

**PITTSFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
RES #21-11**

**RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
TO DESIGNATE PAVED SHOULDERS AS MULTI-USE PATHWAYS AS PART OF THE  
2022 MICHIGAN AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

**February 10, 2021**

At a Regular Meeting of the Township Board of Pittsfield Charter Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan, held at the Township Administration Building located at 6201 W. Michigan Avenue, in said Township, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Grewal, Anzaldi, Scribner, Edwards-Brown, Jaffer, Krone, Urda-Thompson  
Absent: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Treasurer Scribner and supported by Trustee Krone.

**WHEREAS**, Pittsfield Township has received \$30 million for improvements to the Michigan Avenue corridor, between Platt Road and Carpenter, after a decade of advocacy by the Supervisor's Office and after the need for the same having been discussed by regional leaders since the 1980s; and

**WHEREAS**, this project will fully re-construct the bridge at the US12/US23 interchange, which will include re-aligning the ramps, expanding the existing cross-section, and providing for a 10' nonmotorized pathway at the bridge with the rest of corridor supporting a four-lane cross section with a center turn lane along with 8' paved shoulders; and

**WHEREAS**, the first public forum for this project, scheduled for construction in 2022, was held by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) on November 12, 2020 with a subsequent presentation made at the January 27, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the hallmarks of our work at Pittsfield Township over the past decade has been the retrofitting of all primary corridors within our community with non-motorized amenities to help meet our dual mandate of equity and sustainability; and

**WHEREAS**, it would not only be grossly inconsistent but also unsustainable to implement a project of this magnitude without providing for non-motorized amenities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Supervisor's Office partnered with the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study's (WATS) Policy Committee to submit a letter (attached) to request MDOT to provide for the same and we have received a response from MDOT (also attached) last month; and

**WHEREAS**, the MDOT letter, dated December 29, 2020, does state that "... nonmotorized users are allowed access to the shoulders," we want to express our commitment to ensuring the same;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Pittsfield Charter Township Board of Trustees respectfully requests MDOT to provide specific details of how the 8' paved shoulders along the north and south of the Michigan Avenue corridor, between Platt and Carpenter (with the exception of the US12/US23 bridge) will safely accommodate bike and pedestrian traffic; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Pittsfield Township Board of Trustees looks forward to our continued partnership with MDOT, WATS and other regional stakeholders to ensure the successful completion of this incredibly important infrastructure project in Pittsfield Township.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES:** Grewal, Anzaldi, Scribner, Edwards-Brown, Jaffer, Krone, Urda-Thompson  
**NAYS:** None  
**ABSENT:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**



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Mandy Grewal, Supervisor  
Pittsfield Charter Township

Dated: February 11, 2021

## CERTIFICATE

I, Michelle L. Anzaldi, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board of Pittsfield Charter Township, County of Washtenaw, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting held on February 10, 2021, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.



Michelle L. Anzaldi, Clerk  
Pittsfield Charter Township

Dated: February 11, 2021

**ATTACHMENTS:**

November 2020 Letter from the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study Policy Committee  
December 2020 Letter from the Michigan Department of Transportation

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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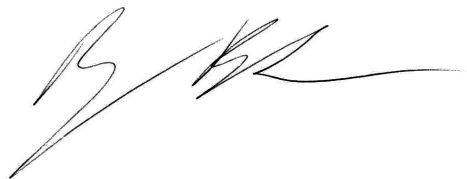
POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

City of Ann Arbor • Ann Arbor DDA • Ann Arbor Township • City of Chelsea • City of Dexter  
Dexter Township • Eastern Michigan University • Michigan Department of Transportation • City of Milan • Northfield Township •  
Pittsfield Township • City of Saline • Scio Township • Southwest Washtenaw Council of Governments • Superior Township • The Ride  
University of Michigan • Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners • Washtenaw County Road Commission • City of Ypsilanti • Ypsilanti Township •  
• Ex Office: Federal Highway Administration • Southeast Michigan Council of Governments •

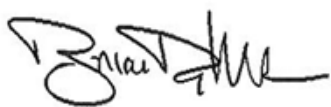
implores you to continue to work with local community and elected officials to find a final design solution which dedicates an appropriate amount of space to non-motorized travelers.

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 its right.

Brian Marl  
WATS Policy Chair  
Mayor, City of Saline

cc: Mandy Grewal, Pittsfield Township Supervisor



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
LANSING

PAUL C. AJEGBA  
DIRECTOR

December 29, 2020

Mr. Ryan Buck, Director  
Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS)  
200 North Main Street  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

Mayor Brian Marl  
City of Saline  
100 North Harris Street  
Saline, Michigan 48176

Dear Mayor Marl and Mr. Buck:

Thank you for your letter dated November 19, 2020 regarding non-motorized improvements along the US-12 project between Platt Road and Carpenter Road in Pittsfield Township. Please be assured the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has worked with our local partners on this US-12 project throughout its development, as the current scope is due to that continued coordination.

In regards to non-motorized access, MDOT would be willing to discuss any specific requests that WATS and Pittsfield Township might have related to the US-12 corridor and the townships plan for a future path. In the absence of a specific request, MDOT intends to construct a five-lane section with 8-foot shoulders and drainage ditches on both sides of US-12. The shoulders and ditches are needed for snow storage and drainage; by State of Michigan law, non-motorized users are allowed access to the shoulders. Also, at US-23, MDOT intends to include a non-motorized crossing as part of the new US-12 bridge. MDOT is including a crossing of the new US-12 bridge in the current design to ensure the new bridge accommodates the Township's plans to construct a connected path in the future.

Mayor Marl and Mr. Buck

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December 29, 2020

If you have any additional questions, or wish to discuss this further, please contact either me or Mark Sweeney, Brighton Transportation Service Center Manager, at [sweeneym@michigan.gov](mailto:sweeneym@michigan.gov) or (810) 225-2622.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Demetrius A. Parker".

Demetrius A. Parker, P.E.  
University Region Engineer

cc: Mandy Grewal, Pittsfield Township Supervisor  
Mark Sweeney, Brighton TSC, Manager  
Kari Martin, Region Planner  
Mike Davis, Transportation Planner