



# **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**

Transportation, Infrastructure and Environmental Sustainability  
Steering Committee

## **MEMBERS**

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**Councilmember**  
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Cheryl Bartholic  
Jonathan Bromberg  
Brad Cassidy  
Nella Davis-Ray  
Elisha DeFrain  
Linda Hegstrom  
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## **MEETING SYNOPSIS**

**January 29, 2014 7:00 p.m.**  
Hannah Center, Room 211  
819 Abbot Road

**Present:** Bartholic, Bromberg, Cassidy, Goddeeris, Hegstrom,  
McGlashen, Taylor, and Twede

**Staff Members:** DeShambo, Scheuermann, T. Schmitt

### **1) OPENING**

- A) Roll Call
- B) Approval of Agenda

### **2) GOALS AND OBJECTIVES EXERCISE**

Staff reviewed the results of the exercise at the November meeting and begun discussing specific areas of concern with the Committee. The first area of discussion was non-motorized transportation. The Committee discussed specific areas of concern, based on their conversation from the last meeting. These included:

- Connection to MSU campus and the lack of dedicated spots for bikes to cross from the City to the University. Specific focus was on Collingwood and Abbot Roads, but that connections shouldn't be limited to one or two spots. The edge should be as permeable and safe as possible.
- The Harrison Road corridor. It was discussed that connections from Kalamazoo, through the Red Cedar neighborhood would be far safer than Harrison Road itself. The Department of Agriculture property was discussed as a good potential alternative.
- Bike highways, pedestrian crossing signals, and other infrastructure enhancements that could be installed on existing infrastructure, to improve safety. The ADA transition plan was also discussed briefly.

From an infrastructure standpoint, the committee focused on stormwater related issues, with some discussion of vehicular issues. They discussed in detail:

- How to encourage rain gardens in the City. Utilizing the space between the sidewalk and the street, along with a 'master gardener' program to help residents create and maintain the space, while function as stormwater management.
- The pros and cons of a stormwater utility and whether or not that would be legal in the State.
- Streete lighting improvements. Filling in gaps in the system, both for pedestrian and vehicular safety, and converting to LED lighting for energy savings. And requiring street lights to be dark sky compliant.
- Expansion of motorcycle/moped parking in the City.

From an environmental standpoint, the committee briefly discussed a number of topics.

- Would it be possible to have a composting facility in the City, where residents could drop off waste and potentially pick up compost.
- Street trees lost to emerald ash borer should be replaced/the urban canopy needs ehanced/areas of the City should be reforested. There was much discussion about tree planting and programs that are needed to make this happen on a large scale.
- How to expand recycling in the City. Allowing curbside pickup of cardboard/boxboard would be welcomed, as would expanding opportunities for apartment buildings to recycle.
- How to encourage energy efficiency in rental units. Given the large number of rental units, this is important, but also has been a challenge throughout the State, as the owner typicalls doesn't see any return on investment.
- P.A.C.E. funding for alternative energy installation and its feasibility was discussed.
- The City should be leading on alternative energy vehicles in our fleet and in installing additional car charging stations on City property. Partnering with MSU on fuel related issues was discussed.

The Committee agreed to think further about vehicular related issues for the next meeting and wanted to discuss the ADA transition plan and how it relates to the Comprehensive Plan at the next meeting. At a future meeting, a tour of the Albert Place green roof was requested, which will be accomodated once it warms up.