



# City of Ann Arbor Pedestrian Safety & Access Task Force



**Task Force Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> from 5 to 7 PM**

**Basement Conference Room ,  
Larcom City Hall**



**The Greenway  
Collaborative, Inc.**



# 1. Introductions

## Task Force Members:

- Vivienne Armentrout
- Scott Campbell
- Ken Clark (Secretary)
- Neal Elyakin
- Linda Diane Feldt (Chair)
- Owen Jansson
- Anthony Pinnell
- Sarah Pressprich  
Gryniewicz
- Jim Rees



## *Guest Speaker:*

- *Paul Tinkerhess, SnowBuddy*

## *City Staff:*

- *Robert Kellar, Communications Specialist*
- *Officer Lawrence Schroeder, Community Standards*



## 2. Approval of Agenda

- No proposed changes submitted prior to today's meeting
- Key meeting outcomes:
  - Identify near term winter maintenance action items
  - Discuss long term policy for winter maintenance

1. Introductions	5 – 5:05 pm
2. Approval of Agenda	5:05 – 5:10 pm
3. Public Commentary (3 minutes/speaker, limit three speakers)	5:10 – 5:20 pm
4. Approval of Meeting #6 Discussion Summary	5:20 – 5:25 pm
5. Approve amendments to Pedestrian Safety and Access Plan Annotated Outline	5:25 – 5:35 pm
6. Local Winter Maintenance Example Program	5:35 – 5:45 pm
a) Snow Buddy Presentation by Paul Tinkerhess	
7. Winter Maintenance Near-term Action Items	5:45 – 6:15 pm
a) Snow Buddy Evaluation Options	
b) Enforcement of Existing Ordinance Through A2 Fix It Promotion	
c) Education & Outreach Brainstorming Session	
8. Winter Maintenance Long Term Policy Discussion	6:15 – 6:40 pm
a) Issues with Existing Ordinance	
b) Model Ordinances from Other Communities	
c) Recommended Ordinance Modifications	
d) Prioritization	
9. Next Steps	6:40 – 6:50 pm
a) Draft Outline Agendas and Work Plan	
b) Upcoming Public Engagement	
c) Confirm Attendance for Next Meeting	
d) Crosswalk Issues and Resources Brief addressed at November Meeting	
10. Public Commentary (3 minutes/speaker)	



## 3. Public Commentary

- Limit to 3 speakers
- 3 minutes per speaker
- If you comment at the beginning of the meeting you cannot comment at the end





## 4. Approval of Meeting #6 Discussion Summary

- No proposed changes submitted prior to today's meeting

### PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND ACCESS TASK FORCE MEETING #6 – MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Wednesday, August 20, 2014

**Time:** 5:00 - 7:00 pm

**Location:** Basement Conference Room – Larcom City Hall

**Attendees:**

Task Force Members Present, 8: Vivienne Armentrout; Scott Campbell; Kenneth Clark; Neal Elyakin ; Linda Diane Feldt; Anthony Pinnell; Sarah Pressprich Gryniewicz; Jim Rees;

Task Force Members Absent, 1: Owen Jansson

Public Present: Kathy Griswold; Marilyn Tower; Seth Peterson; Sabra Briere; refer to Attachment B for sign-in sheet

City Staff Present, 7: Eli Cooper, Deb Gosselin, Nick Hutchinson, Jeff Kahan, Connie Pulcipher, Cresson Slotten, Matt Warba

Consultant Present, 2: Norman Cox and Carolyn Prudhomme

**Re:** Pedestrian Safety and Access Task Force Meeting

Meeting Called to Order: 5:01pm

1. Introductions
2. Changes to agenda: None, unanimously approved
3. Public Commentary:
  - a. Kathy Griswold
    - Michigan one of the few states without a crosswalk law, so it's not taught in schools.
    - Ann Arbor doesn't enforce crosswalk parking buffers that currently exist.
    - A2fix it is great, but categories are based on prior problems, so there aren't good categories for some of the pedestrian/crosswalk safety items we might care about.
    - On school safety committees for two decades.
4. Changes to notes and minutes from last meeting: None, unanimously approved
5. Approve amendments to Pedestrian Safety and Access Plan Annotated Outline – The draft document “Pedestrian Safety Action Plan – Working Outline” dated 8/27/14 was approved unanimously..



