

Notice of and Instructions for Access to an Electronically Conducted Meeting of the Charter Township of Union Sidewalks and Pathways Prioritization Committee

Notice is hereby given that the Township's Sidewalks and Pathways Prioritization Committee will conduct their Tuesday, May 25, 2021 meeting electronically at 6:30 p.m., consistent with the Isabella County emergency declaration, direction from state and county health officials to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and the Open Meetings Act (Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended).

There will be no in-person public attendance in the Township Hall Board Room (2010 S. Lincoln Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858), although Township staff may choose to participate from this location.

All interested persons may attend and participate. The public may participate in the meeting by computer and smart phone using the following link to the electronic meeting location:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81701569208?pwd=K3hnQ1hxTmo0dG1mRiBJZHNQVnFEQT09>

The moderator will open public access to the electronic meeting space at 6:25 p.m. To participate via telephone conference call, please call (312) 626-6799. Enter "81701569208" and the # sign. At the "Passcode" prompt, enter "503473" and the # sign to join the meeting.

The meeting agenda, packet of materials relating to the meeting, and instructions for connecting to the meeting electronically are available on the Township's website under "Announcements" at <http://www.uniontownshipmi.com/>.

Persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate should call the Township office at (989) 772-4600. Persons requiring speech or hearing assistance may contact the Township through the Michigan Relay Center at 711. A minimum of one (1) business day of advance notice will be necessary for accommodation.

For participants accessing via computer or smartphone to indicate a desire to address the committee, please click on the "Raise Your Hand" icon near the bottom of your screen.



Click "Lower Hand" to lower it if needed. The host will be notified that you've raised your hand. The Mute/Unmute function will be controlled by the meeting moderator.

To raise your hand for telephone dial-in participants, press "star" and then the number "nine" (*9). The moderator will call on you by the last three digits of your phone number to invite any comment, at which time you will be unmuted.

Do I need to download the Zoom app to access the meeting? No. Use of the Zoom app is recommended, but you will have options to "download & run Zoom" or "join from your browser" when you click on the link to join the meeting via the link.

Leaving the Meeting: Click the "Leave Meeting" link at the corner of the screen at any time to exit the meeting.



**Sidewalks and Pathways Prioritization Committee
Regular Meeting
May 25, 2021
6:30p.m. - 8:00p.m.**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - April 07, 2021 – regular meeting.
5. CORRESPONDENCE / PC & B of T member updates.
 - Mike Darin & Kim Rice
6. DIRECTORS COMMENTS
 - Rodney Nanney (Current Projects)
7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
8. PUBLIC COMMENT: Restricted to (3) minutes regarding issues on this agenda.
9. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Sidewalk Implementation and Prioritization Map 2021.
 - B. Finalize a list of recommendations for locations where Township funds can best be targeted during the 2022 fiscal year for public sidewalk improvements.
 - C. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 6:30pm
10. PENDING BUSINESS
11. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Restricted to 5 minutes regarding any issue.
12. FINAL MEMBER COMMENT
13. ADJOURNMENT

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF UNION
Sidewalks and Pathways Prioritization Committee
Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Charter Township of Union Sidewalks and Pathways Prioritization Committee was held on April 07, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Union Township Hall. (Virtual Online, ZOOM)

Meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m.

Roll Call

Darin, Rice, and MacDonald present. Rice excused late.

Others Present

Peter Gallinat, Township Zoning Administrator.

Rodney Nanney, Community and Economic Development Director.

Approval of Minutes

Darin moved **Rice** supported to approve October 5, 2020 minutes. **Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

Correspondence/ PC & B of T member updates

Darin gave updates from the Planning Commission.

Rice gave updates from the Board of Trustees.

Directors Comments

Nanney commented on projects the Township can do right now within the existing rights-of-way or by obtaining small sections of easements.

Nanney also updated the committee on sidewalks on E. Remus Rd. and S. Lincoln Rd. that are funded by the EDA for 2021.

Approval of Agenda

Rice moved **Darin** supported to approve the agenda with the amendment of item A to include the election of Secretary. **Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

Public Comment

Open 7:14p.m.

None given.

Closed 7:15p.m.

New Business

A. Annual Election of a Committee Chair and Committee Secretary.

Darin moved **Rice** supported the nomination of Jeremy MacDonald to serve as Committee Chair. **Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

Darin moved and **MacDonald** supported the nomination of Kim Rice to serve as Committee Secretary. **Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

B. Discussion of the Temporary Relief from Sidewalk Construction Policy

The committee discussed the Temporary Relief policy. The Committee asked Rodney to draft language for consideration at the next meeting to amend the current policy. to add a policy to allow for some temporary relief from construction where state or county road agency requirements would compel construction of off-site sidewalk ramp improvements. The Chair also noted that clarifications are needed to the policy language to confirm that the absence of a car-pedestrian injury or fatality in an area is not intended to be a justifiable reason for temporary relief on its own.

