



September 13, 2021

Community & Economic  
Development

**CITY OF FERNDALE  
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**FROM:** Justin Lyons

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of the Revised Resolution in Support of the Road Diet on Woodward Avenue as Required by the Michigan Department of Transportation's Road Diet Checklist

**SUGGESTED ACTION**

Approve the revised resolution in support of the road diet on Woodward avenue as required by the Michigan Department of Transportation's Road Diet Checklist.

**Agenda Item Category**

Strategic Plan Item

**Agenda Item Deadline Date**

2021-09-09

**Item Description**

The Cities of Ferndale and Pleasant Ridge have collaborated with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to complete requirements for a proposed reduction of one lane on each side of Woodward Avenue and implement safety improvements during the State's 2022 resurfacing project. The proposed design focuses on traffic calming efforts through Downtown Ferndale that promote a more inclusive, safe, and accessible experience in our downtown.

As part of the MDOT "road diet check list", local communities are required to approve a resolution of support for the proposed street design change. MDOT has requested an updated resolution following some revisions made to the original proposed design approved by Council in February. The budget authorized by City Council during the April budget process is not changed. The design modifications required by MDOT will result in a 13% reduction in the road diet design presented in February, most of that reduction is concentrated near the I-696 service drive in Pleasant Ridge.

The Oakland County Executive's Office has submitted a letter of support for the project to the State of Michigan. Our project partner, the City of Pleasant Ridge has also shared a supportive letter as part of the packet.

**Item Background**

Since City Council approved resolutions of support for the Woodward Avenue Road Diet Check List and for staff to apply for a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant, a number of steps occurred.

City staff applied for a TAP grant (on behalf of Ferndale and Pleasant Ridge) based on the original concept design, which generally included a removal of one lane on each side of northbound and southbound Woodward Avenue, from 10 Mile to 8 Mile. MDOT further evaluated the original traffic study completed by the cities and determine in June 2021 that portions of the concept design would need to be redesigned to meet MDOT's standards for "level of service", which measures automobile traffic delay. MDOT determined that transitional areas near bridges, northbound/southbound Woodward Avenue at Oakland Park/Sylvan in Pleasant Ridge and northbound at 8 Mile, would operate below the State's minimum threshold for automobile traffic delay.

Since MDOT shared the traffic report's findings in June 2021, MDOT and city staff have worked together to find solutions that meet both MDOT's traffic engineering requirements and the project's goals for the communities. The revised concept design generally meets the same intent of the original concept to narrow Woodward Avenue to improve safety and provide more mobility options for all users of the street. The northbound Woodward section of the project near 8 Mile was able to be remedied through updated pavement markings within the existing MDOT right-of-way. The northbound/southbound Woodward Avenue sections near the Oakland Park/Sylvan intersection were more complex, and required a "taper" with pavement markings that gives extra distance for automobile traffic to merge from four lanes to three lanes before the separated bike lanes start/end. The revised concept design in Pleasant Ridge will divert most of their road diet portions to existing parks and alleys with signs, pavement markings, and pathway modifications. This revision also requires the southbound portion of the project in Ferndale to divert people on bicycles through alleys with signs and pavement markings (W. Oakridge to W. Maplehurst) and start the road diet at W. Maplehurst. The northbound portion of the project in Ferndale will still end at E. Oakridge, and then people on bicycles would be routed to northbound alleys with signs and pavement markings.

If City Council approves the resolution of support, MDOT's engineers in Lansing will review the concept and hopefully approve the project to move forward. MDOT's TAP committee will also consider the revised concept design, and make a final determination on if a grant will be awarded to Ferndale and Pleasant Ridge. As City Council previously stated, the amount of grant funding awarded would determine if the project is financially feasible for the City, and the TAP match is currently allocated from the Major Streets account. If City Council approves the resolution of support, but the TAP grant is not awarded or partially awarded, City Council could decide not to continue with the project. If the TAP grant is fully awarded, staff would ask City Council to consider a funding agreement and resolution to accept the award at a future meeting.

If those next steps from MDOT's Lansing engineers and the TAP committee are successful, staff would continue to work with local MDOT staff on construction documents for a potential bid in December 2021/January 2022. Regardless of whether the road diet moves forward, staff will be working with MDOT, the project contractor, and the Downtown Development Authority to keep businesses informed of the construction project on Woodward Avenue. Construction is expected to take place between April 2022 and November 2022.

Attached is a draft resolution of support and a copy of MDOT's Road Diet Check List. More details about the overall project are referenced on the project page (<https://ferndalemoves.com/project/woodward-moves-2022>).

#### **Item Costs**

\$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.

**GL#**

Major Streets (202-000-977.000)

**CIP#**

0390

**Additional Notes**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[20210913-Woodward Avenue Road Diet Resolution - City of Ferndale.pdf](#)

[20210913-Woodward Moves-Oakland County Letter.pdf](#)

[2021.09.09 PR Letter.pdf](#)