

St. Joseph Action Plan - Table 3.1 - 2016 Master Plan												
Transportation and Infrastructure	Priority			Time Frame (Actions only )				Actions only		2016-2017 activities with proposed activity for 2017/2018	March 2021 update	February 2024 Update
	Most Important	Very Important	Important	Within 2 years	2-5 years	5 plus years	Continuous	Responsible Party or Key Partners	Potential Funding Source			
<b>Goal: Assess and maintain the City's existing infrastructure.</b>												
<i>Objective:</i> Ensure road improvements are done in a strategic way to efficiently improve connectivity and access for all users.			X							CIP developed as part of SAW Grant prioritized projects based upon the criticality of the infrastructure. Connectivity to be addressed during public outreach effort (goal to implement recommendations in master plan where feasible)	Two pavement preventive maintenance projects have been completed and a third will happen in 2021. Street reconstruction has included new sewer and water lines and where feasible non-motorized paths. Projects took place in 2019 (Wallace), 2020 (Kingsley/Orchard), 2021 Langley	Langley Avenue completed in 2021, Willa Drive, Lester Drive and Donna Drive were reconstructed in 2022. Upton Drive from the St. Joseph River to Momany Drive is scheduled to be reconstructed in 2024.
<i>Objective :</i> Implement the results of the Storm Assessment Management and Wastewater (SAW) grant to improve road pavement quality, focusing on highest priority actions first.			X							SAW Grant CIP includes preventative maintenance for roadways. Emphasis on keeping good roads good (most cost effective)	Two pavement preventive maintenance projects have been completed and a third will happen in 2021.	Three pavement preventive maintenance projects were completed in 2022 and 2023. The City intends to continue these projects into the future. Lake Boulevard and Broad Street Resurfacing Project is scheduled in 2024.
<b>Goal: Encourage biking and walking as an integral part of daily life in the city.</b>												
<i>Objective:</i> Improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and connectivity with transit, schools, parks, employment centers, shopping, and other municipalities.			X									
<i>Action :</i> Develop a plan for a non-motorized path (NMP) network that highlights opportunities for modifications to existing infrastructure as well as new infrastructure investments.					X			City, PC, MDOT, Others	Public, Grants	Wallace Ave Project incorporates a non-motorized path. Future projects (Langley, Kingsley, Morton, Orchard, etc.) expected to add non-motorized facilities. Public input (public outreach program) will be solicited.	Langley road project will include non-motorized path (NMP) similar to 2019 and 2020 projects.	Langley Avenue NMP completed, the 2024 Upton Drive Reconstruction Project includes an NMP. Began work with MDOT on a planned 2027 reconstruction of Main, Port and Ship Streets with NMP highlighted as a priority.
<i>Action:</i> Identify opportunities to encourage bicycle racks at public and private destinations.				X				City, Business Owners	Public, Grants	As part of SUP request for Honor Credit Union and McDonald's requested installation of bike racks as part of site plan.	2020 PC started review of text amendment to ZO regarding Access, Bikes, Parking, Loading. Will require equipment under certain conditions. City looking at providing equipment at parks and downtown area.	Sustainability Committee began exploring locations for bike racks in key public locations throughout the City. Planning Commission continues to work on "Access, Bikes, Parking and Loading" in the Zoning Ordinance to create regulations for bicycle parking.
<i>Action:</i> Install comprehensive signage to define bike routes.					X			City, Others	Public	No action.	No action.	No action.
<i>Action:</i> Identify high pedestrian vehicular conflict locations and high traffic intersections and prioritize these for improvements.					X			City, MDOT	Public, Grants	No action.	Downtown Vision Master Plan called out locations within study area	As part of MDOT reconstruction of Main, Port and Ship Streets in 2027, discussions are taking place regarding improved pedestrian crossings.
<i>Action:</i> Identify and prioritize locations for traffic calming improvements.						X		City, MDOT	Public, Grants	In Spring 2017 MDOT representative attended Planning Commission meeting to discuss options for State routes. Traffic calming occurred on Lakeshore Drive c. 2005 (4 lane to 3 lane section), and on Ship Street c. 2016 (3 lane to 2 lane + turn lane). This continues to be a discussion topic with MDOT.	Downtown Vision Master Plan provided examples along Main, Ship and Port Streets. MDOT looking at future Main Street/94 Trunkline improvements.	Lions Park Drive and Lake Blvd the roads were narrowed to calm traffic. As part of MDOT reconstruction of Main, Port and Ship Streets in 2027, discussions are taking place regarding improved pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures are being reviewed.
