

CITY COUNCIL EMAIL SERIES

SENT DURING

16 JULY 2007 MTG

3-11



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

100 North Fifth Avenue, P.O. Box 8647, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647

www.a2gov.org

Community Services Area

Administration (734) 794-6210
Community Development Services (734) 622-9025
Parks & Recreation Services (734) 794-6230
Planning & Development Services - Building (734) 794-6267
Planning & Development Services - Planning (734) 794-6265

October 22, 2009

Laura Lee Hayes

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request dated September 30, 2009
09-216 Hayes

Dear Ms. Hayes:

I am responding to your request under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, dated September 30, 2009, received October 1, 2009, and extended to October 22, 2009. Your request for "all electronic communications, including but not limited to emails, sent to and from City Council members during the council meeting which began on July 16, 2007" is granted in part and denied in part. Your request is denied to the extent that the following redactions have occurred:

1. Information of a personal nature if public disclosure of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of an individual's privacy. MCL 15.243(1)(a)

The City does not warrant or guarantee the accuracy of the information provided. Rather, it provides the documents only to comply in good faith with the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, and not for any other purpose.

If you receive written notice that your request has been denied, in whole or in part, under Section 10 of the Act, you may, at your option either: (1) submit to the City Administrator a written appeal that specifically states the word "appeal" and identifies the reason(s) for reversal of the disclosure denial; or (2) file a lawsuit in the circuit court to compel the City's disclosure of the record. If after judicial review, the circuit court determines that the City has not complied with the Act, you may be awarded reasonable attorneys' fees and damages as specified under the Act.

If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact Carol King, City FOIA Coordinator, (734)794-6210, ext. 42198.

Sincerely,

Jayne S. Miller
Community Services Administrator

09-216
Hayes

King, Carol

From: Laura Lee [lauragami@digitalrealm.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2009 9:21 PM
To: King, Carol
Subject: Request for electronic communications July 16, 2007

Carol King
FOIA Coordinator
City of Ann Arbor
100 N Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor MI 48104

Dear Ms. King:

I am requesting all electronic communications, including but not limited to emails, sent to and from City Council members during the the council meeting which began on July 16, 2007 but may have continued past midnight into the next calendar day.

Please exclude from this request any electronic communication initiated by a staff member of the city attorney's office and any documents attached to the electronic communication.

If you determine that the contents of an electronic communication, in whole or in part, is subject to a disclosure exemption under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, please provide the electronic communication, including the header information, with the exempt portions redacted.

If you decide to invoke a FOIA exemption as the basis for withholding any record responsive to this request, please include in your full or partial denial letter a description of the item and the statutory provision that exempts it from disclosure. If you determine that an item is exempt from disclosure under M.C.L. sec 15.243(1)(m) (communications and notes within a public body), please include an explanation of why the public interest in encouraging frank communication between officials and employees of public bodies clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Upon identifying the records that should be disclosed under this request, please notify me of the estimated cost of providing copies to me. I will accept the material in electronic machine readable format to reduce costs. If the costs will exceed \$25, I would like to exercise my section M.C.L. Sec. 15.233(3) right to inspect the public records prior to incurring any cost for duplication. Please contact me at lauragami@digitalrealm.net to discuss the estimated charges and to schedule a time when I can review the documents.

Sincerely,

Laura Lee Hayes

loc'd 10/1/09

King, Carol

From: Corey, Helen [hcorey@reinhardtrealtors.com]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2007 10:58 PM
To: Higgins, Marcia; Dawn Gabay
Cc: Teall, Margie; Ron Copeland
Subject: RE: city buses on Golden

-----Original Message-----

From: Higgins, Marcia [mailto:MHiggins@a2gov.org]
Sent: Mon 7/16/2007 7:23 PM
To: Dawn Gabay; Corey, Helen
Cc: Teall, Margie; Ron Copeland
Subject: RE: city buses on Golden

Dawn,

Thank you for your quick response.

