

**ANN ARBOR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WORKING SESSION - OCTOBER 11, 1999**

The working session of the Ann Arbor City Council was called to order at 7:44 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber by Mayor Ingrid B. Sheldon.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

PRESENT : Councilmembers Tobi Hanna-Davies, Joseph Upton, Jean Carlberg, Heidi Cowing Herrell, Patrick A. Putman, Christopher Kolb, Mayor Ingrid B. Sheldon, 7.

ABSENT : Councilmembers Patricia Vereen-Dixon, David Kwan, Stephen C. Hartwell, Elisabeth L. Daley, 4.

BROADWAY BRIDGES DETOUR ROUTES

Public Services Director William Wheeler reported that the Broadway Bridges project will be an 18-month construction process beginning next year and concluding at the end of 2001. The plan includes one lane of inbound traffic on the bridge during construction, with outbound traffic to be diverted down Huron, Glen, Fuller, Maiden Lane and back to Plymouth Road (Detour Route #1). Mr. Wheeler stated that this route has been analyzed and compared to an alternative route which allows outbound traffic to use the one lane over the bridge while inbound traffic would be detoured (Detour Route #2). Mr. Wheeler introduced Barbara Aarons and Linda Powell, of Parsons Brinckerhoff Michigan, Inc., who presented the results of this analysis.

Ms. Aarons gave a slide presentation summarizing the Analysis and Comparison of Possible Detour Routes During the Reconstruction of the Broadway Bridges, Prepared by Parsons Brinckerhoff Michigan, Inc., July 1, 1999 (on file in the City Clerk's Office). Ms. Aarons reported that based on the traffic engineering analysis, Detour Route #2 would move vehicles more efficiently, thus reducing fuel consumption, pollution, user costs and vehicles potentially deviating from the intended detour route.

Questions and comments from Council followed the presentation. Some Councilmembers raised concerns with the economic impact on downtown businesses if Detour Route #2 was implemented.

The following citizens addressed Council:

William Simpson, 1512 Plymouth Rd., spoke in support of Detour Route #1.

Joe O=Neal, owner of Kerrytown, expressed concerned with the negative economic impact of Detour Route #2 on Kerrytown and other downtown businesses.

Tony Ramirez, Ann St. resident, requested that Glen Street be changed to a two-way street to alleviate the traffic on Ann Street.

NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING STRATEGIES

Mayor Sheldon announced that members of the Police Department and Public Services Department are sponsoring a public forum on the topic of neighborhood traffic calming on October 14, 7:00 p.m., at Pioneer High School.

Public Services Director William Wheeler introduced Les Sipowski, Project Manager in the Engineering Division, who gave a slide presentation summarizing the report, "ATraffic Calming, Prepared by the City of Ann Arbor Public Services Department, September, 1998" (on file in the City Clerk=s Office). The report contains research of traffic calming techniques used in other cities and outlines a system for implementing traffic calming in Ann Arbor. Mr. Wheeler emphasized that the public involvement process is the key to having a successful traffic calming strategy in the City.

Police Chief Carl Ent and Staff Sergeant Brad Hill, of the Special Services Division, presented the police initiatives for traffic calming. Chief Ent reported that the Police Department has made a commitment of resources to proactively and responsively address areas of concern with traffic. He emphasized the need for enforcement education and community participation in traffic calming programs.

Sgt. Hill announced that a series of meetings on traffic calming will be held in various neighborhoods, the first of which will be held at Pioneer High School on October 14. He stated that by allowing citizens to have a direct voice in traffic matters and by having a community traffic officer position, the police will be able to expand their success and continue a successful partnership with residents.

Mr. Sipowski reviewed the proposed traffic calming program for the city, which allows several opportunities for residents to provide input into a particular traffic issue. The public process stages include: petition to study, neighborhood meetings, City Council meeting, and petition to construct the project.

Questions and comments from Council followed the presentation.

City Administrator Berlin stated that based on Council=s comments, the traffic calming process will be reviewed, revised and brought back to Council for action. He further stated that each year the proposed budget will include an allocation for traffic calming projects.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

W. Northcross
Clerk of the Council

Janet L. Chapin
Recording Secretary