

MEMO

TO: Cristina Sheppard-Decius
FR: Daniel Grove, The Lakota Group
RE: **Ferndale Heritage Tourism & Wayfinding Planning – MDOT Meeting**
CC: Nicholas Kalogeresis, Lakota
Brian Wirth, Lakota
Wendy Christie, Quill Communications
Kristine Kidorf, Kidorf Preservation Consulting

November 16, 2009

The Lakota Group met with representatives from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) at the Pontiac MDOT office on October 15th, 2009. In attendance from MDOT were:

- Mia Silver, Oakland TSC Manager
- Wioletta Bilan, Oakland TSC Traffic & Safety Permits
- Stacey Gough, Oakland TSC Permit Engineer

The goal of this preliminary meeting was to introduce the project to MDOT and identify any concerns, issues, or opportunities that may affect the project moving forward. The following is a summary of the discussion and comments:

- MDOT has a State approved version of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) that applies to the allowed signage design within the State right-of-ways.
 - The modifications that Michigan has approved do not modify the MUTCD dramatically as it pertains to signage.
 - Placement of signs on Woodward will be critical for approval.
 - Any new sign must be 200' from any existing sign.
 - There is potential to relocate existing signs to achieve the required spacing
 - Some signs can be combined on the same pole. These are defined in the guidelines
 - Only signage/identity allowed in the median of Woodward will be signs on break-away poles or high-density foam.
 - Permits for the signs will need to be applied for by the City of Ferndale.
 - MDOT will require a resolution from the City Council on the maintenance of the signs before approving the permit.
 - Review process will be approximately 4 to 6 weeks, but staff indicated that if they are provided with materials throughout the process to keep them informed, it will cut down on the final review time.
 - Staff needs to review whether signage is allowed in MDOT right-of-ways to metered parking lots, or only free public parking.
 - Signs south of 8 Mile would fall in the Detroit TSC. Oakland would still process the permit, but Ferndale would need to get a letter approving the encroachment from Detroit TSC.
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- Currently not allowed to create directional signs to High Schools, but may qualify through the Tourist Oriented Directional Signs program.
- Business names are considered advertising and not allowed within MDOT right-of-way.
 - Business Directory Kiosk/Map may be allowed, as lettering must be greater than 2" to qualify as advertising.
- The project should be permitted in Phases corresponding with construction.
- If signage is desired on I-75 or I-696, regulations are more restrictive as they are both limited access expressways, and a FHWA review would be required.
- MDOT may require a sign identifying that new signs are paid for and maintained by the City of Ferndale so other communities do not think they are provided by MDOT.
- Staff offered to assist in navigating the MDOT website if necessary to find the Michigan MUTCD guidelines and permit materials
- Lakota raised the lack of directional signage into Ferndale from I-696. MDOT indicated that they intend on rectifying this issue. However, there is no current sign budget. MDOT indicated they might be able to address it through a maintenance budget.
- The sign within the Woodward median at 9 Mile is grand-fathered in. It does not meet guidelines due to internal illumination, changeable text, advertising, and other issues. This sign cannot be replaced or modified under current guidelines/regulations.
- Mia Silver asked that she be allowed to attend Community Workshops. Lakota indicated they would send announcements and timing to her.