

**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2014  
City Commission Room  
151 Martin Street, Birmingham, Michigan**

Minutes of the special meeting of the City of Birmingham Multi-Modal Transportation Board held Monday, October 2, 2014. Chairperson Johanna Slanga convened the meeting at 6 p.m.

**A. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Chairperson Johanna Slanga; Board Members Stuart Bordman, Lara Edwards, Amanda Warner

**Absent:** Vice-Chairman Andy Lawson; Board Members Jeff Surnow, Adriana Tatuch

**Administration:** Lauren Chapman, Asst. City Planner  
Brendan Cousino, Asst. City Engineer  
Jana Ecker, Planning Director  
Paul O'Meara, City Engineer  
Carole Salutes, Recording Secretary

**B. INTRODUCTIONS** Representatives from Fleis & Vandenbrink ("F&V"), Transportation Engineering Consultants were introduced. In attendance were Lisa Easterbrook, Mike Labadie, and Rick Stout.

**C. REVIEW AGENDA** (approved)

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2014**

**Moved and seconded to approve the Minutes of September 8, 2014 as presented.**

**Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.**

**E. OAK ST. PAVING PROJECT**

Mr. O'Meara advised that for next construction season the City has budgeted to reconstruct the section between Glenhurst to the west of Quarton School all the way to Lakepark. This board will review the various ways to rebuild the road with the idea of making it better for all modes of transportation.

The Multi-Modal Master Plan recommends the elimination of parking on one side of the street, and the introduction of bike lanes on both sides. The question then

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is which side of the street should the parking be eliminated and is that a good idea. A survey request was mailed out to the residents who live on Oak St. along that stretch and the results were:

### *Chesterfield to Lakepark*

- Almost two-thirds of the respondents felt that parking is an important asset and did not want it removed.

### *Glenhurst to Chesterfield (in front of the school)*

- 83% of respondents indicated that having the ability to park on Oak St. is important to them on the north side of the road.
- An idea that came out of discussions with the school is that safety would be improved if there was no parking during the school drop-off and pick-up times so that kids wouldn't have to cross the road.

Ms. Edwards announced that as a parent she would never let her child bike on a street as wide as Oak St. with sharrows. She noticed families have been biking on the sidewalk along Oak St. because of safety concerns.

Mr. O'Meara advised the goal of this board will be to zero in on what it feels is best and that will be advertised as a public hearing at a future meeting. That input will be considered before a final decision is made.

The chairperson opened up discussion to the public at 6:20 p.m.

Ms. Karen Shoenberg, 888 Puritan at Oak St., listed reasons parking along Oak St. is important to her.

Mr. Rick Buckston, 895 Puritan, SW corner of Oak St., said he likes the idea of ways to limit the speed of cars. As a rule, parking is not an issue on this stretch. The parking plan could be changed a few blocks away from the school.

Mr. Gregory Misterovich, 1810 Oak St. between Chesterfield and Glenhurst, said that any way that traffic can be slowed down, such as narrowing the road, would be an improvement.

Ms. Pat Hammer, 1764 Oak St., west of Chesterfield, supported narrowing the drive lanes to slow down traffic. She suggested having limited time parking on the south side of the street and bike lanes with no parking on the north side. Quarton School could be part of the solution by adding on to its parking lot.

Mr. Mike Kennedy, 1712 Oak St. at the NW corner of Chesterfield, supported parking along the whole road. He didn't see the need for a bike lane down Oak St. Families primarily use the sidewalk. Chairperson Slanga advised that bike riding on the sidewalk is actually more dangerous for children and bikers than

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riding on the street. Mr. Kennedy appreciated board members taking their personal time to address this problem. The decision that is made needs to keep in mind the peak periods of the school. Overall he finds the street is pretty quiet.

