

I'm here to ask you to approve the contract and payment for the Greenway Collaborative to facilitate the work of the Pedestrian Safety and Access Task Force. The \$75,000 you are asked to approve for this is already in the 2014 budget and is not new money.

We've had a long road to get here. You first authorized this task force in November, 2013 and appointments were confirmed in January. Ever since then, we've been the Little Task Force that Could. You appointed a committed, engaged, and enthusiastic group of citizens and we've been itching to take on our mission. We've had three meetings. We've elected a chair and some of us have contributed real volunteer time. Now we need your support so that we can carry out your direction. Here is what you asked us to do:

Explore strategies to improve pedestrian safety and access within a framework of shared responsibility through community outreach and data collection.

Determine whether pedestrian safety and access should be the focus of ongoing community scrutiny through the establishment of a standing committee on pedestrian safety.

In other words, you asked us to look at the overall policy and direction of how we can ensure pedestrian safety and access in Ann Arbor. This is a big picture question and also one that will mean lots of detail. This is why we need an expert facilitator who knows the practical aspects and can also help with public participation, which we are committed to.

Our task force was invited to join with staff members in making the choice of a consultant. Three of us took nearly two days to review proposals, score them, interview applicants, and choose. Greenway Collaborative fits our needs. They have experience and knowledge of transportation planning, especially nonmotorized transportation. They live in and know Ann Arbor. And they have a history of serious public engagement.

Please approve this contract so that we can get to work. This is in the best Ann Arbor tradition of citizen service, and we know we can.