



May 16, 2016

Dear Mayor Taylor and Ann Arbor City Council,

We are writing to voice our opposition to Budget Amendment 13 to *Establish Spending Guidelines for the Street, Bridge and Sidewalk Millage Proceeds Collected from Taxpayers in FY17 and Future Years* (sponsors: Jane Lumm and Jack Eaton). While WBWC certainly supports the transparent and equitable spending of transportation funds, we believe this amendment is inconsistent with a Complete Streets approach to transportation planning.

In 2011, Ann Arbor City Council adopted a Complete Streets policy to “incorporate non-motorized elements into every road construction project.” The resolution recognizes the need for the City’s transportation systems to “provide mobility for all, regardless of age or abilities, to safely and conveniently travel throughout the city.” The City has clearly articulated a commitment to building “complete streets” and the Street, Bridge and Sidewalk Millage, as currently worded, helps to fund that commitment.

*ANN ARBOR CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT TAX FOR STREET AND BRIDGE REPAIR
AND FOR SIDEWALK REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION*

"Shall the Charter be amended to authorize a new tax up to 2.125 mills for street and bridge repair and for sidewalk repair and construction for 2017 through 2021 to replace the previously authorized tax up to 2.125 mills for street and bridge reconstruction and resurfacing and for sidewalk repair for 2012 through 2016, which will raise in the first year of levy the estimated revenue of \$11,249,000? YES or NO"

Where needed, street and repair and reconstruction should include the inclusion of safe cycling facilities and pedestrian crossings. Bridge repair and reconstruction should include safe access for cyclists and pedestrians. Dedicating 94% of future millage funds exclusively for motorists would be inconsistent with the wording of the millage and makes unfounded presumptions about voter intent. Please vote no on Budget Amendment 13 .

Sincerely,

Peter D. Houk & Erica Briggs
WBWC Chair WBWC Board Member