

November 19, 2020

Mr. Dee Parker, Region Engineer - University Region
2750 N. Elm Rd.
Jackson, MI 49201

RE: US-12 Non-motorized Improvements

Dee:

The Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) wishes to express sincere gratitude to you and your office for work towards implementing a multi-modal solution to the US-12 corridor between Platt and US-23. As you know, this project has been a priority for the community for decades. With your support we believe this newer, smoother, safer, more efficient corridor will provide a multitude of community benefits.

Both WATS and Pittsfield Township have strong histories of advocating for complete streets, but more specifically, of prioritizing safety and accessibility. The fruits of this labor and focus can be seen all across Pittsfield Township. With US-12 serving as such a critical corridor in the township, county, and region, we applaud MDOT's efforts to incorporate facilities to provide accessible, safe, non-motorized travel.

Preliminary designs of the corridor include 8 ft. of available space on each side of the road designated as "shoulder". This approach provides more than 74 ft. of roadway for use to automobiles with nothing dedicated to non-motorized travelers. While 8 ft. may provide enough space for locals to retroactively add safe, dedicated non-motorized infrastructure, it does not help the community achieve their preferred goal of creating a separated multi-modal path. The project does include intermittent sidewalks on the south side of the project which will no doubt provide benefit to the community, however, for the admirable 31 million dollars being invested in this corridor, we believe non-motorized accessibility and safety deserves safe, dedicated space.

We understand that on a road such as US-12 8 ft. does not generally rise to the standard of a separated multi-modal path. However, given the context of our community, the numerous community plans calling to prioritize infrastructure for non-motorized travelers, and the inherent equity considerations necessitated by any public investment, the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

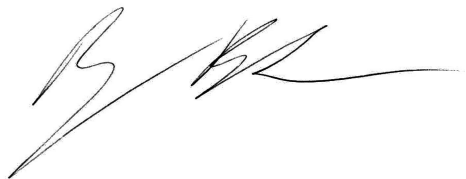
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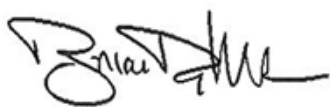
implores you to continue to work with local community and elected officials to find a final design solution which dedicates an appropriate amount of space to non-motorized travelers.

WATS staff look forward to assisting in any way we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Buck', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ryan Buck
Director
Washtenaw Area Transportation Study

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Marl', with a vertical line to the right of the signature.

Brian Marl
WATS Policy Chair
Mayor, City of Saline

cc: Mandy Grewal, Pittsfield Township Supervisor