



MOBILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: David Staudt (Chair), Brian Smith, Matt Heintz, Ed Roney, Jay Dooley, David Dismondy, Swamy Gopal

Absent: None

Staff Present: Jeff Herczeg, Director, DPW
Rebecca Runkel, Project Engineer, DPW
Lindsay Bell, Senior Planner, Community Development

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Staudt called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and asked for roll call. Chair Staudt made motions to approve the agenda and the minutes from November 20, 2025, both of which were supported and passed 7-0.

DISCUSSION

Chair Staudt began the meeting by adding an agenda item, PRO public benefits, which was approved by the committee. The first topic for discussion was the Taft Road Sidewalk Memo. Engineer Runkel went over the memo, saying Mayor Fischer brought up the topic at a previous meeting and asked staff to report back on the feasibility of filling in the sidewalk gap on the east side of Taft Road, between 10 and 11 Mile Roads. Engineer Runkel continued that there is continuous sidewalk on the west side, and staff looked at adding sidewalk on the east side during a road reconstruction project back in 2018 but decided to do bike lanes instead because of some grading issues and wetlands. There is an area that would require a retaining wall and another that would possibly require boardwalk, so the gaps did not get filled in during that project. Engineer Runkel continued that there are a lot of single-family homes, including one that would require an easement and sits close to the road. Engineer Runkel said that a rough estimate would be around \$500,000. The committee discussed the segment, acknowledging that for the price it wouldn't serve a lot of residents on that side of the street. Chair Staudt asked if the sidewalk prioritization that was done for the previous committees was still in use or if another list exists. Engineer Runkel and Planner Bell explained that it is still referenced but was phased out by the Active Mobility Plan (AMP) which was adopted in 2024. Planner Bell said the AMP's focus is on major road segments and crosswalks, and it has a list of near-term projects, but it does not follow the same naming or numbering convention. Chair Staudt reiterated the usefulness of the previous prioritization and how it could help

with development PROs that are pushing sidewalks as an option, including the development last night that had a trail connection to the ITC Trail as one of their major benefits. The committee continued to discuss the area and its challenges and concluded that it would not be considered a high priority but possibly may get done in the future after the committee revisits prioritization of segments. Following public comment from resident, Andrew Mutch (see Public Comment below), the committee discussed the boardwalk on Napier Rd near Knightsbridge Gate.

The committee moved to the next agenda item, project updates. Engineer Runkel reported the status of the sidewalk repair program, mentioning the example of the GIS dashboard shown in the packet and stating that staff were in the process of coming up with a district or program map, with the intention of addressing deflections 2" or greater in the first year of the program. Engineer Runkel moved to the next 2 projects, ITC Trail to Bosco Fields Connector Pathway and Beck Road Reconstruction, both of which will start construction in the spring and finish in the fall. The committee discussed the details of these projects.

The next item on the agenda, SEMCOG grants, was discussed briefly, acknowledging that there may be opportunities for the City to apply for grants involving bus stops and filling in sidewalk gaps leading to bus stops. Engineer Runkel explained that the deadline was missed for this year, but we could apply next year if we prioritize segments that lead to bus routes on Grand River and 12 Mile Rd.

Chair Staudt moved to the next agenda item, sidewalk gap prioritization, saying that we need to go back and look at the old format and update it for the next meeting. The discussion moved to the added topic, development PROs. Chair Staudt said we're seeing a lot of PROs where the developer wants to offer a public benefit that includes sidewalks, trails, etc. At the Planning Commission meeting last night, the primary public benefit proposed by the developer was a trailhead and some other stuff. Chair Staudt continued that virtually every PRO that's coming to us has some element of a sidewalk or a trail, so one of the things that I'd like to see us get are updates, so that we can discuss them. Right now, I watch the Planning Commission go, 'yeah, maybe, maybe that sounds cool, but I don't know', what I'd really like to see is that brought here where we can focus on this stuff and talk about whether it's really a priority or whether it's something where people aren't going to use it. Chair Staudt mentioned some other projects along with the new public safety facility site, where there will be opportunities to make it a walkable area, and reiterated that it would be nice for this committee to discuss the nuances of sidewalk and trail PROs. The committee discussed the logistics of having the committee review PROs ahead of or alongside Planning Commission and City Council. Planner Bell explained how Planning looks at what developments are proposing for PROs, giving the example of Providence Meadows. For timing, Planner Bell suggested the 4-week window between when a project is reviewed, it goes to Planning Commission, and then goes to Council about a month later. The committee concurred.

Member Dooley asked if there was an update on the 8 Mile Rd bridge repairs. Director Herczeg said that Construction Engineer, Aaron Staup, recently attended a pre-construction meeting for it with Wayne County Road Commission, and that he would provide an update to the group. The committee discussed the feasibility of adding sidewalk to the bridge. The committee then chose the next meeting date and topics (March 19th, review of the previous version of sidewalk prioritization), and Chair Staudt called for a motion to adjourn.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to review.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Novi resident, Andrew Mutch, commented on the Taft Road Sidewalk, saying that while he wouldn't say no to a sidewalk there, it may have challenges with some of the residents opposing it in their front yard or not being aware of the 60-ft right-of-way, and for the price, there are probably other places, such as Napier Road, where folks that live in mobile home parks are completely isolated. The mobile home parks there have hundreds of homes versus 22 homes on Taft Road.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.