<i>Action :</i> Ensure key sidewalk corridors are cleared of snow in a timely manner so residents can safely access walkable areas of the community year-round.					X			City, Home Owners, Business Owners	Public, Private	Maintain sidewalks in the downtown, parks, and public parking lots. In 2016/2017 removed snow on school routes when more than 2".	Task is completed in downtown area and school routes by Public Works Department in the morning of snow falls.	This task continues to be completed in the downtown area and school routes by Public Works Department in the morning of snow falls.
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Transportation and Infrastructure, continued	Priority (Objectives only )			Time Frame (Actions only )				Actions only		2016-2017 activities with proposed activity for 2017/2018		
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<i>Action</i> : Identify streets and corridors where bike lanes can be immediately implemented and execute these improvements.						X		City, Others	Public, Grants	No action. Planning Commission discussed if opportunities existed with MDOT along portions of Niles Avenue.	Downtown Vision Master Plan suggested changes to 2016 Master Plan map. Placement of bike lanes on Main Street is not appropriate as discussed with MDOT.	As part of MDOT reconstruction of Main, Port and Ship Streets in 2027, discussions are taking place regarding possible creation of bike lanes.
<b>Goal: Investigate solutions to better manage transportation and parking demands.</b>												
<i>Objective:</i> Investigate implementing a shuttle service and/or additional transit routes connecting off-street parking in areas outside of downtown with amenities in the core of the City.			X									
<i>Action</i> : Identify off-site parking locations that are not used to full capacity and work with property owners to secure shuttle pick-up locations.					X			City, County	Public, Others	No action. Off-site parking used for Krasl Art Fair.	No action. Downtown Vision Master Plan referenced opportunities available.	Walker Consultants is reviewing options and preparing recommendations within the report to be received Spring 2024.
<i>Action</i> : Investigate the feasibility of developing seasonal public transit routes to serve the off-site parking.						X		Staff, County	Public, Others	Early investigation of options taking place.	No action.	No action.
<i>Objective</i> : Identify creative solutions for easing the summer season parking.	X											Convened a parking subgroup and hired Walker Consultants to explore opportunities to ease parking congestion in the summer. Final report expected in Spring 2024.
<i>Action</i> : Enhance enforcement during the peak summer season and holidays.					X			Staff	Public	Added 4 reserve officers; increased day shift from 3 to 4 cars. Officer stationed at Broad/Lake St and at Lake Blvd/Park Friday thru Sunday for traffic flow. Added a bike patrol and increased foot patrol in problem areas.	Public Safety continues fine tuning traffic and parking control during summer months.	Public Safety continues fine tuning traffic and parking control during summer months. During large events like the the Blossomtime Parade and the Fourth of July Fireworks, the city also relies on the Berrien County Sherrifs Office and the Michigan State Police.
<i>Action</i> : Review existing regulations and consider increasing parking fines to deter people from parking illegally.						X		Staff, PC	Public	Fines increased in July 2016.	No additional action taken.	Walker Consultants working on recommendation for parking fines. Public Safety Department also reviewing needed changes. Walker report expected in Spring 2024.
<i>Action:</i> Review zoning requirements for parking.						X		Staff	Public	Staff gathering data to provide to Planning Commission for discussion and recommendation.	2020 PC started review of text amendment to ZO regarding Access, Bikes, Parking, Loading. Will require equipment under certain conditions. City looking at providing equipment at parks and downtown area. RRC requires amendments to ZO	Planning Commission continues to work on "Access, Bikes, Parking and Loading" in the Zoning Ordinance to streamline parking requirements and regulations.
<i>Action:</i> Conduct a comprehensive parking study for both downtown and out-of-downtown parking.						X		Staff, County	Public, Grants	No action. Changes implemented below the bluff area for summer traffic along with limiting parking to one side of street in other areas.	Downtown Vision Master Plan completed comprehensive parking study for the downtown study area.	Walker Consultants was hired to review parking in the downtown area. Final report expected in Spring 2024.
