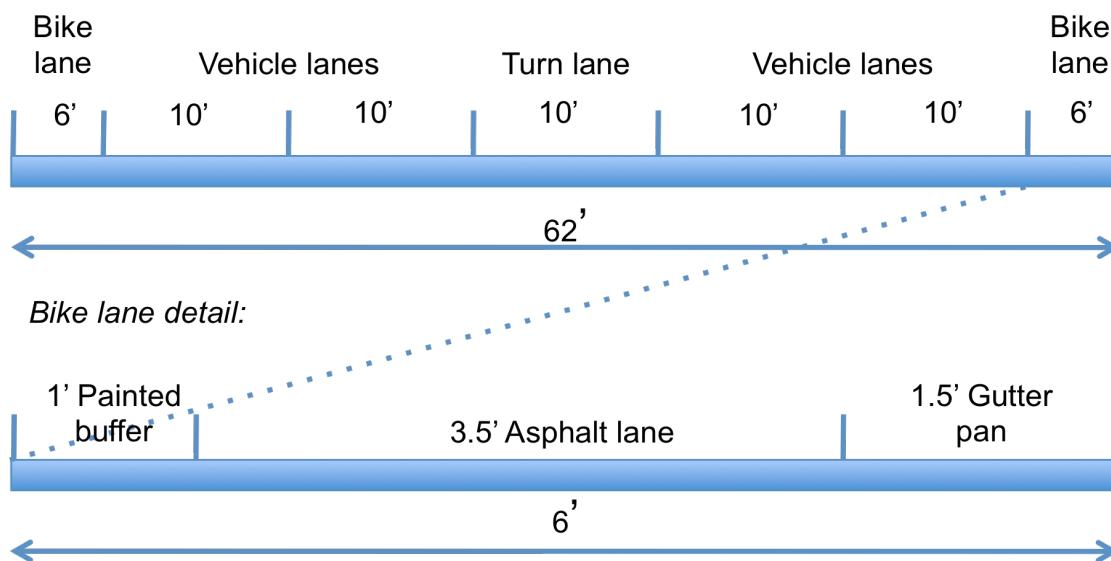


DRAFT Opportunity to Improve Bikeability of Packard Street in 2021

Prepared on behalf of Packard Bikeway Task Force -- Revised December 15, 2020

The Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) has announced that it intends to perform mill and overlay preventive maintenance in 2021 on Packard Street between Carpenter Road and the Ypsilanti city limits. This project provides a rare opportunity to improve safety for drivers and bicyclists at no additional cost.

The WCRC currently plans to retain 11' vehicle lanes and to stripe no bike lane on part of the project and substandard 2' bike lanes on the rest. Instead, the WCRC could change the striping within the approximately 62' between the curbs as shown below:



Current WCRC policy is to make all vehicle lanes at least 11'. This often makes sense, especially on high-speed 2-lane roads. But in a more urban setting like Packard, the above lane configuration would improve safety for all road users because:

- The narrower vehicle lanes would reduce the speed of the natural flow of traffic, giving drivers more time to react to problems.
- The wider shoulders would improve the safety and comfort of bicyclists.
- The multilane configuration provides enough room to accommodate wide vehicles when necessary.

A cross section like this has recently been successfully used on Plymouth Road between Murfin Avenue and Nixon Road. (The same except that the buffer on Plymouth is 1.5' rather than 1'.) If it is not possible to use the above lane arrangement on Packard, a configuration approaching it would be preferable to the one currently planned.

Reducing the lanes to 10' may require special approval, and it is hoped that the WCRC would be willing to pursue any approval needed. Though this lane arrangement is not an ideal long-term way to deal with the needs of cars, buses, bicyclists, and pedestrians on this corridor, it would improve safety at no additional cost until better facilities can be implemented.