Regards,

Marcia

From: Dawn Gabay [mailto:DGabay@theride.org]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2007 4:36 PM
To: hcorey@reinhardtrealtors.com
Cc: Teall, Margie; Higgins, Marcia; 'Ron Copeland'
Subject: RE: city buses on Golden

Ms. Corey,

Ms. Teall is correct. We never condone discourtesy any one, much less, to our customers and stakeholders. I apologize on behalf of AATA. If you tell me when and which number you called, I will try to identify the individual with whom you spoke and have a talk with them. I will also find out why your street has been experiencing higher frequency of bus traffic than is normal and see what we can do to rectify the situation. When I have this information, I will give you some feedback.

Dawn Gabay

Interim Executive Director

Thank you Dawn -- The buses that come down Golden during the day, usually around three or four, are two -- one is sometimes number 734. They are "Out of Service" and so are not compelled to use the standard routes. In the past when a bus has "wandered" through the neighborhood I have been treated very courteously but this year I have called on three occasions and twice the person who answered made it clear they could not have cared less.

My contention is that Golden is a "football route" (or other unusual occasion route), that the street is too narrow with parking on both sides and Granger is also too narrow. We've never had this traffic and we are hopeful it will not continue.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Helen Corey
1015 Rose Avenue

Ann Arbor Transportation Authority

-----Original Message-----

From: Teall, Margie [mailto:MTeall@a2gov.org]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2007 10:31 AM
To: dgabay@theride.org
Cc: hcorey@reinhartrealtors.com; Higgins, Marcia
Subject: FW: city buses on Golden

Hi Dawn: I wanted to forward this to you so that you could be aware of both the bus activity on residential cut-through streets which should be off-limits to city buses, and what I would perceive to be a discourteous response from AATA staff when called by a resident. I imagine you find this as unacceptable as I do. I will copy Ms. Corey on this message so that you can respond directly to her. Feel free to contact me as well. Thanks Dawn.
-Margie Teall

From: Corey, Helen [mailto:hcorey@reinhartrealtors.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2007 2:21 PM
To: Teall, Margie; Higgins, Marcia
Subject: city buses on Golden

Good afternoon to both of you -- can one of you tell me where I go with this complaint? AATA buses have long used Golden on football Saturdays but within the past few months "Out of Service" buses have taken to using the Golden to Granger shortcut at least twice a day. In the past when this has happened I have called AATA and been treated courteously and the cut through has stopped. The last two times I have called the response has been literally "City buses can go wherever they want. Golden's a city street and if they want to use it they can."

I would point out that both Golden and Granger are too narrow for buses (especially Golden with parking on both sides), the buses are very noisy, etc., etc. If you can tell me who to contact that will be able to convince this gentleman that residents of Ann Arbor are accustomed to being treated more politely and responsively I would appreciate it.

Thanks, Helen

King, Carol

From: Greden, Leigh
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2007 9:04 PM
To: Teall, Margie
Subject: Amended math

I believe we're using \$1.3m to subsidize 120 units at Burton Commons. Those units are 50% and below.

Lowertown was proposing 29 units at 80%.

Instead of the units, the Lowertown developer is giving us almost \$2.6m. Applying the math from Burton Commons, we could use the \$2.6m from Lowertown to subsidize 240 units of low-income housing, at 50% -- which is less than 80% -- outside the downtown, closer to schools and parks. 240 units is more than ten times as many units as was proposed for Lowertown. THIS is why cash is better.

King, Carol

From: Lowenstein, Joan
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2007 7:49 PM
To: 'ellenrambo' [REDACTED]
Cc: Greden, Leigh
Subject: FW: Street projects

Ellen, here's the info from our staff.

Joan

From: Pirooz, Homayoon
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2007 5:22 PM
To: Lowenstein, Joan
Cc: Cawley, Patrick; Hutchinson, Nicholas
Subject: FW: Street projects

Hi Joan,

In the same order as in your e-mail below:

1. The sidewalk ramps (curb cuts) on Ferdon were not eliminated, but *replaced* with new ones at a different leg of the same intersections. The change at Ferdon-Norway intersection was required due to the ADA requirements. The change at Ferdon-Wells was required due to both ADA and legal requirements. Nick's handwritten notes on the attached drawings give more detailed information.



2007(0709), ramps
explanation....

The new sidewalk ramps continue to provide the same level of connectivity to the Park, as the old ramps.

