NORTH MAIN HURON RIVER CORRIDOR PROJECT
CITY-WIDE MEETING #2

Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2013
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Location: Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main Street
Attendees: Public present: 36; refer to Appendix A for sign-in sheet
           Task Force members present: 6; Bonnie Bona, Sabra Briere, Connie Brown, Ray Detter, David Santacroce, Sandi Smith
           City staff present: 2; Sumedh Bahl; Kayla Coleman

Re: City-Wide Meeting #2

To view the presentation provided at the meeting, click (here) – note: this is a very large document

Open Discussion Public Comments; Questions and Answers:
NOTE: comments from meeting discussion are not a direct transcription. This summary has been developed from notes taken during the meeting; comments are paraphrased. Where clarification and/or response to comments were provided from task force members, City staff, or other members of the audience, they are shown in italics.

- M14: Complete interchange
- Main and Depot: more and longer turn lanes, 4 lane divided boulevard, or 5 lanes (long term). Traffic backs up very bad at times of hospital shift change.
- DTE site: Commercial or restaurant use
- Support continuous sidewalk on East side of Main but not West side of Main.
- Need to get a plan and get support for it even if there is not they money today. Can make the plan happen later when we have the money.
- Need to include the University of Michigan in the traffic improvements discussion. It is the UM hospital causing the traffic.
- DTE site: whitewater a quarter mile from where people are paddling for recreation? That seems dangerous.
- DTE site: I applaud the handicap accessibility
- I love the tunnel (#2)
- From Main St. turning on to lakeshore, left-hand turn should not be an option, do a Michigan left turnaround; it is dangerous to have cars stopped.
- Widening sidewalk along Main St. is very important.
- Clarify potential location of improved boat facilities?
- The example shown for boat facility is too tall.
- DTE (#3) love the amphitheatre, love that!
- Don’t do the whitewater, one engineered whitewater is enough.
- Power plant (DTE) should be art gallery. We need an urban art gallery!
- 721 N. Main building (#1): is development what you are going to recommend for 721? Where does the community fit into the conversation of what should happen at 721 N. Main. I do not support
development and I feel that it is late in the process to propose development when the community has expressed that they do not support development.

- Development along N. Main corridor is not necessarily a bad idea.
- DTE Site: I don’t think we can assume that they are going to give that land to the City. The current issue is zoning.
- 721 N. Main, zoning? Task force response: 721 N. Main is zoned PL (Public Land), the City can set zoning.
- Don’t want to have the zoning issues repeated from 413 E. Huron. This was a situation where City Council said this is a terrible idea, but our hands are tied because of zoning.
- Consider zoning now, include that in the recommendations.
- What is the current zoning? Task force response: the current zoning along N Main is light industrial.
  - Zoning map of North Main corridor; Explanation of Zoning Designations
- Task force response: the North Main Task Force report to City Council will likely recommend that zoning be explored in more detail, but will not make specific zoning recommendations. That is something that needs to be looked at in much more depth.
- Thumbs up, underpasses and crossings
- Why is whitewater included in DTE proposal? Task force response: whitewater was planned along with cascades at Argo, but DTE requested that the City wait to install the whitewater because DTE needed to complete river bank restoration and would have had to tear out the whitewater features and replace them; they said they would pay to have the whitewater built later, once restoration was complete.
- Would the potential N. Main St. traffic study be lead by MDOT, or the City? The task force should recommend specific components that we would like included in the traffic study e.g. the area needs to be pedestrian friendly.
- Support complete streets on N. Main, rather than a 6 lane highway.
- Support land use study along N. Main
- 721 N. Main: Support development with proper zoning.
- Has the task force considered dynamic lanes on N. Main St? e.g. three lanes in the morning with moveable barriers.
- What does the railroad say about crossings? (i.e. tunnels and bridges) Task force response: The railroad company seem more willing to work with over or under than at grade crossings.
- Highest priority: #8 pedestrian crossing to get to the Border-to-Border trail. Very important from a county-wide perspective.
- DTE site: zoning? How can the City change the zoning of private property? Task force response: the City can re-zone private property; the property owner may not always agree, but the City has that authority.
- 721 N. Main: great potential for mixed use. Even 2 or 3 stories high, it would draw people to a park. Brings people to green space and commercial area.
- The problem for development is the urban sprawl model; we need to get beyond that and make the area walkable.
- 721 N. Main: Retail opportunities, coffee shops, restaurant. We need to create a vision; maybe something like Kerrytown. Create a thriving hub.
- 721 N. Main: studios for artists, and nature center.
- DTE site: I’m not convinced that we need another off shoot. And a big parking lot in the middle? This is not unique; it’s just a repeat of Argo. Taskforce response: the livery is in high demand, they need some relief.
• DTE site: make the livery bigger where it is, or move everything to DTE and redevelop the Argo space.
• 721 N. Main: get rid of building if it’s going to cost 6 million.
• Priorities: widen, complete the bike path along N. Main St.; #8 need a safe way to get under Railroad; Appearance along N. Main (at one time there was a fund to remove aluminum facades), need to beautify the area.
• There was once a bridge to connect US23, Whitmore; that came out when the highway went in.
• Support for getting rid of buildings at 721 N. Main. Idea for something like Mark’s carts (not necessarily food, but something to get eyes there during the day).
• 721 N. Main: amphitheatre, dog park (people will use this all times of the day and night), playground or ball field. (Do something in the interim until we figure out the ultimate plan for the site).
• 721 N. Main building: vegetable gardens, like project grow, would get people there gardening.
• 721 N. Main building: Could the Imagine Community group lease the 721 N. Main space? Provide music and art for the homeless. Raising the property, rebuild something simple, nature/ art center, artist studios.
• Shouldn’t design the whole physical space for the automobile. If they have to wait a couple of minutes at a light then so what. Our priority should be a nice space that is pedestrian friendly.
• Have a lot of people come in through Main St. that is the first thing they see! Applaud the task force and thank you for doing this.
• What is the timeline for this project? Task force response: the task force will make short and long term recommendations in our report, due to City Council by the end of July.

