

Homan, Kim

From: Walton, Mariah
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 11:32 AM
To: Homan, Kim
Subject: FW: Public input for "Road Diet"

Mariah Walton

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From: Linda Flanz <lflanz@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 11:32 AM
To: Walton, Mariah <mw Walton@eastpointecity.org>
Subject: Public input for "Road Diet"

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Good morning,

Please read the following into the record for the upcoming public hearing on the proposed "road diet" for 9 Mile.

Good evening Mayor and Council,

I am a 25 year resident of the city. I raised my children here. During this time, I have walked and biked frequently throughout the city.

When my children were young, we walked to the library, the post office, the bakery, Salvatore Scallopini, Cloverleaf. I have biked to Deronne, the bakery, even the entire stretch of 9 Mile from Gratiot to 94 (only once and never again).

I can say without a doubt, that 9 Mile is not very walkable or bikeable the way it is. There are way too many curb cuts and the traffic moves too fast to comfortably walk or bike it.

Up until my son got a car just before winter, he rode his bike to work. Although 9 Mile was the more direct route, he instead biked Stephens or Toepfer to work daily to avoid taking 9 Mile. It's just not a good biking or walking road in its current design.

9 Mile is essentially a highway to the highway. And as long as it is a highway to the highway, we will not have businesses that are walkable. Who wants to sit in outdoor dining at a restaurant on the side of a highway? Expecting there to be businesses to frequent before the road is conducive to it is a bit like putting the cart before the horse, in my opinion.

I support making 9 Mile walkable, whether that is 3 lanes or 4 lanes or 5 lanes. Slowing down traffic will increase businesses and getting more people out and about walking around will increase the safety of the community. It will also attract more families (which is essential for the city's future) who are looking for an affordable area with access to good school districts even though they may not choose our school district.

Regarding the concern for the emergency vehicles, earlier this year, 9 Mile was reduced to one lane east, one lane west, and a turn lane for several months. I did not notice any delay in traffic. If there would be a delay in traffic or emergency response times, I think it would have been apparent during that time. It was quite a bit of time with only one lane each way.

The more people are out and about, the safer the community will be. I challenge all listening to get out, walk around, and bike the city. This is how we make the city safer. We show all those coming through the city that we are NOT afraid of our community.

Thank you for your time and hope to see the Council and Mayor leading by example, out and about this summer.

Thank you,

Linda Flanz