C. Initial discussion of potential priorities for sidewalk improvements for the FY2022

The Committee discussed the following potential sidewalk projects:

1. a possible sidewalk on the east side of Crawford Road/N. Harris St. from River Rd. to W. Pickard Rd. and the Mission Creek Park.
2. sidewalk connections from Broadway to S. Lincoln Road either on a potential Broadway road extension or a pathway connecting Broadway to S. Lincoln Road.
3. Asking the Road Commission to include paved shoulder bike lanes or provide for a future sidewalk or bike path along S. Lincoln Road between Remus Road (M-20) and Broomfield Road as part of their upcoming road improvement projects.
4. The importance of prioritizing beyond 2022 was also discussed.

D. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 6:30pm

The Committee asked for a doodle poll to be conducted about possible date changes for the June 30, 2021 meeting. The new meeting will be scheduled based on the polling of members.

PENDING BUSINESS

None.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT

Open at 7:54 p.m.

No comment given.

Closed at 7:55p.m.

FINAL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Darin spoke to the passing away of committee member Matt Mertz. Thanked him for his service and enjoyed working with him.

Rice also spoke to Matt Mertz service through the years to the Township.

ADJOURNMENT

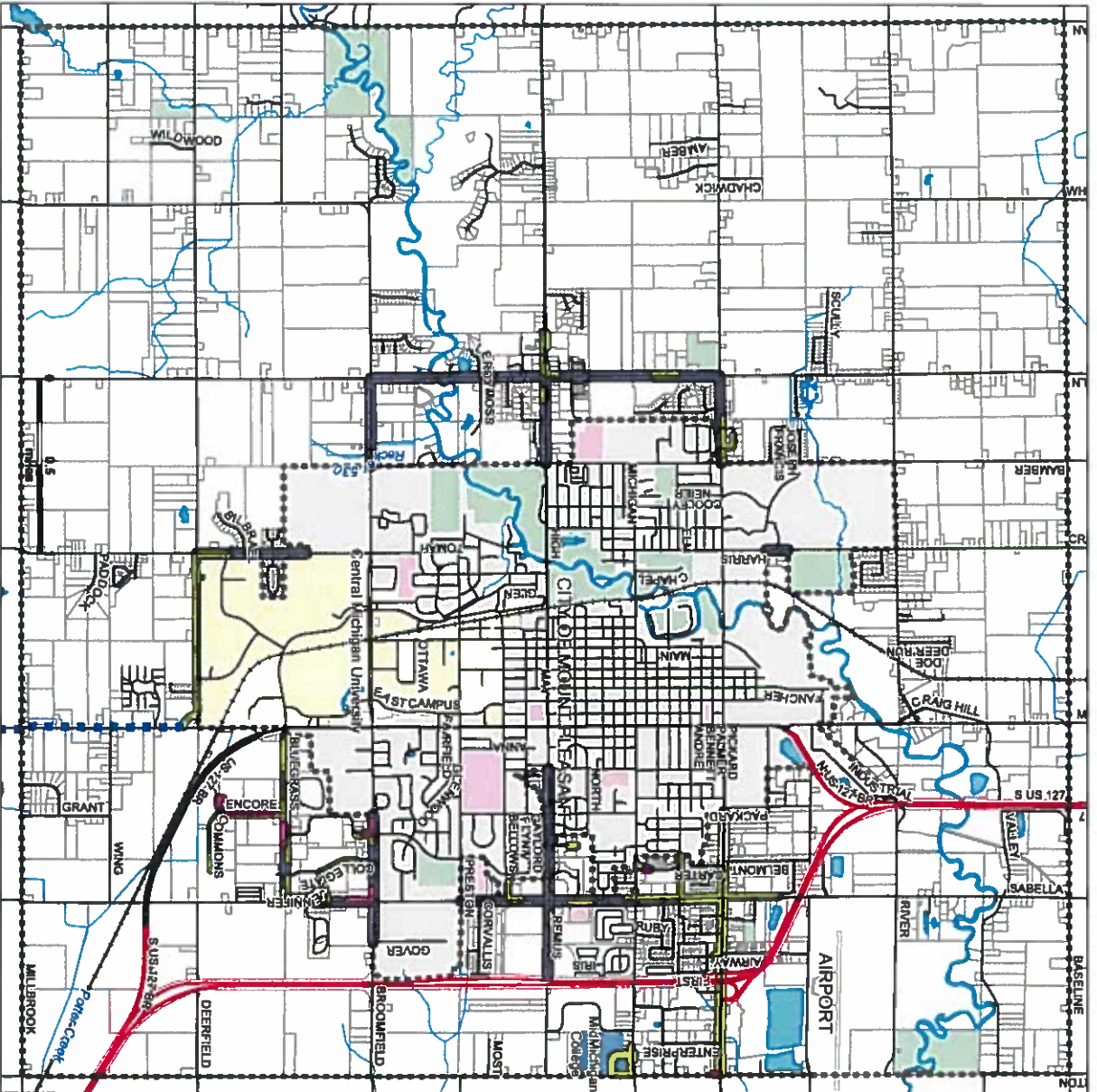
Rice moved **Darin** supported to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. **Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