Mr. Misterovich observed that school parking creates a large demand on Oak St. and surrounding streets. The school does not contain it on their own property. They offer no parking for visitors or events and they use Oak St. as their parking lot and pick-up area. If the City would ticket illegal parkers along the streets, the parkers would complain and force the school to accommodate the needed parking. He would prefer to have two lanes of traffic and two bike lanes along the street.

Mr. Mike Labadie, F&V, noted that people who live in a neighborhood expect to have street parking. His experience is that it is the residents who are speeding on their own streets. A narrow road reduces speeds. He is not sure that eliminating the parking is the correct solution.

Ms. Ecker summarized the previous comments. Three people agreed the road should be narrowed. Two people didn't say it should be narrowed or left the same but talked about parking versus bike lanes. There was no one that thought the road should be kept as wide as it is or widened. She said bike lanes and parking can be accommodated by having a parking lane on one side and still have bike lanes in both directions along with travel lanes. If parking is wanted on both sides it requires shared lanes. Mr. O'Meara stated if the board wants to designate an area for bikes and parking the road will be as wide as it is now.

Mr. Labadie noted that when white lines are brought in speeds decrease whether cars are parked there or not.

Mr. Bordman did not think it necessary to install a crossing island on Oak St. at Lakepark. It is safe the way it is.

A survey conducted by the Police Dept. indicated there is not a heavy volume of parking on Oak St. Chairperson Slanga led the group through the data and comments one section at a time, heading toward the school along Oak St. From Lakepark to Puritan it would not seem catastrophic if no parking were allowed. The same logic applies from Puritan to Pilgrim. Pilgrim to Suffield starts to enter the area where people park in the afternoon.

Mr. O'Meara pointed out the City is taking this opportunity to talk with the school about the parent loading area. This board can't come to any conclusion until it knows the school's decision for the long term. Also, the City has asked the transportation engineer to conduct a complete study on the traffic signal and to come up with a recommendation that might be different than what exists today.

Chairperson Slanga took discussion from the audience at 7:08 p.m.

Ms. Karen Shoenberg encouraged taking a study of parking on Oak St. at a peak school time as well as on a random day.

Mr. Gregory Misterovich suggested installing bump-outs to squeeze the road down at all the intersections.

Mr. Mike Kennedy observed that fire trucks use Fairfax and Chesterfield quite often. If parking on Oak is eliminated it will spill over onto the north/south streets.

Mr. Rick Buckston, 895 Puritan, noted it wouldn't be practical to create infrastructure to accommodate the busiest day of the year. For instance, on busy days at Seaholm people park on the grass.

#### **F. GOLFVIEW BLVD. RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING REQUEST**

Mr. O'Meara advised the Police Dept. has received a petition from the residents of Golfview Blvd. requesting residential permit parking between Midvale and Argyle. The recommendation of the Multi-Modal Board will be forwarded to the City Commission for review. It was noted that surrounding streets to the west and south have residential permit parking to keep the high school students off of their street.

Mr. Harry Kokinukis, 598 Golfview Blvd., stated there is not a single parking spot available on his street until about 3:30 p.m. Mr. O'Meara said that Mr. Clemence has indicated the Police Dept. is fine with the permit request. Ms. Ecker noted the petition indicates that 87.5% of the residents along the street are in favor.

#### **Motion by Ms. Edwards**

**Seconded by Mr. Bordman to recommend to the City Commission that they allow Golf View to have permit parking for residents only between Midvale and Argyle.**

**Motion carried, 4-0.**

#### **VOICE VOTE**

Yeas: Edwards, Bordman, Slanga, Warner

Nays: None

Absent: Lawson, Surnow, Tatuch

Ms. Edwards announced her willingness to visit Seaholm in order to remind students about the parking pinch and to recommend carpooling and biking to school. Mr. Kokinukis offered that a solution might be to find another lot in the area for parkers.

**G. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**  
(no one spoke)

**H. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**a. Communications** (not discussed)

**b. Other Business** (not discussed)

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

No further business being evident, the chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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Jana Ecker, Planning Director

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Paul O'Meara, City Engineer