

Joint Work Session
September 16, 2009
Dexter Community Schools and Village of Dexter

Village Attendance: Shawn Keough, Jim Carson, Jim Smith, Ray Tell, Donna Fisher, Joe Semifero, Carol Jones, Paul Cousins, Courtney Nicholls, Allison Bishop, and Donna Dettling.

School Attendance: Rob Glass, Larry Cobbler, Dick Lundy, Jerry Brand, and Jim Valenta

An overview of the School's current transportation focus; Baker Road Crossing, Campus Connectivity and options for separating bus and car traffic campus wide were discussed. These items fall under the School's current Bond, specifically for transportation infrastructure.

A review of the Non-motorized/pedestrian plan from the new High School on Shield through the Campus to Cornerstone and Mill Creek Middle School was presented and discussed using a poster map of the campus. Portions of the pathway are already constructed, with the creek crossing to be constructed in 2010.

The School representatives presented the proposed crossing of Baker Road with a new traffic light at the location where Bates and Creekside have exit driveways to Baker Road. Jerry Brand and Jim Valenta presented the scenario to the group using presentation boards and discussion followed. A copy of the Baker Road Traffic Study/Pedestrian Crossing Analysis is attached. The crossing at the Bates/Cornerstone location is desired by the schools because of its logical location relative to the two schools. Shawn Keough felt that enhancements to the Dan Hoey light could entice people to use the standard intersection crossing location and asked if program changes were part of the school's desire to have a traffic light at this location. No program changes are currently planned. The School District prefers a crossing between the two schools instead of the Dan Hoey light because they believe that people will not use the Dan Hoey crossing. Also taken into consideration is the age of the children and the safest crossing for elementary age. Mr. Keough does not support a traffic light at this proposed location and feels that there are a combination of other improvements that could be made along this corridor that would provide for a safe crossing from one side of Baker Road to the other. There are two, twenty-minute peak times per Jerry Brand when this stop would be used, other times it would be primarily green for Baker Road traffic. Everyone agreed that finding the safest way to get people across Baker Road along the entire corridor is everyone's main priority.

Currently under discussion is the bus transfer concept, which reduces bus traffic on village streets. This is still very conceptual and the school is looking for feedback on the concept. They plan to roll out the idea to groups in the district for discussion and feedback.

Jim Valenta reviewed the Walkability Tools in a power point presentation. Although there isn't one consolidated plan for implementing the walkability tools many of the tools are contained in the Village's Master Plan, Corridor Plans, and Capital Improvement Plan. The Safe Routes to School program provides the opportunity to the School and the Village to consolidate plans and develop collaborative projects to enhance walkability throughout the Village.

Shawn Keough stressed that the Village has achieved much in terms of walkability through implementing our plans, but there is more to do. The Town Hall meeting on October 7, 2009 will

highlight what we've done and what we can do. The Village in collaboration with the Dexter Schools has an opportunity to further refine and implement a plan using Safe Routes 2 School grant opportunities.

Rob Glass used the Shield intersection at Baker Road as an example of a project that could be visioned for improvements with the Road Commission, Scio Township, the School and the Village. Village members agreed that working with the schools on these types of issues was definitely in everyone's best interest.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Dettling, Village Manager