2. Generally speaking a residential street with speeds in the 27-28 mph range is not categorized as one with speeding problems. The City Council recognized that in the traffic calming rules that they approved in 1999. In the rules, the City Council authorizes us to initiate traffic calming projects only on the streets where the speeding exceed the 25 mph limit by over 5 mph, or 30 mph total.

The City Council has the authority to direct the staff, via formal resolutions, to initiate traffic calming at any location including the ones that do not qualify for the TC program. Also occasionally in the past, based on clear special needs and unique circumstances, staff has made recommendations for the City Council's approval to install traffic calming devices outside the TC program rules.

Please let me know we left anything out. Best,

Homayoon

-----Original Message-----

From: Cawley, Patrick
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2007 12:09 PM
To: Pirooz, Homayoon
Subject: RE: Street projects

Homayoon

The Sheridan segment was counting twice this year. The first time the 85th percentile was 27 mph. They did not feel the placement was best as it was close to an intersection. We redid the study at the hand picked spot (in the middle of down

grade) and this time results were a 28 mph 85th percentile. My feeling would be it is marginal. Obviously an exception to the program would be at the discretion of council.

-----Original Message-----

From: Lowenstein, Joan
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2007 9:28 AM
To: Pirooz, Homayoon; Cawley, Patrick
Subject: Street projects

Homayoon and Pat,

I saw a couple of constituents yesterday who had some questions:

1. On Ferdon, where there is street and sidewalk work, evidently a couple of curb cuts have been eliminated, from Norway and Wells. Was this intentional? The resident says these curb cuts were used by cyclists and pedestrians coming from Norway and going towards Burns Park.
2. Stephanie Aronow, who has been the resident requesting traffic calming on Sheridan, wonders if some exception can be made in their case, where there were two traffic studies and they "failed" just barely, by one or two mph. There is great enthusiasm on that street for traffic calming.

Thanks!

