

Sunset & Wildt Sidewalk Community Engagement Meeting

Date of Meeting: June 23, 2025
Location of Meeting: Ann Arbor Main Library
Time of Meeting: 6:30p

Staff in Attendance: Nick Hutchinson, Ann Arbor City Engineer
Jasmine Issac, Ann Arbor Communications Specialist
Chris Wall, Wade Trim
Mark McCulloch, Wade Trim
Carmelle Trembley, Wade Trim
John Tanner, Wade Trim
Ryan Brown, Wade Trim
JD Danner, Wade Trim
Terrance Goliday, Wade Trim

The following notes memorialize feedback that was received by City and Wade Trim staff pertaining to potential non-motorized and safety improvements on Sunset Road and Wildt Street.

- An audience member stated they were pro sidewalk and desired connectivity.
- An audience member supported narrowing the road to reduce traffic speeds.
- An audience member supported maintaining parking along the Hunt Park frontage since it is heavily utilized.
- An audience member expressed concern that it was hard to see between parked cars when crossing the road.
- An audience member supported constructing a sidewalk along the frontage of Hunt Park.
- An audience member felt the City needed to focus on upgrading the existing sidewalk on the south side of the road instead of adding a sidewalk on the north side of the road.
- An audience member supported the addition of crosswalks at key intersections and narrow the road to reduce vehicle speeds.
- An audience member stated that the existing south sidewalk is too narrow and too close to the back of curb.
- An audience member stated that traditional bike lanes make sense. They were open to the idea of a designated bike lane.
- An audience member stated that a sidewalk on the north side of Sunset is important.
- An audience member asked how the public could accelerate the construction timeline? They expressed concern about children walking on the road.
- An audience member desired the addition of a sidewalk connection to the Sunset Brooks Nature area, and Forsythe Middle School.
- A resident supported the construction of a roundabout at the Beechwood intersection to reduce traffic speeds.
- An audience member supported the use of bump outs to reduce vehicular speeds.
- An audience member supported the use of traffic calming measures and using a wholistic approach to reduce traffic speeds.
- An audience member encouraged coordination with the Treeline Project that has a potential connection to the Huron River near Wildt Street.
- An audience member stated that greater housing density will incentivize more sidewalks.
- An audience member stated that kids walk on both sides of the road.

- An audience member stated that cars routinely speed excessively along Sunset.
- An audience member stated that they supported a sidewalk on both sides of the road.
- An audience member stated that steep sidewalk grades should be improved/reduced for users of all ages and abilities.
- An audience member stated that the Pioneer track and field team uses the steep hill for endurance training.
- An audience member stated that kids are moving into the neighborhood when they change ownership. A safer street would benefit them.
- An audience member desired that a sidewalk be constructed along the Hunt Park frontage.
- An audience member encouraged staff to reduce the road to slow vehicular speeds.
- An audience member supported narrowing the road so that it was safer for pedestrians.
- An audience member stated that, "I like how a narrow road slows down traffic."
- An audience member stated buses fly down Sunset, and they need to slow them down!"
- An audience member stated that a safe pedestrian lane on the north side of Sunset makes sense.
- An audience member stated that a two-way cycle track could be helpful.
- An audience member stated that crosswalks at every street intersection would be beneficial.
- An audience member desired an elaborate crosswalk, especially at the intersection of Spring Street and Sunset.
- An audience member stated the Spring/Sunset/Orkney intersection is chaotic and it would be beneficial to make the intersection smaller.
- An audience member stated that a sidewalk along Hunt Park frontage would be beneficial.
- An audience member was reluctant to support the loss of all street parking but supported keeping parking on one side of the street.
- An audience member stated that, "I could lose one side of street parking and be okay with that outcome."
- An audience member stated that speeding is the biggest problem on Sunset.
- An audience member said that the Spring/Sunset intersection needs improvement.
- An audience member supported narrowing the road to reduce vehicular speeds.
- An audience member stated that Sunset has big dip near Brooks that causes people to travel down the road at a high rate of speed.
- An audience member stated that the road width at Hunt Park hill should not be reduced, as cars parked in the winter months get consistently sideswiped.
- An audience member supported the construction of a sidewalk along the Hunt Park frontage.
- An audience member supported the construction of a sidewalk on the south side of Sunset from Wildt to Hunt Park and along the north side of Sunset after Spring Street.
- An audience member supported narrowing the road.
- An audience member expressed their opinion that the road from Summit to Brooks has better grades for all ages and all abilities.
- An audience member stated that the design of a bike lane must have 6-year-olds in mind.

