



Good Afternoon,

This is the City Manager's week in review for the week of August 9, 2021.

COVID – The Delta Variant has been identified in Allegan County. The Allegan County COVID Dashboard indicates that cases last reported are up to 15.9 cases per day—up from 8.4 cases per day the previous week. Allegan County Health Department is recommending wearing a mask in public in settings with a lot of people (restaurants, festivals, fairs, events, stores, etc.) and getting a COVID-19 vaccine to help lessen the impact of severe illness. Allegan County is listed as “substantial” risk per the CDC's transmission risk levels. I anticipate City Hall will be moving back to face coverings in the coming weeks.

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority – The Authority met this week to go over the tentative demolition schedule of 200 Blue Star Highway. If all goes as planned, asbestos abatement could begin in early November and demolition in December. The City budgeted funds for the demolition of the building. I also have a meeting in the coming weeks with the City's environmental consultant to discuss the next round of EPA Cleanup Grants.

Campbell Road Grant – The City received word that we were not awarded the MDOT Category B Grant for a third time in a row. MDOT received 139 applications requesting \$21.9 million in grant funding but only has \$3 million to award for projects. I have a meeting scheduled with the project engineer to discuss moving forward without the grant funds.

Wiley Road Trail – MDOT opened bids for the Wiley Road Trail project and will be awarding the construction of the trail from Blue Star Highway to Wiley Court. We anticipate construction to begin this fall. The original scope of the project was to install a trail from Blue Star Highway to Schultz Park, but because of the cost of construction, the limit was reduced and now terminates at Wiley Court. Additional grants will have to be applied for to extend the trail beyond Wiley Court.

Traffic Counts – A traffic count is being conducted at the intersection of Blue Star and Wiley Road this week as well as on Water Street between South Street and Wiley. The data will be used to determine the best approach to manage traffic flows. High traffic volume during the summer season has created long wait times and the potential for traffic accidents at the Blue Star Highway and Wiley intersection. Possible solutions could be the installation of a traffic signal or physical changes at the intersection.

Library RFP – I received comments back from the City Attorney for the request for proposal document late this week. I'll start making changes next week per the attorney's comments and get the RFP issued.

Wayfinding – Planning and Zoning hosted two meetings with Williams and Works for the community to discuss the future wayfinding for downtown and recreation, parks and trails. The meetings gathered information from participants about the desired outcomes from the wayfinding program that is intended to update community branding and signage to a consistent and unified style that represents the community. A public meeting will be held in September to review the options that result from the information being gathered about wayfinding.

Non-Motorized Trail Meeting – The non-motorized trail group met on Friday and discussed the lane reconfigurations of Blue Star Highway to accommodate the extension of the Blue Star Trail into Saugatuck and Saugatuck Township. A public meeting will be held August 24, 4-6 pm at Isabel's for public input about the trail extension.

Storm Damage – The City experienced back-to-back storms this week that resulted in heavy rains, high winds, and random power outages. Routine erosion locations were quickly remediated by the DPW and crews were working at

picking up downed branches that fell in the right of way. Douglas Beach bluff faired well; however, a significant amount of beach sand was washed out and high waves continued through Friday. A large tree on the north side of the Douglas Beach property also split and fell on the property line. DPW was working on removing the tree and repairing damage to the neighbor's steps.

That is all I have for now. Have a good weekend.

Rich LaBombard
City Manager