<i>Action:</i> Work with Berrien County to add signage and improve communication on beach parking availability.						X		Staff, County	Public	Changeable message sign installed at State/Water. Along Lake Blvd have signage directing traffic. Implmented one-way	Public Safety continues fine tuning traffic and parking control during summer months.	During the Summer of 2024, Berrien County will be test piloting pay when leaving Silver Beach to help elevate traffic congestion on Broad and Lake Streets.
<i>Action:</i> Review existing on-street parking regulations to ensure they are compatible with parking needs and the impact on existing neighborhoods, services, and infrastructure.						X		Staff, County, Residents, Businesses	Public	No action.	No action.	Walker Consultants working on recommendation for on-street and surface parking lot time frames in the downtown area. Public Safety Department was also reviewing. Walker report expected in Spring 2024.
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<i>Action:</i> Analyze and identify existing streets and parking lots capable of accommodating additional parking.					X			Staff	Public	Along the upper hill of Lions Park Beach added angled and parallel parking spaces. Created drop off area for Silver Beach. Designated parallel spaces along 1st, 2nd and 3rd Streets.	No additional action taken.	No additional work has taken place.
<b>Goal: Maintain, protect and expand public access and connectivity to Lake Michigan, the St. Joseph River, and the Paw Paw River waterfronts.</b>												



<i>Objective</i> : Improve pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular connectivity and access between the north and south sides of the St. Joseph River.	X																		
<i>Action</i> : Encourage use of street legal low speed vehicles as a common form of transportation north of the St. Joseph River with possible connection and expansion to						X		City, MDOT	N/A		No action.	Private business provides rental service. State law prohibits some locations where the vehicle can be driven.	Private business provides rental service. State law prohibits some locations where the vehicle can be driven.						
<i>Objective</i> : Establish paths in corridors not well served by existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities.		X																	
<i>Action</i> : Establish a St. Joseph riverfront pedestrian and bicycle trail from the Margaret Upton Arboretum to Lakeland Healthcare and beyond, eventually connecting further south to the St. Joseph Charter Township trail system.						X		City, Residents, Others	Public, Grants	Intend to submit CIP request for easement preparation assistance to begin to secure easements along St. Joseph River south of Ann Street/Fisherman's Way	Investigated use of existing utility easements. Efforts stalled due to COVID-19	The description of a centerline for the an easement has been drafted for use in approaching property owners. There has been some interest from outside parties to approach property owners to obtain them. In 2022 the Berrien County Trails Master Plan was adopted.							
<i>Action</i> : Identify potential easements on private property along the riverfront to improve connections on both sides of the river.						X		City, Residents	Public		No action.	No action.							
<i>Action</i> : Work with Lakeland Hospital to establish a path through the hospital property by establishing an easement.					X			City, Others	Public		No action.	Investigated use of existing utility easements. Efforts stalled due to COVID-19	No action.						
<i>Action</i> : Connect existing trail facilities at Harbor Shores and Harbor Village with downtown St. Joseph and the waterfront.					X			City, Others	Public, Grants		No action.	Pedestrian bridge between Harbor Village and Benton Harbor across PawPaw River completed. Cornerstone and Berrien County created boat taxi locations in several areas.	In 2023 and earlier, Cornerstone Alliance and Berrien County operated a boat taxi along the St. Joseph River.						
<i>Action</i> : Establish a trail along the CSX right of way along Lake Michigan south of the water treatment plant.						X		City, Others	Public, Grants	Feasibility/Cost concern - CSX currently solely responsible for shoreline protection	No action taken.	No action.							
<i>Action</i> : Identify potential easements on private property along the lakefront to improve connections south to the city limits.						X		City, Others	Public, Grants	Same comment above regarding starting process to secure easements	No action taken.	No action.							
