



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BAY REGION OFFICE

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

PAUL C. AJEGBA
DIRECTOR

December 9, 2019

Mr. Brad Kaye
Midland City Manager
333 West Ellsworth Street
Midland, Michigan 48640

Dear Mr. Kaye:

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) received your letter requesting the road diet trial be concluded by the end of the 2019 calendar year if the data supports it. As you are aware, MDOT has been actively collecting traffic volume, speed and crash data along the corridor in order to analyze operational efficiency and safety. To date, we believe that enough data has been collected during the temporary lane closure to assist us with determining feasibility for a permanent lane closure. With that said, we anticipate that we will be able to remove the bollards along Buttles Street by December 31, 2019. MDOT will finish a delay collection the week of December 9, 2019 and will remove the bollards shortly after.

It has been determined that a good baseline of data has been established for the two-lane configuration. The traffic patterns have normalized since the M-20 bridge construction has concluded. Once the lanes are returned to three lanes, it is our intention to continue collecting data along Buttles Street, as a three-lane configuration, through the end of January 2020. Per our phone conversation, once we finish data collection through January 2020, MDOT and the city engineers will meet to provide final results.

Our priorities have been, and remain, a safe and efficient transportation network for all modes. As such we do not take decisions that may potentially affect safety and mobility lightly. If the two-lane configuration is deemed feasible and council wishes to pursue this option as a permanent application, we would recommend that city council consider taking action with a formal resolution of support for a lane reduction prior to the start of major design for the reconstruction of the business route. We anticipate major design to begin sometime in the summer of 2020. Currently funding is in place for the design, but no construction funds have been identified in our five-year plan. Council will need to make a final determination for the lane configuration prior to reconstruction to avoid incurring any expenses related to design changes.

Sincerely,

Robert Ranck Jr.
Bay Region Engineer