

To: Mayor Landry and Novi City Council

From: Councilmembers Andrew Mutch and David Staudt

Subject: Mayor and Council Issues - Revisions to Sidewalk Prioritization work group

Date: March 12, 2008

cc: Clay Pearson, Maryanne Cornelius, Randy Auler, Steve Rumble

At the December meeting of the Sidewalk Prioritization work group, the members voted to request City Council's approval for the expansion of the group's membership and responsibilities to allow for greater input and to include the review and prioritization of trails and greenways. The City Council discussed this request at its December 17th, 2007 meeting and directed the Council liaisons to draft a proposal outlining the changes requested.

This memo explains the proposed changes to the committee's membership. It also formalizes the responsibilities of the committee. The primary purpose of the committee will continue to be prioritizing the needs of the city's network of sidewalks and bikepaths with the addition of trails and greenways.

Based on the discussions of the existing work group, it is also recommended that the new committee work on creating a unified plan for the city's network of sidewalks, bikepaths, trails and greenways. This plan will assist the city departments (Community Development, Engineering, Public Works and Parks, Recreation and Forestry) that have responsibility over various portions of the network to coordinate their budgeting and planning efforts. The plan will also harmonize the long-range planning efforts of city boards like the City Council, Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission and Planning Commission. In order to complete this work, the committee will meet on an ongoing basis.

Action: Request City Council approval for the creation of the Walkable Novi Committee with the responsibilities as outlined.

Walkable Novi Committee

Intent

The intent of this new committee is to extend the scope of the Ad-Hoc Pathways Prioritization Committee to include greenways, trails and pathways-related projects. The membership of the committee would be expanded to include more representation from the Parks, Recreation and Forestry department and commission.

Membership

- 2 Members of City Council (Recommended - Mutch & Staudt)
- 3 Members of the Planning Commission (Burke, Meyer & Pehrson)
- 2 Members of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry (Zyczynski & TBD)
- Staff liason from the Community Development Department (Spencer)
- Staff liason from the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department (Auler)

Responsibilities

- Annually - Review and prioritize sidewalk, bikepath and trail segments for inclusion in the Capital Improvements Program and city budget. (Existing Ad Hoc Committee Responsibility)
- Ongoing – The committee will strive to develop a plan focused on the creation of a comprehensive integrated network of sidewalks, bikepaths, trails and greenways that serve the entire city and connect to regional networks.
 - This plan will use existing city plans to identify gaps and opportunities and integrate existing plans for sidewalks, trails, etc. into a unified planning document.
 - As needed, the committee will request funding and resources needed to complete elements of the plan.
 - The plan elements will assist the Council and Commissions in updating city goals and long-range planning documents like the Master Plan for Land Use and the 5 Year Recreation Plan.
- Ongoing - Identify alternative funding opportunities and projects eligible for funding.
- Ongoing - Participation in Regional Trails efforts on behalf of the City:
 - OTAC (Oakland Trails Advisory Council) - Effort led by Oakland County to create countywide trails system.
 - I-275 and M-5 Bike Path Projects – Effort led by MDOT to upgrade existing I-275 bikeway and extend bikeway north along M-5.
 - Other regional efforts as appropriate.
- Ongoing – Work with Community Development and Parks, Recreation and Forestry to seek community input on needs and priorities.
- Ongoing - Work with School Districts to identify deficiencies in routes to schools and develop solutions to address them.
 - Potential funding available from federal Safe Routes to Schools program.
- Ongoing – Work with businesses in the community to encourage participation in the planning process.

Budget

- Necessary resources from existing Departmental budgets.

Reporting

- The committee shall provide quarterly updates to the Council and Commissions.