



## **Strong planning helps city prepare for future** *Investments in infrastructure top city to do list*

**BIRMINGHAM, MI.** February 1, 2018 – Anchored by a strong fiscal position, City of Birmingham leaders and department heads looked to the future, outlining initiatives and programming possibilities at the yearly City Commission Long Range Planning meeting on Saturday, January 27, 2018.

The City's five year fiscal forecast presentation illustrated how its long term strategies are proving beneficial. The fiscal forecast is not a budget. The budget process will take place in the spring. Nonetheless, the bright outlook is helping the city move forward with necessary investments such as the upcoming Old Woodward Reconstruction Project.

“We have exercised fiscal prudence and have put ourselves in a strong position to invest in our community, with the Old Woodward Reconstruction being one example,” said **Birmingham City Manager, Joe Valentine**.

Other highlights from the meeting included:

- In conjunction with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Woodward Ave. Resurfacing Project, City Planning Director Jana Ecker detailed the enhanced crosswalks slated for installation between 14 Mile Road and Quarton. The project, expected to start in April, includes a new crosswalk at Woodward and Oak. The needed improvement features wider crosswalks with more visible striping. The enhancements will make for safer pedestrian crossings of Woodward, particularly for residents of the Poppleton Park neighborhood. A public meeting about the project is slated for **March 14, 2018** from **4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.** at the Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham.
- Three proposals have been received for the expansion and reconstruction of the North Old Woodward Parking Structure. The development plan encourages the extension of Bates Street and possible additional uses adjoining the new parking structure on the site, north of Willits. The proposals will be reviewed and vetted throughout the remainder of 2018.
- Birmingham Shopping District (BSD) Executive Director Ingrid Tighe discussed its PAVE THE WAY Birmingham initiative to keep downtown active during the upcoming construction disruption on Old Woodward. The plan calls for marketing activities, at least three free valet parking stations as well as enhanced lighting and signage for the construction period. More information on the Old Woodward Reconstruction Project can be found on the city website [www.bhamgov.org](http://www.bhamgov.org) homepage and at [www.bhamgov.org/government/departments/engineering/old\\_woodward\\_reconstruction.php](http://www.bhamgov.org/government/departments/engineering/old_woodward_reconstruction.php)

- The Building Department announced it is updating the builders' code of conduct sign that is posted at residential construction sites. "The new sign lists many of the common violations found at construction sites and notes the specific City Code sections to clarify they are enforceable regulations that contractors are expected to follow," said **City of Birmingham Building Official, Bruce Johnson**, adding the initiative will start in April.
- A comprehensive update of the city's Master Plan, the first in about 40 years, is slated to be done in 2018. It will include a focused review of neighborhoods and business districts for future planning.

Other noted items from the Long Range Planning meeting included the Birmingham Police Department's ongoing work to enhance its community policing efforts; the possible expansion and renovation of the Baldwin Public Library Youth Area; consideration of a city bike sharing program and study of options for Adult Services, particularly in light of the growing senior demographic in the city and the increased use of services by seniors at NEXT.

Once approved by the City Commission, the minutes from the Long Range Planning session will be available on the city website [www.bhamgov.org](http://www.bhamgov.org). It is expected the minutes will be posted by the end of the month.

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*City of Birmingham – A Walkable Community. Visit the city's web site at [www.bhamgov.org](http://www.bhamgov.org).*

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