March 9, 2022