- An audience member stated that the speeds near the intersection of Brooks are too fast.
- An audience member stated that limited sight distance exists at the intersection of Sunset and Brooks.
- An audience member expressed their opinion that the design needs to slow down traffic on Sunset.
- An audience member stated that kids would bike if it was safer.
- An audience member was disappointed to learn that funding for this project is not identified as they want it to happen prior to 2030.
- An audience member stated that a crossing guard was needed at the intersection of Newport and Sunset.
- An audience member stated that busing is not available to Wines Elementary within a 1.25-mile radius of the school. This causes parents to walk their children to school.
- An audience member supported the idea of realigning cross streets, so they are near perpendicular to Sunset to improve intersection sight distance.
- Many audience members were in favor of the additional sidewalk on the south side of Sunset where none exists today, but not the installation of new sidewalk on the north side of Sunset. Multiple residents agreed.
- Many audience members expressed safety concerns on the existing southside sidewalk.
- An audience member supported the installation of sidewalk along the Hunt Park frontage.
- Many audience members were not in favor of a new sidewalk on the outside curve at Wildt Street due to excessive costs from the existing railroad.
- Many audience members expressed concerns about high vehicle speeds. Some supported the idea of traffic calming measures such as bump outs and speed humps.
- Many audience members were in favor of maintaining on-street parking near the walking trail.
- An audience member supported the project for connectivity to the B2B trail.
- An audience member suggested that a roundabout is constructed at the intersection of Sunset and Spring.
- An audience member supported on-street parking to be maintained adjacent to Hunt Park.
- The group supported a new protected pedestrian lane along the north side with no parking, with parking maintained on the south side of the street.
- An audience member supported the installation of speed humps to slow drivers' speeds.
- An audience member supported the reduction of road width at the intersection of Sunset and Spring narrowed to reduce vehicle speeds.
- An audience member stated that the existing south sidewalk is too narrow. There is not sufficient space for bikers and walkers to coexist.
- An audience member expressed the need for a crossing guard at the intersection of Newport and Sunset.
- An audience member stated that vehicular speeds are high at the Wildt curve.
- An audience member stated that the steep hill makes it hard for kids to ride their bicycle.
- An audience member only supported the construction of a sidewalk on the north side if the road is narrowed. They were concerned about high vehicle speeds.

- An audience member stated that the current sidewalk on the south side is too close to the road, which makes it feel dangerous.
- Some audience members expressed concerns that narrowing the road will make it more dangerous in the winter due to sideswipes, especially at the intersection of Sunset and Wildt.
- An audience member supported a bike lane if it accommodated all ages and abilities. Their suggestion was for a bike lane on Summit west to Brooks, then north on Brooks to Sunset. They expressed concerns that the steep hill on Sunset by Wildt is not easy for young bikers or those in wheelchairs.
- An audience member felt it was important to reduce the speed of experienced bikers who use the existing sidewalk.
- An audience member suggested that a shared use path to accommodate bikers and walkers.
- An audience member supported the construction of a two-way protected cycle track.
- An audience member suggested the addition of a bike lane along the south side of the road and keep on street parking along the north side of the road.
- An audience member supported the connection between Sunset and Wildt via a new sidewalk.
- An audience member supported the construction of a sidewalk along the Hunt Park frontage.
- An audience member supported the idea of adding sidewalk along Spring Street and Daniel Street.
- An audience member supported the existence of sidewalk on both sides of the road.
- An audience member expressed concerns that safety was compromised without the existence of sidewalk on both sides of the road.
- An audience member supported the addition of crosswalk at all intersections.
- Many audience members preferred the use of a buffer area between the curb and sidewalk.
- Many audience members supported a sidewalk around all perimeters of Hunt Park.
- An audience member stated that a sidewalk along the north side only makes sense if it stops at Hunt Park, then connects to the existing sidewalk on the south side via a crosswalk.
- An audience member felt the sight distance at all driveways needed to be increased if a sidewalk were constructed on the north side of the road.
- Many audience members supported a wholistic street design approach and would like it to occur in the 5 years or less.
- An audience member questioned what impact the existing water treatment plant would have on the sidewalk/road project?
- An audience member if moving the northside curb to provide a sidewalk would be more expensive than other design alternatives.
- An audience member asked if the community could raise funds to provide sidewalk at Hunt Park.
- An audience member asked designers to be mindful of existing landscaping and avoid their removal from the right of way.