Written Feedback form responses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Draft recommendation</th>
<th>Strong support</th>
<th>Maybe</th>
<th>Strong opposition</th>
<th>Neutral/ Don’t know</th>
<th>Additional comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 721 N Main improvements</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Demolish old buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Pedestrian Crossing under railroad- at 4th and Depot</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 DTE Gas site improvements</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes to path along river. Encourage more intense development, more intense than parking lot/ park; combine with ----</td>
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<td>It’s a pipe dream until you can get the land.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>With development/ restaurants!</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Pedestrian bridge over Huron River- connection from Argo Cascades to the DTE Gas site</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Could use #5 and Argo Dam to get across river</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Pedestrian Bridge over Allen Creek outlet- connections from DTE Gas site to the Border-to- Border trail</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Seems redundant; second priority to #4 bridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Fully signalized and gated railroad crossing at Lakeshore</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Consider passive barriers that make pedestrians/ vehicles aware/ design zig-zag around barriers, see Netherlands.</td>
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Who wouldn't be
### North Main Huron River Corridor Project
### City-Wide Meeting #2
### Meeting Summary
### Wednesday, June 12, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Proposed Improvement</th>
<th>D-S</th>
<th>Y-N</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>Priority</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Improved boat facilities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lower priority</td>
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<td>If needed to replace present ones</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Really believe we need to fight for continued access to lakeshore.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pedestrian-bicycle tunnel under railroad to Huron River Drive near Bandemer</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes, to connecting paths</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Really believe we need to fight for continued access to lakeshore.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Very high priority</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Extend sidewalk under M-14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>High priority</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Traffic study needed, possible roundabout</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>High speed not needed- not on the freeway yet!</td>
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<td>Really believe we need to fight for continued access to lakeshore.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>But City should provide recommendations and say study need to provide for access for bikes, pedestrians, slower speeds</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Pedestrian crossing of Main street at Lakeshore</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Continuous sidewalk on west side of Main St (Depot to Huron Dr)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pedestrian-bicycle bridge-connection from 721 N Main to the Border-to-Border trail</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Great design opportunity to welcome into the city.</td>
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<td>Really believe we need to fight for continued access to lakeshore.</td>
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<td>Yes, long term</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Main/ Depot intersection improvements</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pedestrian Improvements.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Do these now!</td>
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**Other comments:**

1. Highest priority from a countywide perspective for bicyclists, runners, walkers, and people with disabilities is the crossing of the railroad between Bandemer Park and Barton Park/ Huron River Drive. This would replace the current unsafe informal crossing. It would allow extending the Border-to-border trail about two miles to the northwest to at least Foster Bridge.

