

**CITY OF ANN ARBOR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**  
**Resolution in Support of the Draft City of Ann Arbor Transportation Plan Update**

WHEREAS the draft City of Ann Arbor Transportation Plan Update makes recommendations that will drive transportation decisions over the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS the update is consistent with the environmental goals developed by the Environmental Commission and adopted by City Council including clean air, clean water, efficient mobility and health-promoting urban environment by encouraging mixed use development with sustainable densities in urban areas, efficient use of existing infrastructure, reduction in stormwater runoff, reduction in air pollution and climate impact; and

WHEREAS the draft update identifies four priority corridors with potential for high quality/signature transit improvements based on the following criteria: highest overall bus ridership (UM and AATA), connection to high use activity centers, and having potential redevelopment opportunities that would be driven by transit improvements; and

WHEREAS the draft City of Ann Arbor Transportation Plan Update identifies the mid-term (5-10 years) priority corridors as Plymouth/Fuller Road, State Street and long-term (10+ years) corridors as Washtenaw Avenue and Jackson Rd, placing the Plymouth/Fuller Rd and State Street corridors at highest priority; and

WHEREAS the Environmental Commission has identified that congestion severity and critical crash rates are important factors in determining the need for transportation options and greater transit service; and

WHEREAS the Environmental Commission finds that Washtenaw Avenue has significantly higher AATA boardings than State Street; and

WHEREAS Washtenaw Avenue currently operates above capacity; and

WHEREAS Washtenaw Avenue is likely to experience more ridership demand with the Transportation Plan's short term recommendations for park and ride facilities; and

WHEREAS Washtenaw Avenue has significant redevelopment and infill development opportunity; and

WHEREAS Washtenaw Avenue connects the two largest urban centers in Washtenaw County with universities and employers at both ends; and

WHEREAS Washtenaw Avenue has one of the highest critical crash rates; and

WHEREAS Washtenaw Avenue is one of the most congested roads in the County; and

WHEREAS the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) review of the City Transportation Plan Update states enhanced transit service for Washtenaw Avenue should be placed as a higher priority than State Street based on ridership and development potential; and

WHEREAS future public transit investment opportunities for Washtenaw Avenue may be affected by its lower priority ranking;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Ann Arbor Environmental Commission supports this plan and recommends adoption by City Council; and

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RESOLVED that the City of Ann Arbor Environmental Commission recommends that crash rates and congestion be included in the criteria; and

RESOLVED that the City of Ann Arbor Environmental Commission recommends placing higher prioritization on Washtenaw Avenue for transit improvement studies and implementation; and

RESOLVED that the City of Ann Arbor Environmental Commission recommends that City Council direct the City Administrator to monitor and evaluate the progress of implemented components of the plan toward the City's established environmental goals.

Submitted by Commissioner Dale, February 26, 2009

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