



February 22, 2021

Community & Economic
Development

**CITY OF FERNDALE
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

FROM: Justin Lyons

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Transportation Alternatives Program Grant Application for the Woodward Avenue Complete Streets Project

INTRODUCTION

City Council is considering applying for a Transportation Allocation Program (TAP) grant application for the Woodward Avenue Complete Streets Plan. The Woodward Avenue Complete Streets Plan TAP application is a joint request from the cities of Ferndale and Pleasant Ridge, which proposes to continue efforts to improve safety and provide more multi-modal transportation options on Woodward Avenue. The Woodward Avenue Complete Streets Plan supports City Council's eight critical success factors in numerous ways.

The TAP application coincides with the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) planned capital preventative maintenance project, which proposes to resurface asphalt between I-696 and 8 Mile in both communities. The planned maintenance project is tentatively scheduled from April to November 2022 and MDOT's project would mill and resurface the existing right-of-way between existing curbs with ADA curb ramp replacements. Ferndale and Pleasant Ridge have been working with MDOT over the past two years to include safety and mobility modifications in the maintenance project and leverage efficiencies as part of one project. Community engagement has been conducted through community-wide and business focused meetings, surveys, and webmaps over the past two years as part safety audits and the Ferndale Moves plan update. More details regarding the TAP application, project history, and next steps are noted below.

SUMMARY & BACKGROUND

City Council is considering applying for a Transportation Allocation Program (TAP) grant application for the Woodward Avenue Complete Streets Plan. TAP is a competitive federal grant program managed by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) that funds projects, such as bicycle facilities, shared-use paths, green infrastructure, and safe routes to school. Applications are due to SEMCOG on February 24th for projects that would be constructed in 2022. The City has been successful in securing over \$1 million in TAP grant funds and partnering with adjacent communities for projects, such as MoGo Bike Share, Woodward Heights, and the W. Nine Mile road diet, in past years. The Woodward Avenue Complete Streets Plan supports each of City Council's eight critical success factors.

The latest phase of the project included conceptual design of the proposed road diet and more community engagement. City Council approved Toole Design to complete conceptual design of the plan at the December 21, 2020 meeting. Concurrently, city staff and Toole Design conducted community engagement as part of the update to the City's mobility plan, Ferndale Moves, through an online webmap, community meetings (December 9, 2020; January 27, 2021), and business focused meetings in partnership with the DDA and Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce (January 19, 2021). Community engagement throughout meetings and other communications consistently aligned with a desire for a future design that provide more multimodal opportunities, shorter pedestrian crossings, ADA improvements, green stormwater infrastructure, transit stop modifications, better visibility at intersections, and more space for sidewalk cafe's.

A draft conceptual plan is attached to this agenda item, which displays the lane reduction plan with pavement markings, two-way bicycle lanes, signage, bollards, spot improvements for sidewalks, curb repair, and transit stops. It should be noted that the concept design is meant to be a guide, where more specific intersection, transit, and parking area work will be completed in the next phase of design. Since MDOT's portion of the 2022 project is a "preventative maintenance" project primarily focused on asphalt mill/repair and ADA modifications, there are limitations to the type of elements Ferndale and Pleasant Ridge can include in the project. Due to the time and expense of drainage modifications, the communities are limited in the amount of modifications that can be made to the area between the existing curb and private property lines (typically aligned with building setbacks). The communities are collaborating on this project with a design that utilizes short term elements (signs, pavement markings, bollards, etc.) to gain a lane on each side of Woodward that can help set up a future vision for Woodward Avenue that could include wider sidewalks, more trees, green stormwater infrastructure, and other more permanent elements. The concept design includes some more substantial modifications, such as transit stop improvements near 9 Mile, spot sidewalk improvements to make for safer passage near certain sidewalk cafes, and green stormwater infrastructure demonstration areas to show how these elements could be part of a larger, more transformative Woodward Avenue. MDOT anticipates a full reconstruction of Woodward Avenue (including sidewalks) as part of a future project in 10-15 years, which gives MDOT, the communities, and regional partners, such as SMART and the Regional Transit Authority, more time to plan for the future.

A budget estimate is attached, but also broken down below. TAP grant awards typically fund 70% of construction activities, pavement markings, bike racks, green stormwater infrastructure, sidewalks, etc. If a TAP grant were awarded for the Woodward Avenue Complete Streets Plan, then staff would return to City Council in June or July 2021 to approve the TAP award and budget. Ferndale's budget for the project would be funded through Major Street (202-000-977.000).

-Total Project Cost Estimate: \$3,998,740

-Estimated TAP Award Estimate (70% of Construction Costs): \$2,544,653

-Community Construction Match Estimate (30% of Construction Costs): \$973,993 (FERDNALE); \$116,573 (PLEASANT RIDGE)

-Community Engineering Match Estimate (10%): \$324,664 (FERNDAL); \$38,858 (PLEASANT RIDGE)

If City Council supports applying for the TAP application, Ferndale will continue to work with MDOT and Pleasant Ridge staff to transform concept designs to engineered construction documents, and plan additional community engagement for final plans and construction communications. If awarded the TAP grant, MDOT typically notifies applicants in May-June. A project page on the Ferndale Moves

website (<https://ferndalemoves.com/project/woodward-moves-2022>) will continue to be updated as the project progresses.

BUDGETARY CONTEXT

\$1,298,657 from Major Streets (202-000-977.000) for the Ferndale match and engineering.
Estimated annual maintenance: \$55,000 for DPW snow and sweeping; \$450 annually for Eco-Counter bicycle counters.

CIP#

0390

STRATEGIC PLANNING CONTEXT

Accessible Transportation Options

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the Transportation Alternatives Program grant application for the Woodward Avenue Complete Streets project, as submitted by the Planning Manager.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Woodward Moves-City Council.pdf](#)

[Letters of Support-Combined.pdf](#)

[Woodward Ave Cost Summary-2-16-21.pdf](#)

[WOODWARD AVE_ROLL PLOT_02.18.2021.pdf](#)