APPROVED BY:

Vacant, Secretary

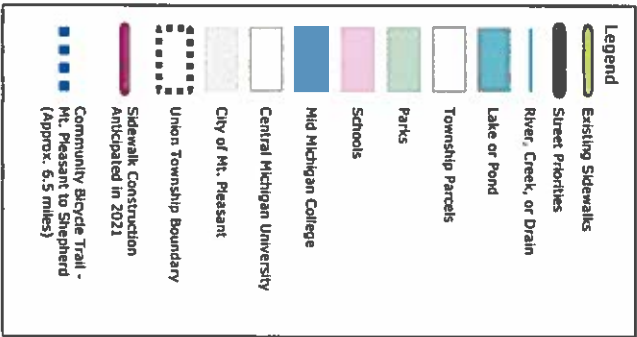
Jeremy MacDonald, Chair

(Recorded by Peter Gallinat)



Union Township: Sidewalk Implementation & Prioritization

Sidewalk Map Update: May 13, 2021



Map Production Date: May 13, 2021
 Union Township GIS

TO: Sidewalks and Pathways Prioritization Committee	DATE: May 19, 2021
FROM: Rodney C. Nanney, AICP Community and Economic Development Director	
SUBJECT: List of potential priorities for public sidewalk construction recommendations	

Background Information

Board of Trustees Global Ends Policies

The Board of Trustees operates under a “policy governance” model in which they have identified a set of values or desired outcomes for the Township, toward which the work of the Township is directed. These desired outcomes, or “Ends” as they are referred to in the Board’s Policy Manual, include the following statements that provide direction for identification of potential pedestrian access improvement priorities:

All residents may enjoy a safe environment, including: Safe, accessible routes for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorized vehicles. (Global Ends: 1.3; 1.3.1)

Residents of all ages shall have access to facilities that enable an active, healthy lifestyle (including:) An accessible, walkable and bikable community. (Global Ends: 1.4; 1.4.1)

Residents can enjoy the natural resources and green space of the township. (Global Ends: 1.5)

People have optimum access to and enjoy a clean Chippewa River through intergovernmental efforts. (Global Ends: 1.5.2)

2018 Sidewalk/Designated Streets Policy

In addition, the Township’s adopted policy statement identifying designated streets where no temporary relief from sidewalk construction should be granted for new development, which provides additional direction for potential prioritization of new sidewalk construction. The following is an excerpt from that policy statement:

Designated Streets (Identified on the Sidewalk map as developed by the Sidewalk and Pathways Prioritization Committee, March 2018.)

- **North**
 - *Pickard Road from Lincoln to Township Boundary*
 - *Township parcels: Along Crawford Road North from Pickard to Mission Creek Park*
- **East**
 - *Isabella Road South from Pickard Road to Blue Grass*
 - *Remus Road (from Isabella Road east to 127)*
 - *Remus Road (from Isabella Road west to city limits)*
- **South**
 - *Township parcels:*

- *Broomfield Road (east) - Gover Parkway to city line*
- *Broomfield Road (west) - city line to Lincoln*
- *Townships parcels:*
 - *Crawford Road Broomfield to Deerfield*
 - *Blue Grass Isabella to Mission*
- **West**
 - *Lincoln Road north from Broomfield to Pickard*
 - *Remus Road (from Lincoln Road east to city limits)*

List of Potential Priority Areas

For reference, the following is a list of potential priorities identified by committee members, residents or Township staff. In addition, committee member Phil Hertzler included photos to illustrate his recommendations and a resident previously provided a written request for sidewalk construction associated with Mission Creek Park. These are included as additional references in the agenda packet:

