



CITY OF DETROIT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CITY ENGINEERING DIVISION

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September 7, 2017

The Honorable City Council
Attn: Office of City Clerk
2 Woodward Avenue
Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Suite 200,
Detroit, MI 48226

Honorable City Council

The Department of Public Works – City Engineering Division submits this petition to request the temporary closure of Woodward Avenue, from Jefferson Avenue to Larned Street for a period of five years.

The new “Spirit of Detroit Plaza,” is a vibrant new public space located in front of the Spirit of Detroit statue. The 20,000 square-foot civic square on Woodward, between Larned and Jefferson, exists to celebrate Detroit’s diversity and complement recent enhancements to Woodward Avenue, such as the new esplanade between Larned and Campus Martius.

During the initial trial period, the civic space, as well as adjacent streets in the immediate area, have been closely monitored to evaluate the overall impact. Similar public spaces have been created in many cities around the world to improve walkability, increase access to public space, and create new business development without negatively impacting area traffic flow.

The project improves both safety and mobility for all users, creating a more direct pedestrian link between Downtown and the Detroit Riverfront, while reducing delay times for motorists travelling on Jefferson Ave, one of the cities’ busiest thoroughfares. The project also marks the latest step towards the City’s goal of establishing smarter, safer mobility for all and improving the city’s economy by reimagining Detroit’s streets to serve everyone.

This petition is being requested so that “Spirit of Detroit Plaza” may continue as a public space on Woodward Avenue between Jefferson Avenue and Larned Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Doherty, P. E., City Engineer
City Engineering Division – DPW