## 5. Approve Amendments to PSAP Annotated/Working Outline

- Updated Data Collection and Analysis section
- Task Force provided a wish list of data requests

### *Recommendations:*

*Understanding that there are limited resources available, the Task Force's data wish list includes the following:*

- *Data inventory of pedestrian slip and fall injuries as it relates to winter sidewalk maintenance (this information may be drawn from hospital records).*
- *A comparison analysis of sidewalk gap data and crash data to identify if there are any patterns associated to pedestrian crashes where sidewalk are not present.*
- *Analysis of vulnerable populations in relation to pedestrian crashes (such as crashes involving children or seniors).*
- *Crosswalk analysis that identifies spacing between existing crosswalks (include both marked and unmarked crosswalks) to help determine where new mid-block crossings might be needed.*
- *Provide consistency in pedestrian count locations over time.*
- *Provide text based UD10 versions of all of Ann Arbor's pedestrian crashes from Michigan Traffic Crash Facts Website.*
- *Provide a brief one-page graph of the American Community Survey (ACS) data showing pedestrian travel over time in Ann Arbor that also ties in the U.S. Census data to illustrate the percentage of trips that changed over time.*
- *The City should coordinate their data with any pedestrian data collected by Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition.*



## 6. Local Winter Maintenance Example Program

Paul Tinkerhess, SnowBuddy

- Nonprofit sidewalk snow removal service
- Water Hill Neighborhood



### The Concept

SnowBuddy is a unique nonprofit sidewalk snow removal service run like a public radio station. It provides its service for free to an entire area and is supported by donations.

Instead of dividing walkways into segments assigned to property owners, SnowBuddy sees the sidewalk as a continuous right-of-way, a transportation corridor most appropriately maintained in its entirety, using municipal-quality equipment, as a service to the community.

At the same time, SnowBuddy aims to question whether government might be best positioned to perform this service and, if so, whether it might be persuaded through reasons of compassion, politics or law to maintain the winter accessibility of its non-motorized pathways.



## 7. Winter Maintenance Near-term Action Items

The goal is to discuss near-term action items

- a) Snow Buddy Evaluation Options
- b) Enforcement of Existing Ordinance through A2 Fix It Promotion
- c) Education & Outreach Brainstorming Session



Examples:

- City Publications
- Door Hangers
- Flyers
- Media Reports
- “Community Snow Shovel”
- Snow Angel Program for youth





## 8. Winter Maintenance Long Term Policy Discussion

- This is a first step in winter maintenance policy
- Keep in mind the Task Force is making recommendations for elements that will be in a pedestrian safety action that will be created in the future should City Council decide to proceed
- Any policy recommendations that are taken forward will go through the City's policy development process





## 8a. Issues with Existing Ordinance

- Clearly define responsibility:
  - Curb Ramps
  - Gutter
  - Bus Stops
  - Crossing Islands
- Snow Plow Piles
- Definition of “walkway”
- Enforcement
  - Complaint based
  - Targeted areas

### Chapter 49 SIDEWALKS 4:60—Snow and Ice

All snow and ice which has accumulated prior to 6:00 a.m. on a public sidewalk adjacent to property not zoned residentially shall be removed by the owner or occupant by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such sidewalk it shall be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery and the ice shall be removed within the time limits of this paragraph.

Except for sidewalks defined by section 4:51(1)(b) and (c)\*, within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property shall remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk and walks and ramps leading to a crosswalk. The accumulation may be from any source including precipitation and drifting. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such sidewalk, it shall be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery and the ice shall be removed within 24 hours after accumulation.

All property zoned PL (public land) shall have snow and ice removed as if it held the same zoning classification as the adjacent property. The removal of snow and ice shall mean free of snow and ice for the entire constructed width and length of the sidewalk, including walks and ramps leading to a crosswalk.

\*Note: 4:51(1)(b) and (c)

"Sidewalk" shall mean any concrete or bituminous walkway, or walkway of other materials that is designed particularly for pedestrian, bicycle, or other non-motorized travel and that is constructed (a) in a public right-of-way that contains an improved street or in an easement adjacent and parallel to a public right-of-way that contains an improved street, (b) in a public right-of-way without an improved street, or (c) within or upon an easement or strip of land that is not adjacent and parallel to a public right-of-way, and that was taken or accepted by the city or dedicated to and accepted by the city for public use by pedestrians, bicycles, or other non-motorized travel. As used in this chapter, "sidewalk" includes walks and ramps leading to a crosswalk.



