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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

May 9, 2022

To: Mayor and City Council Members

From: Mark F. Miller, City Manager
Robert J. Bruner, Assistant City Manager
Beth Tashnick, Office Manager

Subject: City Council Agenda Questions & Answers – 05.09.22

The following are communications that City Administration would like Council to be made aware of. In order to ensure that all questions are received and answered, all City Council Questions should be sent to the CITY MANAGER DISTRIBUTION GROUP e-mail address.

From: Ellen C Hodorek
Forwarded from resident: Jeff Woloshen <jwoloshen@gmail.com>

E-01 ADOPTION OF THE 2022/23 ANNUAL AND THREE-YEAR CITY BUDGET

I'll try again this year.

Hopefully, my comments which I submitted (see below) were presented to the Council. One of my best memories is going on a four-mile bike ride with my wife and children after dinner every night (weather permitting). Because of the lack of sidewalks in north Troy, we would have to cross South Blvd. and ride the bike path/sidewalks in Rochester Hills along South Blvd., Crooks, Livernois, and Auburn Roads. This provided a safe ride (except for having to cross South Blvd.) - not out on the street dodging cars - and they make their walkways wider than residential sidewalks so bikes can pass by one another. It was a nice 20-30-minute ride.

Many subdivisions don't have sidewalks in Troy which forces bikes into the street. Not ideal from a safety perspective. And most residences in subdivisions don't want a stream of high-speed bikers traversing through their streets where their own children may be riding.

The \$10,000 budget for new sidewalks is woefully inadequate for a city the size of Troy and does not address the needs of the residents in northern Troy who have requested sidewalks from Kurt Bovensiepe and were promised sidewalks when work was to be done on South Blvd. Please reallocate funds from streets, parks, Troy museum, etc. The work on the road was done but no sidewalks were installed. Later he claimed he had no right of way. There are Troy fire hydrants along the road which I believe constitutes a legal easement. He claimed wetlands as an issue but Rochester Hills has the same wetland

on the other side of the road and they built sidewalks. How come Rochester Hills knows how to provide sidewalks (bike paths) and Troy does not?? Not heard of Eminent Domain? Thousands of residents in Forest Park and High Oaks and other subdivisions are not able to walk/bicycle the half mile to the corner of South Blvd. and Crooks to several restaurants, drug stores, shops, and Kroger. A few brave souls are occasionally seen walking along the edge of South Blvd.

There are also other sections of sidewalks (bike paths) along Coolidge, among others, with missing sections. Again, why? Mr. Bovensiep should ask Rochester Hills how they do it. Quit trying to put trails through residential neighborhoods where they are unwanted - focus on sidewalks around the major north/south - east/west mile roads. Use asphalt like Rochester Hills - smoother - no uneven sidewalk sections - cheaper and faster to install than concrete. You don't need concrete for pedestrians.

Jeff Woloshen, President

Elm Park Homeowners Association (the northern forgotten part of Troy)

Answer: Kurt Bovensiep, Public Works Director

The sidewalk gap program was originally intended to install sidewalks along major roads where sidewalks were missing. Most of these areas required Rights-of-Way (ROW) accusation or easements from the abutting property owner and most are in the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) ROW.

The specific area of concern from Mr. Woloshen has additional challenges. The gap is approximately 2,000 linear feet and consists of wetlands. This would require an EGLE permit to either fill, mitigate, or install raised boardwalk. In addition to the wetlands, a culvert under South Boulevard would need to be extended to allow a walkway to be safely off the edge of the road. The cost is estimated at \$1- 1.5 million to complete this project on its own.

The intent is to include this gap with any major road project involving the area to limit the capital expenditure to the Capital Fund directly. Another option is if the abutting property were to be developed. Chapter 34 of the City of Troy Ordinance requires any development to install sidewalks unless the Traffic Committee grants a waiver.

The City of Troy recognizes the concern for pedestrian movement and its challenges in this area and will continue to consider this project when it can be combined with other projects.