Joan

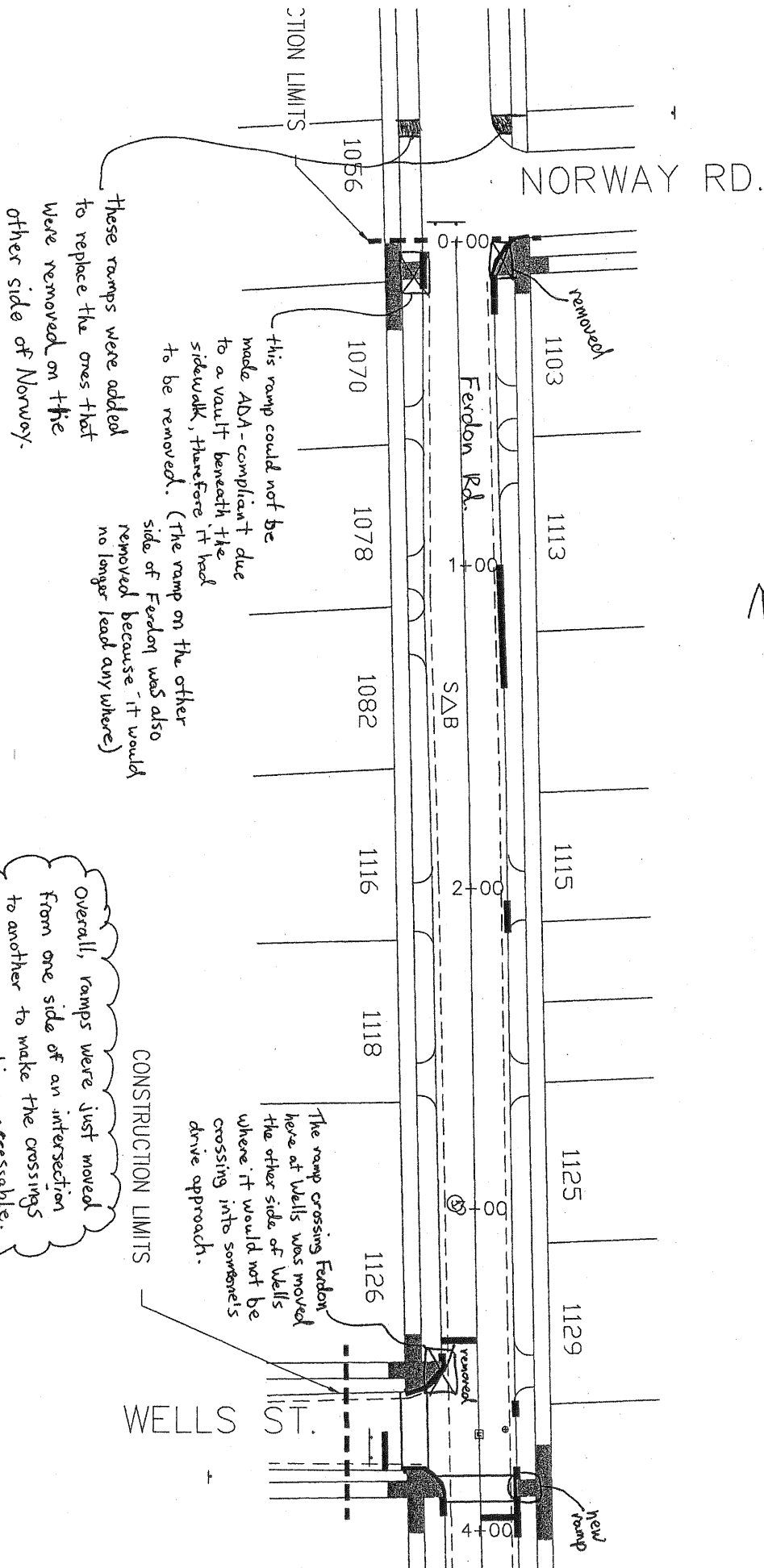
Joan Lowenstein

2nd Ward Councilmember

Ann Arbor, MI

jlowenstein@a2gov.org

www.a2gov.org



These ramps were added to replace the ones that were removed on the other side of Norway.

this ramp could not be made ADA-compliant due to a vault beneath the sidewalk, therefore it had to be removed. (The ramp on the other side of Fendon was also removed because it would no longer lead anywhere)

The ramp crossing Fendon here at Wells was moved the other side of Wells where it would not be crossing into someone's drive approach.

Overall, ramps were just moved from one side of an intersection to another to make the crossings safer and handicap accessible.

CONSTRUCTION LIMITS

WELLS ST.



King, Carol

From: Steve Bean [sbean@berginc.com]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2007 10:05 PM
To: Teall, Margie
Subject: Re: Suggested changes to Environmental Action Plan Goals

Margie,

Sorry for the confusion. I must have been working from an older version, I guess.

I hope it turned out alright in the end. Thanks for championing it.

Steve

PS: I would have come to the meeting but my son's baseball game didn't get rained out as I had expected it might.

On Jul 16, 2007, at 7:34 PM, Teall, Margie wrote:

I just re-read your suggestions, and realized that you didn't realize that "changes to" had already been dropped, and here I am trying to put it back in because I thought that was what you were asking for. My difficulty now is convincing Leigh that the ultimate goals are meant to be over-arching, and that they don't conflict with the work plan...

From: Steve Bean [mailto:sbean@berginc.com]

Sent: Monday, July 16, 2007 3:51 PM

To: Teall, Margie

Cc: Naud, Matthew

Subject: Re: Suggested changes to Environmental Action Plan Goals

On Jul 16, 2007, at 3:24 PM, Teall, Margie wrote:

I am attaching some changes, suggested by Steve Bean, to the Environmental Action Plan Goals statement that we are being asked to accept tonight. They are in bold. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks! -Margie

<Council EAP Goals Draft.doc>

Margie,

Let me try to clear up the wording for the Health-Promoting Urban Environment goal.

The wording in the attached draft reads, "Ensure that **changes to** the built environment promote public health (and improvements to the natural environment)."

My suggestion was (effectively), "Ensure that the built environment promotes public health." So "changes to" would be deleted as well as what you have in parentheses. Having "changes to" in bold seems to indicate that it's being added.

I'll leave it to you to forward this or just explain it at the meeting.

Would it be helpful for me to be there tonight?

Steve

"Forget about growing vegetables. Think instead about growing soil, for it is really soil that feeds you." -- John Jeavons