# 8b. Model Ordinances from Other Communities

- Boston Metro Area Snow Removal Policy Toolkit
- Calgary – designates different levels of service for different areas
- Minneapolis
- Chicago



## 4. Comparison Table of Snow Clearance Ordinances in the Boston Region

Safe Sidewalks, a coalition of groups in the City of Newton, researched how other communities currently handle the issue of sidewalk snow clearance. The table below is of 11 communities within Route 128 that have residential sidewalk snow clearing ordinances. Safe Sidewalks found that compliance was more likely to be higher if communities actively enforce their ordinances or policies. Although not consistent as a variable, communities with high compliance levels also had multiple examples of educational materials that went to all residents (e.g., via tax or water bills) and were posted on municipal websites.<sup>2</sup>

Municipality	Time Allotted for Residents	Residential Fine
Arlington	8 hours	\$25
Boston	3-6 hours	\$50-\$100
Brookline	30 hours	\$25
Cambridge	12 hours snow/6 hours ice	\$25 <sup>a</sup>
		Cost to remove at expense of owner and liened to owner's tax bill.
Chelsea	24 hours	
Lynn	3 hours	\$50
Malden	24 hours	Cost of removal of violation and a fine up to \$300.
Medford	24 hours	\$25 first day and \$50 each successive day.
Salem	6 hours	\$25
		\$25 first offense, \$50 second offense, and \$100 third offense.
Somerville	6 hours	
		\$25 first offense, \$50 second offense, and \$100 third offense.
Winthrop	6 hours	



## 8c & d. Recommended Ordinance Modifications

- Ordinance
- Enforcement
- Documentation
- Prioritization

### Potential Changes to Existing Ordinance:

“Except for sidewalks defined by section 4:51 (1)(b) and (c), the owner or occupant of every property shall remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk and walks and ramps leading to a crosswalk by noon of the day of any accumulation of snow on that sidewalk prior to 6:00 a.m. The accumulation may be from any source including precipitation and drifting”

“No snow and/or ice shall be removed from private property and placed on a private sidewalk or street”

### Potential Ordinance Change with Five-year Phasing:

- Reduction in clearance time from 24-hours to noon for accumulation before 6 am.
- Increase in fines
- Establish clearing for priority sidewalks
- Set up hardship system and coordinate sidewalk snow clearing companies
- Ordinance enforcement practices
- Clear crosswalks and pedestrian islands





# 9a. Draft Outline Agendas and Work Plan Update

- Changed to a topic based approach
- Issues and Resource Briefs will help guide discussions at meeting

## ORIGINAL SCHEDULE : PRELIMINARY PLANNING (OCTOBER - FEBRUARY)

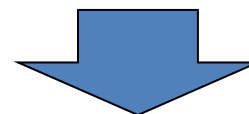
Identify Project Types and Related Issues

Model Engineering and Education Countermeasures

Model Enforcement, Encouragement and Operations Countermeasures

Prioritization Systems and Approaches

Funding Issues and Options



## UPDATED SCHEDULE : PRELIMINARY PLANNING (OCTOBER - FEBRUARY)



Winter Maintenance

Crossing the Road

Sidewalks and Shared Use Paths

Complete Streets Part 1

(bicycle-related, traffic management, work zone-related)

