



MOBILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Brian Smith (Chair), Justin Fischer, Ericka Thomas, Gary Becker, Ed Roney, Joe Tolkacz

Absent: Jay Dooley (excused)

Staff Present: Jeff Herczeg, Director of Public Works, DPW
Rebecca Runkel, Project Engineer, DPW
Barb McBeth, City Planner, Community Development
Kristie Gruenwald, Commander, Police Department
Brian Woloski, Lieutenant, Police Department

Other: Taryn Juidici, OHM
Stephen Maxe, OHM
Lauren Hull, OHM

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm and made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes from May 15, 2025, both of which were supported and passed 7-0.

DISCUSSION

Chair Smith introduced guests from OHM Advisors, one of the City's engineering consultants to present on the Safety Action Plan being developed for the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant. Taryn Juidici (OHM) introduced her coworkers, Stephan Max and Lauren Hull as traffic experts who have been digging into Novi safety. Ms. Juidici summarized the SS4A program and the Vision Zero goal, which is the goal of achieving zero fatalities and zero serious injuries on all roads in the country. Ms. Juidici described some of the items required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in the Safety Action Plan: a leadership commitment and goal setting, a planning structure or Safety Action Planning Committee (SAPC). Ms. Juidici commended the City for already having an established Mobility Committee to address these types of issues and described the (safety action plan) process as being a data driven process, that looks at historical crash data to find out where problems are and what types of problems. Ms. Juidici brought up engagement and collaboration as a very important aspect of the safety action plan, along with equity considerations. Statistics show people who have less access to private vehicles are more likely to be involved in serious crashes, so the improvements we're

recommending are not just aimed at cars. Ms. Juidici mentioned that since Novi is already implementing safer strategies, such as roundabouts, there may be less or different recommendations than in other communities. The main reason for the project in general is strategy and project location. Starting with the leadership commitment, currently in draft form, is striving towards zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries on its roads, which is in line with federal, state, SEMCOG, and regional goals. A lot of the thought process behind Vision Zero actually started with the airline industry, when air traffic was not as safe as it is today, and through getting everyone involved, they were able to drive down their incident rates.

Stephen Maxe, OHM, took over the presentation, discussing engagement and collaboration, and making it more interactive, including outreach with this committee and the community. That includes goal setting, aside from the overarching goal of zero fatalities or serious injuries, what other goals does the committee have? Mr. Maxe continued that they look at it from a data perspective, but what does the community see, where is it uncomfortable to drive or walk or bike? Mr. Maxe reviewed a map of Tcrashes for a three year period, January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024, and what the deliverable of the project will be: 12 high risk locations, eight systemic locations, and six priority locations.

Lauren Hull, OHM, continued the presentation, going over the details of the crash data on the map. Ms. Hull explained that data is excluded for county roads, but after meeting with city staff, decided to include intersections of city roads with county roads, because the county is not including those intersections in their SS4A grant. Ms. Hull then reviewed the six priority locations and how they were selected. The committee discussed some of the locations and how it helps to coordinate safety improvements with the police department to help identify crash patterns. The timeline for deliverables was reviewed along with the status of the community survey. The input from the community will be used to add three more locations to the high risk locations list. OHM concluded their presentation. Chair Smith thanked OHM and welcomed them to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

Chair Smith moved to the next agenda item regarding bike clearance. Chair Smith mentioned that Michigan has a 3-foot clearance for pedestrians and cyclists on roads, but some cities have a 5-foot clearance, and he would like the Ordinance Review committee to look at adopting something similar. Chair Smith said he talked to someone at SEMCOG about creating a video for their fall campaign for drivers to understand what bikes are doing so we all work together to make everybody safe. The committee discussed increasing the clearance to 5 feet and the pros and cons to doing so. Next, the committee discussed an email communication received regarding putting sidewalks on Quince for students that get dropped off by the school bus at 10 Mile and Quince. Engineer Runkel said the 2020 Safe Routes to School grant added some sidewalk to the Orchard Hills subdivision but she wasn't sure why Quince wasn't included.

Director Herczeg gave an update on the ITC Trail to Bosco Fields Pathway Connection, for which MDOT is requiring the City to build the proposed boardwalk to heavier loading. The City heard back from SEMCOG that we would fund another \$580,000 toward the project to cover some of the additional boardwalk cost. The City would have to contribute another \$400,000 to the project. The committee discussed the project and the pros and cons of constructing the pathway. In general, the committee is in favor of the project, but it will ultimately be City Council that makes the funding decision.

Director Herczeg also mentioned the Villa Barr pathway project, which was going to be change-ordered to a current contractor, but that contractor is unable to construct it this year, so we can wait until next year to construct it or bid it out now. The committee discussed the details of the bidding process and concluded that waiting until next year was acceptable. The meeting concluded with a review of planned roundabout projects in the City.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to review.

PUBLIC COMMENT

An email from a resident was shared and discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.