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August 24, 2023

**BARTON BULLETIN** VOL. LXIX No. 18

Barton Hills Village 199 Barton Shore Drive Ann Arbor MI 48105

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**Alert:** On August 23, MDOT announced its final recommendation to close the EB Barton Drive ramps on M-14 sometime between 2024-26 without having first secured funding for a long-term solution. Public comment is welcome through September 13.

***MDOT leadership says that if the community does not support these recommendations, they will come up with alternative ideas.***

***If you signed the BHV petition, we will submit a comment on your behalf using the language in the petition that you signed. No further action on your part is required.***

***If you have not signed the BHV petition, visit <https://m14-bartospel.com/> and use the “Connect With Us” section at the bottom of the page to tell MDOT:***

1. Retain the EB Barton Dr ramps.
2. Mitigate crashes by an MDOT-estimated 45% over 5 years across the interchange by implementing the short-term recommendations found in MDOT’s 2021 Road Safety Audit at a cost of ~\$486k, adjusted for inflation.
3. Eliminate the \$45 million dual roundabout as a long-term solution.
4. Re-apply the high friction surface treatment (HFST) on the EB lanes headed towards the Huron River bridge, and re-apply a high friction epoxy overlay (HFEO) on the bridge, extending to the Barton Dr exit ramp at the end of their useful life. *There have been zero significant injuries/fatalities since the HFST/HFEO were first installed in 2021.*

***Why is it necessary to make our voices heard?*** Closing the EB Barton Drive ramps without funding for a long-term solution would profoundly and negatively impact our community, our residents’ quality of life, and our local streets. Even an MDOT leader is concerned, saying he was worried that – if MDOT closed the ramps without having first secured funding for a long-term solution – funders might not provide it because they might mistakenly think the problem got solved!

Every day, 43,000 vehicles use this interchange; >10,000 (23%) of that use the Barton Dr ramps daily. Plus, MDOT estimates 345 crashes (44.7% of the total) could be mitigated across the interchange over 5 years by implementing 17 cost-effective improvements. Examples of MDOT’s cost-effective safety improvement recommendations include:

- \$937 each for “Thru Traffic Stay Left” and “Stop Ahead” signs.
- \$1,239 to paint merge arrows when ramps go from 2 to 1 lane.

- \$2,894 for more chevrons to delineate curves.
- \$11,577 for a flashing 15-mph sign at the EB Barton Drive exit ramp.
- \$28,941 for lighting ramps at night.
- \$75,248 to clear trees and brush from the sides of the interchange and its ramps.

**MDOT's Final PEL Report can be found at:**

[https://m14-bartonpel.com/images/M14Barton\\_FinalPel\\_Dec2022.pdf](https://m14-bartonpel.com/images/M14Barton_FinalPel_Dec2022.pdf)

(The PEL study kicked off in December 2022, that's the reason for the date in the file name.)

**MDOT's press release dated August 23 can be found at:**

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/news-outreach/pressreleases/2023/08/23/mdot-requests-public-input-aug-23-sept-13-for-m-14-barton-drive-pel-study-in-washtenaw-county>

**Both MDOT and BHV representatives made presentations on this issue at the August 21 Ann Arbor Township Board of Trustees meeting.** The video recording is available on the BHV Google drive through the following link. The presentations start at 1:55:20 and end at 2:53:58.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rmxRvwDxgajBUcMFMm6E0HidD1X8mWhN/view?usp=sharing>

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact BHV Trustee Carla Smith at 734-604-6275 / [carlasmith48105@gmail.com](mailto:carlasmith48105@gmail.com).

Thank You, the Barton Hills Village Board of Trustees