1. **North side of W. Pickard Rd. from west of Ashland Dr. to S. Lincoln Rd.** Completion of sidewalks along the north side of W. Pickard Rd. from the Pleasant Pediatrics Building on the northwest corner of W. Pickard Rd. and Ashland Dr. west about 1,300 feet to S. Lincoln Rd., plus intersection improvements at S. Lincoln Rd.
2. **Township Hall/McDonald Park and S. Lincoln Rd. area:**
 - a. The S. Lincoln Rd. sidewalk project from Lux Funeral Home north to the Township Hall parking lot was delayed in 2020, and is planned for construction in 2021. Completion of sidewalks in front of the Township Hall and into McDonald Park could potentially be a good follow up project for 2022.
 - b. Mid-block street crossing and connector sidewalk from McDonald Park into the neighborhood to the east to connect to Flagstone Ct. and/or Cobblestone Ct.
3. **Sidewalk connections along Bud St. north from E. Pickard Rd. and west from S. Isabella Rd. to connect to the new internal sidewalks in Jameson Park.** Extensive site and building improvements within Jameson Park are underway, including recently completed interior upgrades to the Jameson Hall building, and new internal sidewalks and improved barrier-free accessibility projects that are planned for construction in 2021. During a recent EDA Board meeting, a question was raised about the need for a new sidewalk connection along Bud St. to Jameson Park. This could also potentially include a connection north from E. Pickard Rd. (M-20) and a separate connection west from S. Isabella Rd.
4. **S. Isabella Rd. area:**
 - a. Extend sidewalks along both sides of S. Isabella Rd. south from E. Pickard Rd. south to E. Broadway Rd.
 - b. Further extend sidewalks along both sides of S. Isabella Rd. south from E. Broadway Rd. south to E. Remus Rd./High Street.

- c. Complete sidewalk to nowhere w/desire path along E. Broadway Rd., connection to Morey Courts, and/or connector to mobile home park at Isabella Village.
5. **E. Broadway Rd. area** (from committee member Kim Rice's notes):
- a. Bridge on Broadway over 127 (sidewalks)
 - b. Summerton to Isabella
 - c. East on Isabella from Summerton
 - d. Tribal Grant? On Summerton: Pickard through Broadway
6. **S. Lincoln Rd. area:**
- a. Extend the public sidewalk along the west side of S. Lincoln south from the Lux Funeral Home to E. Remus Rd./M-20.
 - b. Extend the public sidewalk and/or an on-street or off-street bike path along the west side of S. Lincoln south from E. Remus Rd./M-20 to the bridge over the Chippewa River.
7. **Concourse Dr./Crawford Rd. area:**
- a. Extend a sidewalk or paved pathway eastward from Concourse Drive at the back of the Southgate Subdivision east of Crawford Road along the utility access easement between 3265 N. Concourse Dr. and 3230 S. Concourse Dr. and across the adjacent CMU property to connect with the existing CMU campus pathways – and/or
 - b. Extend the paved pathway on the east side of Crawford Road northward from Denison Dr. to Concourse Drive to make this connection.
8. **Extend the E. Bluegrass Rd. public sidewalk on the south side of the road west from west of the current terminus west of Menards to S. Isabella Rd.**
9. **Mission Creek Park area.** Mission Creek Park and portions of the land on the east and west sides of N. Harris St./Crawford Rd. north of W. Pickard Rd. are within the City limits. The City has plans to extend a sidewalk or paved pathway north from W. Pickard Rd. to connect into Mission Creek Park by 2023 or 2024. Part of this pathway would be on land in the Township. In addition, a resident in the neighborhood north of the park (southeast corner of W. River Rd. and Crawford Rd.) has made a request for a sidewalk connection south from their neighborhood to Mission Creek Park.
10. **Other connections:**
- a. Bamber Woods (see Phil Hertzler's illustration)
 - b. Scully Rd – McDonald Drive – Jacobs Trail connector (see Phil Hertzler's illustration)
 - c. Crawford – Needs a Sol'n for both sides Deerfield to Saddle Ln on Crawford Paddock Ln. (from Kim Rice's notes)
 - d. Connect RV Park to Isabella then to Jameson? (from Kim Rice's notes)

Additional recommendations for 2023 – 2025 (from committee member Mike Darin):

e. 2023

- i. Lincoln from bridge to Broomfield
- ii. Broomfield from Lincoln to city boundary
- iii. Harris from city boundary to River road

f. 2024

- i. Isabella from Broadway to Remus Rd.
- ii. Isabella from Broomfield to Bluegrass
- iii. Broomfield from city boundary to Gover

g. 2025

- i. Isabella from Preston to Remus Rd.
- ii. Crawford from Central/City boundary to Deerfield

Union Township Sidewalks and Pathways Prioritization Committee

High Priority areas

1. Pickard Road, north side, from west of Ashland Drive to Lincoln Road, w/ marked crosswalks at intersections. Bonus consideration for Lincoln Road improvement: roundabout at Lincoln and Isabella. (= previous #1)



2. Crawford Road, from River south to Mission Park. Extend to city limit when city builds connector sidewalk.



3. Crawford Road between Broomfield and Deerfield - pedestrian fatality area.



4. Isabella Road from Broadway to High Street, complete sidewalk to nowhere w/desire path along Broadway, connection to Morey Courts, and/or connector to mobile home park at Isabella Village.



