

Complete Streets Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2014
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Capitol Commons Building

Present:

Bill Shreck (for Kirk Steudle), Lt. Gary Megge, Steve DeBrabander, Gary Piotrowicz, Karen Kafantaris, Jim Tischler, Rob Bacigalupi, Andrea Brown, Ken Fletcher, John Niemela, Megan Olds

Not Present: Lynn Afendoulis, Carolyn Grawi, Rochelle Hurst, Rory Neuner, Christopher White, Suzanne Schulz

Welcome

Vice-Chairperson John Niemela called the meeting to order at 2:14 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the Complete Streets Advisory Council (CSAC) meeting. Mr. Niemela informed the group that there would be a public comment period at the beginning, as well as at the end of the meeting. Those wishing to speak were asked to fill out a public comment card and return it to a staff member. He also stated that there was a conference line available for those who would like to listen to the proceedings by phone. Public comments can also be received by email at MDOT-CompletestreetsAC@michigan.gov. Members of council introduced themselves. Mr. Niemela explained that Barbara Schmid resigned her position as a member of the Council, and a replacement has not been appointed.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Niemela asked if there were comments regarding the draft minutes from the May 15, 2014 and December 5, 2013 meetings. There were none; it was moved and seconded to approve the draft minutes. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Niemela noted that the final approved minutes will be posted on MDOT's CSAC website: www.michigan.gov/completestreets.

Correspondence

Andrea Brown presented one piece of correspondence regarding the inclusion of paved shoulders for resurfacing projects on all roads to the widths specified in MDOT guidelines for bike lanes. A copy was given to all members.

Public comment

No public comment at this time.

Update from Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Complete Streets Internal Team (CSIT)

Brad Peterson, CSS Coordinator, MDOT-Design Roadside Development Unit, presented an update. He discussed the Complete Streets Policy Implementation Plan requirements and process. He mentioned that when working on a project, staff must ask if the community has a complete streets policy. He explained scope verification and timelines. Staff are encouraged to

engage early and often. Two new forms: Stakeholder Engagement Plan Form #1630 tracks level and methods of engagement. Complete Streets Exception Request Form #1631 is used for exception requests.

MDOT Multi-Modal Development and Delivery (M2D2) Presentation

Brad Peterson presented a M2D2 update. He stated that the structure of M2D2 consists of 7 sponsors, approximately 50 project stakeholder group members, and over 20 curriculum review committee members. Workshops began in March and ended in June, 2014. A priority list was compiled to identify primary and secondary documents/processes to consider for review. A question was asked about how ADA fits into this process? Brad replied that ADA is always considered in any project.

Update on State and Federal Transportation Funding

Rob Balmes, Manager with MDOT's Intermodal Policy Division, presented an update. The Governor's number one issue in the lame duck legislative session is transportation funding. On November 13, 2014, the Senate passed a phased-in transportation funding package over four years. He explained what this package meant, including the fact that the Act 51 formula will not change. In the House, Speaker Jase Bolger has presented a different proposal, which emphasizes phasing out the current sales tax on fuel, and transitioning the funding to transportation. Rob mentioned some of the websites with information on the road funding issue, including: justfixtheroads.com and Michigan.gov/roadfunding.

Rob also presented the Federal perspective. The challenge is to pass a budget within the week. MAP-21 expires in May 2015. There is a proposal to raise federal gas tax by 15 cents, but no action is expected in the lame duck session. The \$15 billion shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund also needs to be addressed by next May.

Gary Piotrowicz asked how lower gas prices affect all the projections? Gary Megge asked about the Bolger proposal re: sales tax being shifted 1 percent per year to transportation, how the resulting gap will be funded for schools, etc. John Niemela gave his interpretation of these proposals.

Review and Approve 2015 Meeting Schedule

The 2015 meeting schedule was presented to the group. The dates include January 29, May 14, October 8, and December 10. Steve DeBrabander suggested keeping the same method of holding meetings as 2014. This includes scheduling the meetings as placeholders, but cancelling if there are not enough agenda items to hold a meeting. The Council agreed to this format.

Ken Fletcher asked about the status of the letter asking the council be disbanded. There has been no response. John Niemela explained that the legislature must act on this request and that it likely will not be enacted as a stand-alone piece.

There were discussions about the letter asking the Legislature to disband the Council. A suggestion was made by Ken Fletcher to resend the same letter after the new Legislature is in place. Council agreed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2015 Meeting Schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve 2014 Annual Report

No comments at this time. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2014 Annual Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Public comment

None at this time.

Adjournment

Next meeting will be January 29, 2015 at the call of the Chair.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:56pm