

**ADA TOWNSHIP
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 7, 2010 MEETING**

The regular June 7, 2010 meeting of the DDA Board was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairperson Bob Kullgren.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: George Haga, Jim Ippel, Tom Korth, Bob Kullgren, Devin Norman, Betsy Ratzsch, Walt VanderWulp, Ted Wright

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Terry Bowersox

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Ferro, Planning Director

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Ratzsch, seconded by Korth, to approve the minutes of the May 3 meeting as presented.

Motion approved unanimously.

M-21 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT – GEORGE HAGA

Haga reported on the proposed change in MDOT's plan for maintaining traffic across the river on M-21 during construction of the replacement bridge. Haga apologized for not communicating earlier with the Board regarding this. He noted that the Township learned of the change on the day of the last Township Board meeting, which was May 24.

Haga introduced Art Green, Michigan DOT, who provided updated information to the Board regarding MDOT's decision to use a temporary 2-lane bridge to maintain traffic access across the Grand River during replacement of the M-21 bridge.

Green stated that at the time of his last meeting with the Township, the MDOT was headed in the direction of a "part-width" construction method to maintain traffic over the river while the bridge is being replaced. Green stated that as a result of this proposal being reviewed up the chain-of-command within MDOT for approval, it was decided that the temporary bridge alternative was preferred.

Kullgren asked why this change occurred.

Green stated that the part-width construction alternative was premised on the goal of maintaining a 25 foot separation distance between the existing bridge piers and new piers being constructed. In development of the plans it was determined that for two of the existing bridge piers, this separation distance could not be met. He added that a large quantity of rip rap would have been required to be placed to protect the existing piers. The rip rap placement and post-construction removal would have cost several million dollars, and presented a temporary hydraulic obstruction.

Green further stated that MDOT wants to maintain a September bid letting for this project, to ensure that funds already programmed can be used for the project, and it is not delayed by future funding issues that MDOT is facing.

Green also stated that the temporary bridge option is dependent upon the Township granting temporary grading permit on land that the Township owns on each side of the bridge.

Haga asked what the consequence would be if the Township did not grant the needed grading permits. Green stated that it would probably result in MDOT going back to the full closure and detour option that

was initially considered.

VanderWulp asked Green if a bridge alignment across the river at Honey Creek Ave. could be considered, where the former M-21 bridge was located. VanderWulp noted that much of the former road base is still in place.

Green stated that this would be considered a completely new project, which would have to go back to square one for consideration, including all of the environmental reviews.

Kullgren stated that even though our preferred alternative has been dropped, thanks need to go to MDOT for choosing an option that achieves the primary goal of maintaining traffic across the river during construction.

In response to a question as to whether traffic across the river would be maintained at all times, Green stated that it would. He added that the only traffic movement affected by the plan, and which has always been planned for all of the options, is the south-bound Pettis to east-bound Fulton movement, which will be detoured to another route on local roads. Green also noted that the planned construction schedule would allow the contractor to start work as early as this fall.

Kullgren stated that he was upset that the original stakeholders group that was convened to address the bridge plan impact on the local community wasn't informed and involved in the process that led to this change, and that the parties involved only learned of it through a news story.

Ippel suggested the possibility of constructing the temporary vehicular bridge for permanent use as a pedestrian/bicycle bridge.

Green stated that to build it as a permanent structure, a lot more time would need to be invested in the permitting process, and it would end up being designed differently, because it would need to meet more stringent floodplain standards. He stated there would be hydraulic issues to contend with to build it as a permanent bridge.

Green left the meeting at this time.

Board member VanderWulp left the meeting at this time.

Korth stated that he believed we should be seeking the best long-term solution for the community. He stated he believed that the proper course of action would be to conduct a study and prepare a plan for a second permanent bridge crossing of the Grand River, rather than being forced to go along with MDOT's schedule using a temporary bridge.

Korth left the meeting at this time.

Kullgren stated that in his view, the plan proposed by MDOT addresses public safety, it achieves our original goal of maintaining access across the river during construction of the new bridge, and it achieves the Charrette vision of a pedestrian/bicycle crossing of the river.

Board members Norman and Wright stated that the proposed MDOT plan achieves what we originally set out to achieve, in maintaining traffic access across the river during bridge replacement.

BRONSON ST. – COMMUNICATION TO TOWNSHIP BOARD

Board members reviewed the letter that was sent to the Township Board on behalf of the DDA Board regarding the DDA Board's desire to have the Bronson St. project completed.

CHARRETTE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION – GEORGE HAGA

Haga reported on a meeting he had with Rob Hunter from Amway. Haga stated that Amway has retained a consultant to conduct a planning study on potential future uses for Amway –owned properties in the Village. The scope of the study includes evaluating the street network in the Village and the street changes recommended in the Charrette report. Amway will be sharing the results of the study with the Township as the plan develops.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY – TED WRIGHT

Ted Wright reported that he will be working on a draft report for review by Board members soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

BOARD COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Tom Korth, Secretary