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<b>Community and Place</b>	<b>Priority</b>			<b>Time Frame (Actions only )</b>				<b>Actions only</b>			<b>2016-2017 activities with proposed activity for 2017/2018</b>								
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<b>Goal: Preserve the traditional neighborhood feeling of safety, neighborliness and value in residential districts.</b>																			
<i>Objective</i> : Maintain high quality, well staffed, rapid response police and fire services.	X																		
<i>Objective</i> : Respect existing neighborhoods and improve transitions between commercial, residential, and other zoning districts.		X																	
<i>Action</i> : Explore height restrictions, landscaping standards, and regulations on hours of operation to ensure commercial developments are well-buffered from residences.					X			City	Public	Planning Commission is working aggressively to draft a new Sign Ordinance. Planning Commission started investigating improvement options along Niles Avenue south of Napier Road. Staff has been working on possible changes to Zoning Ordinance in the area of parking and landscaping.	Future task of the Planning Commission and required by RRC program. New Sign Ordinance adopted in January 2020.	Planning Commission working on "Access, Bikes, Parking and Loading" in the Zoning Ordinance and it is believed landscaping and screening will be addressed in 2025 as time allows.							
<i>Action</i> : Improve street lighting in residential districts, considering LED or street light covers, to shield the brightness of the halogen lights.							X	City, Developers, Others	Public, Private	No action in residential areas, need to work with I & M. Approximately 50% of lights in the downtown area have been switched to LED.	Entire downtown has been converted to LED. I&M installed LED lights on all tariffed street lights in town.	No additional work has taken place.							
<i>Objective</i> : Define the unique elements of each neighborhood.			X																
<i>Action</i> : Inventory and document unique characteristics of each neighborhood.						X		City	Public	No action.	No action taken.	No action taken.							
<i>Action</i> : Ensure definitions in the zoning ordinance are consistent with conditions in neighborhoods and are appropriate to the desired characteristics of the community.				X				City	Public	As part of Sign Ordinance update, definitions being reviewed and updated.	Work continues as part of larger amendments. New Sign Ordinance adopted in January 2020.	Planning Commission continues to work on updating the Zoning Ordinance as needed.							

<i>Action:</i> Encourage creation of neighborhood associations.					X				City	Public	No action.	No action taken.	No action taken. New development in Harbor Village has several associations.
<i>Action:</i> Explore locations for pocket parks within walking distance of all residences.					X				City	Public	No action.	No action taken.	The City along with Cornerstone Alliance are working to improve the area known as Pleasant Street plaza.
<i>Action :</i> The City Commission will convene a series of focused meetings on key issue areas identified in the master plan to define existing conditions and prioritize future projects and initiatives, including but not limited to Below the Bluff neighborhoods, Niles Avenue, and the Harbor.					X				City	Public	Meetings have taken place under the direction of Public Safety Department to address concerns associated with the lakefront as it relates to parking, safety and traffic. Anticipate more meetings throughout 2017.	Public Safety continues addressing areas Below the Bluff.	Public Safety continues addressing areas Below the Bluff.
<b>Goal: Promote a vital multi-use traditional downtown district.</b>													
<i>Objective:</i> Investigate form-based overlay districts in the downtown core to protect existing character.					X								
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<i>Objective:</i> Support and encourage residential opportunities above street level with varied ownership/rental qualities and many varied price points.				X									
<i>Objective :</i> Make St. Joseph more diverse and inviting by encouraging growth of art, culture, and aesthetics.				X									
<i>Action:</i> Nurture art-based businesses through regular art walks and art shows.								X	Others	Private	The existing four programs are continuing.	No action taken.	No action taken. Existing events continue.
<i>Action:</i> Maintain and promote strong cultural and civic events.								X	City, Others	Public, Private	Are continuing with established programs/events along and marketing programs.	St. Joseph Today has installed two murals and in the past worked with Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for temporary stair mural.	In partnership with St. Joseph Today and other nonprofits, the City continues to host and promote strong cultural and civic events.
<i>Action:</i> Identify additional public and quasi-public opportunities for outdoor eating and gathering places.								X	City, Developers, Business Owners	Public, Private	No action.	2020 City allowed temporary seasonal use of 700 block of Pleasant Street for outdoor dining on the weekends in response to COVID concerns.	The 700 block of Pleasant Street continues to use the public street during summer months for outdoor dining.