5. Blue Grass Road, Mission to Isabella, w/crosswalks



6. Lincoln Road, extending sidewalk from Commission on Aging to McDonald Park/Township Hall. Connector to Flagstone Ct. and Cornerstone? (= previous #1, 7)



(General) – neighborhood connectors – example in Bamber Woods: - #5 below for U.T. example



For reference, the following is a potential priorities previously identified by committee members, residents or Township staff:

1. Completion of sidewalks along the north side of W. Pickard Rd. from the Pleasant Pediatrics Building on the northwest corner of W. Pickard. Rd. and Ashland Dr. west about 1,300 feet to S. Lincoln Rd., plus intersection improvements at S. Lincoln Rd. **#1**
2. Completion of sidewalks in front of the Township Hall and into McDonald Park. **#2**
3. Sidewalk connections along Bud St. north from E. Pickard Rd. and west from S. Isabella Rd. to connect to the new internal sidewalks in Jameson Park. **LOW ENOUGH TRAFFIC ON BUD ST. TO DEPRIORITIZE**
4. Extend sidewalks south along both sides of S. Isabella Rd. from E. Pickard Rd. to E. Broadway Rd. **MOSTLY DONE – continue to High Street**
5. Extend a sidewalk or paved pathway eastward from Concourse Drive at the back of the Southgate Subdivision east of Crawford Road along the utility access easement between 3265 N. Concourse Dr. and 3230 S. Concourse Dr. and across the adjacent CMU property to connect with the existing CMU campus pathways – and/or extend the paved pathway on the east side of Crawford Road northward from Denison Dr. to Concourse Drive to make this connection. **YES**
6. Extend a sidewalk north along the east side of N. Harris St./Crawford Rd. from Pickard Rd. to the City's Mission Creek Park (dog park), and potentially further north to River Rd. **DESIRABLE BUT GOOD SHOULDER, SLOW TRAFFIC AT PRESENT**
7. Complete the sidewalk connection along the west side of S. Lincoln Rd. between Pickard Rd. and Remus Rd. **YES, TO PARK #2 ABOVE**

Extend a sidewalk or paved pathway eastward from Concourse Drive at the back of the Southgate Subdivision east of Crawford Road along the utility access easement between 3265 N. Concourse Dr. and 3230 S. Concourse Dr. and across the adjacent CMU property to connect with the existing CMU campus pathways – and/or extend the paved pathway on the east side of Crawford Road northward from Denison Dr. to Concourse Drive to make this connection.



Another example: Scully Rd – McDonald Drive – Jacobs Trail connector



**FOX MEADOWS ESTATES
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**



March 29, 2021

Charter Township of Union
2010 S. Lincoln Road
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Regarding: Sidewalk and Safety Concerns for Mission Creek Park

As President, I represent the Fox Meadow Estates Homeowners Association, Inc. The association is made up of 42 property owners located in Fox Meadows subdivision on the corner of Crawford and River Road just north of Mission Creek Park.

At our annual meeting the topic of safety concerns for pedestrians and bicyclists on Harris Street / Crawford Road between Pickard and River Road came up. Many people walk or bike to and from the park along this road. With the lack of any sidewalk the only way to get to the park is to walk along the side of the road which is very busy and risky. There is also little to no shoulder along the road which requires a person to walk directly on the road. This is a problem for both pedestrians and vehicles. The community enjoys and loves the park including the addition of the Bark Park. We are blessed to have such a park in our community.

What are the future plans for the addition of a sidewalk or a bike path that would run along Harris Street / Crawford Road to River Road?

The Fox Meadows Association supports any efforts or plan that would address this safety concern for our community members and visitors.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kurt E. Feight".

Kurt E. Feight, President (3213 Britton Dr.)
Email: kurt@mtpleasantagency.com
C (989) 560-1120 W (989) 772-2977

P.S. This letter has also been sent to The City of Mt. Pleasant and the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe. A joint effort of all three is needed to address this issue.