2. Could DTE Space be made like a County Farm Park- A nature preserve, and with walking paths. Could 721 N. Main be raised and a simple building be built, with a Community Center for bringing arts and music to homeless (Imagine Community could use this space) - as a day space where they learn, and grow skills. Also artists/ music studios could be in part of the building. Thank you for your time and consideration 😊

3. Demolish buildings at 721 N. Main but keep as public land and build a modest nature/ artist studio/ Community Center that could rent space to artists & Imagine Community people and organizations for special events- with artist space and the proposed nearby dog park there will be “eyes on the park” all times of day and night- do not sell this space for private development (put bathrooms there and allow space for food carts too). Build a bridge, not a tunnel, at #2- tunnels are sinister at night; make the “culvert” open and meandering through the DTE site before emptying into the Huron River- see how Los Angeles has converted its cemented culverts to greener alternatives that allow trees and plants to clean surface water before it enters a river.
4. Think of connections between parks and “chaining” experiences... one park could have bocce ball, another could have horse shoes, maybe that’s dumb but one park shouldn’t be the same as each other.

5. Extend transit service further North on Main. Commercial/restaurant area along here. Consider that many that are in traffic at shift change are not Ann Arbor residents. De we have to appease them so much? Residents know to avoid!

6. Investigate methods to improve N. Main St. appearance (e.g. business association).

7. I would like to see 721 N. Main buildings down and I like the idea of Mark’s carts plus artist studios.

8. Currently it is illegal and unsafe to turn left from Huron View Blvd. onto Main Street. Many people do so anyways. I strongly request that any plan include a system for allowing these left turns- perhaps roundabout. Thank you!

9. Act now

10. Create a boulevard from M-14 to at least close to railroad abutments if not able to go to Depot. No left turns on southbound main, M-14 to Depot. Michigan lefts only.

11. Great job so far.

12. Appreciate open forum.

13. As a property owner on N. Main this Rd. is so unsafe. Love most all suggestions.

14. Put solar or plastic panel roof over audience if amphitheatre is built. It rains too much in A2. Move kayak play ground at DTE across to other side from --. I am opposed to livery- mostly due to staffing needs. It would be big help to get cost estimates for tunnels- these have been discussed for years but too expensive- forget it. I like roundabouts but no roundabouts on north main. It is too disruptive to build. Boulevard on Main is supported. Get UM in on traffic problem at Depot and Main. Get rid of traffic light at Summit. Will railroad even support tunnels? Maybe should be asked. I support signals at lakeshore-not gates- people go around them. Look at NF plan regarding Barton on-ramp. Rebuild – Main and 14 realistically is not going to happen. I’m – for years and years. Please it’s people with disabilities not handicapped!

15. I do not support development in place of the current buildings [at 721 N. Main]. There are a lot of good ideas voiced tonight to keep public use of the build sites.

16. (#1) I would like to see more commercial (restaurant) uses of the DTE site; (#10) we need to add an off ramp from M-14 East to Huronview Blvd. then to N. Main St. South AND an on ramp to M-14 West from N. Main St. via W. Huron River Dr. North of M-14 from existing roadway. (#12) I strongly support continuous sidewalk on EAST side of N. Main St. NOT west side of N. Main St. (#14) Need more turn lanes and longer turn lanes from N. Main to Depot and from Depot to N. Main St. headed NORTH. (#11) Minor benefit to small number of pedestrians would be outweighed by major inconvenience to motorists.
Appendix A: Sign in Sheets

1. John Smith
2. Jane Doe
3. Bob Jones
4. Sarah Lee
5. Lisa Brown
6. Rachel White
7. David Wilson
8. Mark Taylor
9. Emily Green
10. Michael Evans
11. Sarah Ross
12. David Johnson
13. Rachel Evans
14. Emily Green
15. Michael Wilson
16. David Taylor
17. Sarah Ross
18. Emily Green
19. Michael Johnson
20. Rachel White