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January 21, 2021

Mr. Seth Peterson & Mr. Larry Deck
Washtenaw Bicycling & Walking Coalition
339 E. Liberty St. Suite 300
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Mr. Seth Peterson & Mr. Larry Deck,

This letter is in response to your request to reduce the lane widths on Packard Road between Carpenter Road and the City of Ypsilanti to provide a bike lane in each direction.

Unfortunately, after careful review, WCRC is unable to accommodate your request for 10-foot lanes on Packard Road. We will proceed with our planned resurfacing project this construction season. As a part of this project, we will pave 11-foot lanes and place the new pavements markings in a manner to maximize shoulder width, helping to accommodate bicycles that may travel along this corridor.

There are a number of reasons we cannot accommodate your request, including:

1. *Speeds:* The American Association of State Highway and Transportation (AASHTO) recommends the use of 10-foot lanes only on low speed roadways. In this context, AASHTO defines low speed as less than 35 mph. As you know, Packard Road is a county primary road with a regulatory speed limit of 45 mph. In Michigan, speed limits cannot be arbitrarily lowered, they only can be lowered if the data supports it. The data on this segment of Packard Road supports a 45-mph speed limit.
2. *Traffic Volume and Type of Traffic:* Packard Road is a designated truck route and part of the National Highway System (NHS). The traffic volume along Packard Road is approximately 20,000 vehicles per day, approximately 6% of that traffic is commercial trucks. With this roadway being a designated truck route, the width of commercial vehicles and trailers can legally be up to 8.5 feet wide. With this in mind, narrowing the lanes to 10 feet wide would create a hazardous situation for all road users.
3. *Roadway Designation:* Packard Road is classified as an "other principal arterial" based on the National Functional Classification (NFC) and is listed as part of the NHS. Being classified as part of the NHS requires the roadway to meet standards to ensure safe movement of goods and services. Since federal funds

are being invested on Packard Road between Carpenter Road and Golfside Road, 11-foot lanes are the minimum allowable. To remain consistent along this corridor, Packard Road between Golfside Road and the Ypsilanti City limits, which is WCRC's jurisdiction, will match the cross section between Carpenter Road and Golfside Road (also WCRC's jurisdiction). It should be noted that Packard Street between Eisenhower Parkway and US-23, under the City of Ann Arbor's jurisdiction, is five-lane roadway with similar lane widths and a speed limit of 40 mph. This segment is also listed as a NHS route.

With all that being said, WCRC is certainly supportive of *complete streets* in Washtenaw County. When funds have been identified to completely reconstruct the Packard Road in the future, we hope to construct a *complete street* similar to Carpenter Road between Packard Road and Washtenaw Avenue, which includes amenities like a bike lane.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Matthew F. MacDonell, P.E.
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