- A blind audience member was not in favor of a sidewalk on the north side of the road. They felt it was unnecessary. But they were in favor of improving the existing sidewalk along the south side of the road.
- Many audience members stated dozens of families and kids use Sunset Rd to walk and bike.
- One audience member stated that Sunset is popular with bikers and runners since the hill is a good workout.
- Many audience members want to prioritize safety on the existing sidewalk along the south side of the road before adding a sidewalk along the north side.
- One audience member stated that cars travel too fast along Sunset.
- One audience member stated that runners prefer using road over concrete sidewalks.
- One audience member supports a buffer space to be placed along the south side sidewalk.
- An audience member stated a wheelchair user lives at the house on the northeast corner of Sunset and Newport.
- An audience member stated that the Treeline Project proposes a path to the Huron River over the existing train tracks.
- An audience member supported the improvement of the existing south side sidewalk and keep on street parking.
- An audience member supported the use of bump outs like the ones present on Brooks Street.
- An audience member stated that a sidewalk on the north side of Sunset was good for dog walkers.
- An audience member suggested improving intersections for better sight lines.
- An audience member supports slowing traffic with design features.
- An audience member supported the placement of a bike lane.
- Most audience members of this group were against a new sidewalk along the north side of the road. They were in favor of improving the sidewalk along the south side.
- An audience member stated that the Ann Arbor Hills neighborhood needs sidewalks. They stated that those should be higher priority over Sunset.
- An audience member questioned why Sunset was a city priority.
- An audience member was supportive of a sidewalk along the north side of the road if the existing sidewalk along the south side was also improved.
- An audience member stated most walkers use Spring Street to get to downtown instead of using Wildt.

AI Summary of Audience Feedback:

Sidewalks & Pedestrian Safety

- Strong support exists for the construction of a sidewalk along the Hunt Park frontage.
- Some preferred upgrading and enhancing the safety of the existing south sidewalk over constructing a new one on the north side.

Traffic Calming & Road Design

- Widespread support existed for narrowing the road to reduce vehicle speeds.
- Traffic calming suggestions included speed humps, bump outs, a roundabout at Beechwood, and crosswalks at key intersections.

Parking

- Many supported maintaining on-street parking, especially along the frontage of Hunt Park.
- Some were open minded to remove parking on one side of the street to improve safety.

Cycling Infrastructure

- Support exists for a traditional bike lane. Others supported widening the existing south sidewalk to support walkers and cyclists.
- Emphasis of a bike lane needs to focus on all ages and abilities.

Other Concerns

- Disappointment was expressed that a safety enhancement project may not occur before 2030.
- Winter hazards pointed to parked cars getting sideswiped along the side of the road, especially along the steep grade of Sunset.

The above notes represent the writer's understanding of the items discussed and conclusions reached at the meeting. Please notify the writer immediately if your understanding is different. A clarification or correction will be issued to all parties. This document will be considered accurate if no corrections or clarifications are received within one week of issuance.

Minutes by,

Mark H. McCulloch
Wade Trim Associates, Inc.