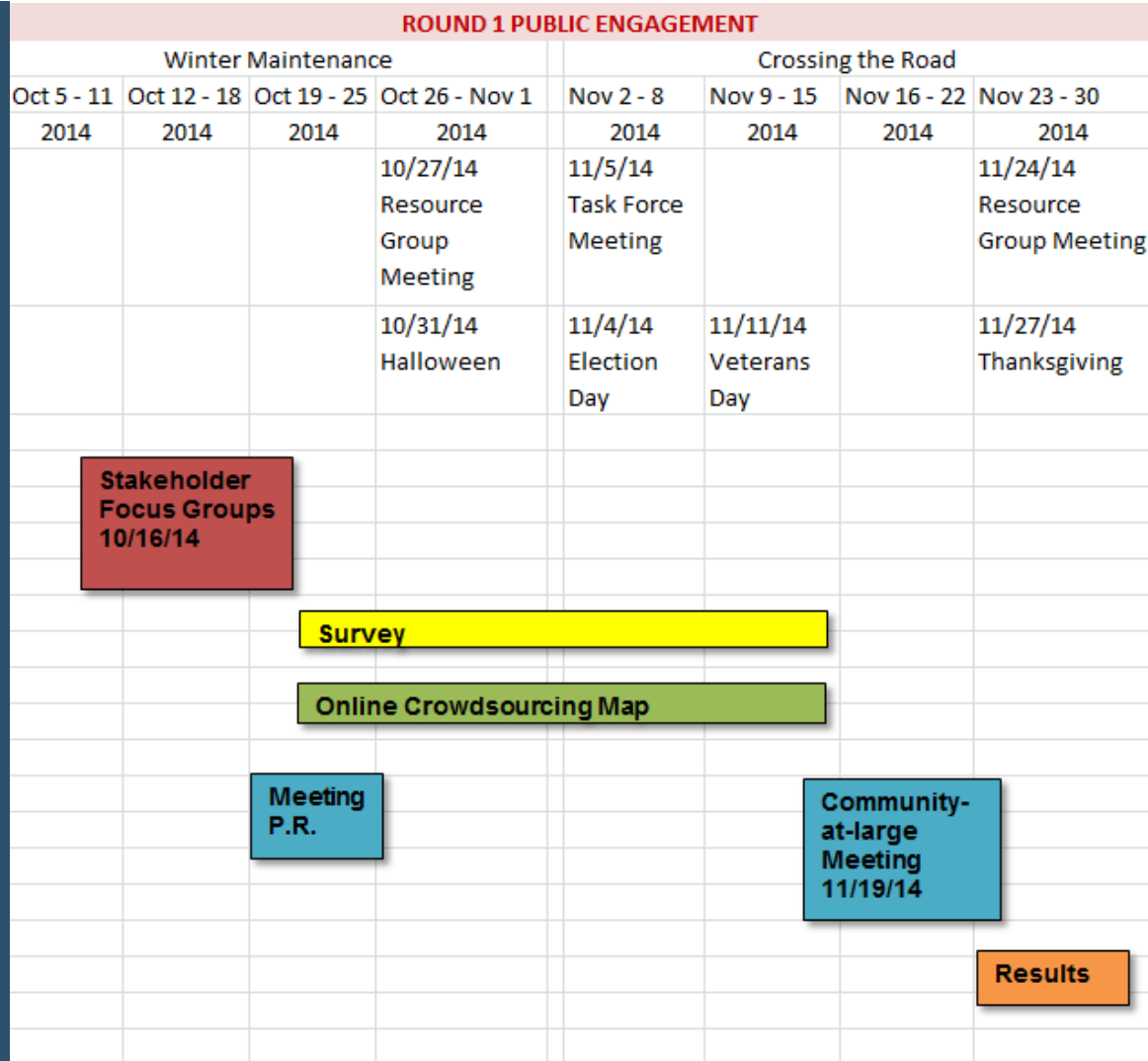
Complete Streets Part 2

(land use/site design, transit-related)



# 9b. Upcoming Public Engagement Approach

- Stakeholder Focus Group  
October 16<sup>th</sup>
- Survey and Crowdsourcing  
Maps Mid-October through  
Mid-November
- Community-at-large Meeting  
November 19<sup>th</sup>
- Round 1 - focus on pedestrian  
issues and opportunities:
  - ❖ Spot Locations – intersections  
and/or mid-block areas
  - ❖ Corridors – including roadway  
sections and/or entire  
corridors
  - ❖ Targeted Areas – specific  
neighborhoods, school zones  
or business districts, etc.
  - ❖ Entire City – system-wide  
improvements and policies,  
such as enforcement and  
programs





## 9b. Stakeholder Focus Groups

- Day-long event with 3 rounds of focus groups
- Purpose is to identify pedestrian safety and access issues as they relate to:
  - entire city
  - targeted areas
  - specific corridors
- A preliminary list of issues will be provided
- The group will also prioritize issues and discuss potential opportunities

### Round 1 Stakeholder Focus Groups

Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>  
Basement Conference Room at City Hall

8:30 – 10:30 am

Business Organizations/Commercial Neighborhoods

1:30 – 3:30 pm

Boards, Commissions, Agencies and Public Groups

5:30 – 7:30 pm

Non-profits, Environmental Organizations and  
Neighborhood Associations

***\*Task Force members are welcome to participate***

Input from stakeholders will be used as a foundation for additional input from the community as a whole via online surveys and public meetings



# 9c & d. November 5<sup>th</sup> Task Force Meeting

- Crosswalks/Crossing the Road
- Crosswalk Issues and Resources Brief will be addressed
- Round 1 Public Engagement
  - Review Input from Stakeholder Focus Groups
  - Review input from live survey and crowdsourcing maps
  - Prepare for community wide meeting on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>



Confirm Task Force attendance for next meeting

*Please review Crosswalk Brief and send any additional questions to Carolyn via Google Group by **EOB Friday October 10th***





## 8. Public Commentary

- 3 minutes per speaker
- If you commented at the beginning of the meeting you cannot comment at the end





# City of Ann Arbor Pedestrian Safety & Access Task Force



## Questions?

Norman COX, PLA, ASLA and  
Carolyn Prudhomme, ASLA

**The Greenway Collaborative, Inc.**  
Ann Arbor, Michigan



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Collaborative, Inc.**