<b>Goal: Improve the sense of community cohesion on and near main thoroughfares.</b>													
<i>Objective:</i> Investigate form-based overlay districts on Niles Avenue, Main Street, and Lakeshore Drive to improve aesthetics and function and better incorporate these corridors into the community.				X									No action taken. An overlay district was adopted on Main Street to allow residential uses on the ground floor in commercial and office buildings.
<i>Objective:</i> Bury power lines and other utilities when possible in conjunction with planned roadwork.											Feasibility/Cost Concern: 2004 Lions Park Drive Project. Burying Electrical lines alone estimated at \$500,000		No action taken, the feasibility and cost associated with project is very expensive.
<i>Objective :</i> Improve visual character of main thoroughfares to foster business retention and attract new businesses.													
<i>Action:</i> Conduct a design charrette focused on main thoroughfares to identify key node(s) and opportunities for a more welcoming streetscape.								X	City	Public	No action. During a meeting, the Planning Commission heard comments from MDOT regarding state route streetscape opportunities.	No action take. The Downtown Vision Master Plan discussed improvements to Main Street.	MDOT is planning to conduct public input sessions on the 2027 Main Street Reconstruction Project in Spring 2024. The DDA kicked off a streetscape engagement with consulting firm Jones Petrie Rafinski in Summer 2023. The engagement developed streetscape improvements for the main areas of downtown, focusing primarily on Broad and State Streets. In addition, the City is working closely with MDOT on designs for the 2027 Main, Ship and Port Streets reconstruction project.









<i>Action:</i> Investigate becoming a nationally recognized ‘Tree City’.						X		City	Public, Grants	No action.	No action taken.	Draft Tree Ordinance has been completed and expect adoption in 2024.
<i>Action:</i> Use the tree canopy inventory conducted as a part of the vulnerability assessment to prioritize public street tree plantings.						X		City	Public, Grants	Money in 2017/2018 budget for street tree planting. \$15,000 budget allows for approximately 50 trees. Will continue with tree planting program.	Have continued budgeting \$15,000 for tree planting to allow for 40-50 trees each year. Planted over 140 new trees in 2020.	Completed a tree inventory in 2023, continue planting 40-50 trees per year.
<i>Action :</i> Consider instituting tree planting or maintenance requirements as a part of the zoning ordinance.						X		City	Public	No action. Planning Commission in early stages of discussion regarding landscaping requirements.	No action taken	No action taken.
<i>Action:</i> Adopt a tree maintenance, tree planting, and tree-cutting policy for public properties.						X		City	Public	Beginning in 2015/2016 hired tree consultant for the removal and trimming of trees. Studying options for yearly maintenance based on geographic areas.	Since 2016 have been performing a regular trimming program by identifying one section a year to be trimmed.	Since 2016 have been performing regular trimming program by geographic area. Language included in draft Tree Ordinance with anticipated 2024 adoption.
<i>Action:</i> Research projected shifts in tree species and transition street tree-planting programs to trees that will thrive in hotter summers and wetter winters.						X		City	Public	Completed list of desired species to be used throughout the community that better tolerate the weather.	Continue to use this list of street trees for planting program	Continue to use and update list of street trees for planting program. Information provided in draft Tree Ordinance with anticipated 2024 adoption.
<i>Action:</i> Create a list of appropriate tree species to plant and educate private property owners on proper maintenance and upkeep.						X		City	Public	List of Street trees has been prepared and is shared.	Stree tree list has been shared and used.	Stree tree list has been shared and used. Draft Tree Ordinance provides information.
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Natural Areas and Resilience, continued	<b>Priority</b>			<b>Time Frame</b>				<b>Actions only</b>				
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<i>Objective:</i> Preserve water quality.	X											
<i>Action:</i> Collaborate with local and regional entities and the State of Michigan to monitor water quality regularly, sharing data with surrounding jurisdictions.							X	City, State, County, Others	Public	Attend the Berrien and Cass County MS4 Group regurley to discuss concerns and share information.	Continued work as previously outlined.	Committee created to work on updating the Source Water Protection Plan (SWIPP).
<i>Action:</i> Conduct business education and outreach to home owners.						X		City	Public	Hosted Southwest Michigan Planning Commission informational table in lobby of City Hall information included water resource activities.		Recommendations for outreach will be included in updated SWIPP document.
<i>Action:</i> Work with upstream jurisdictions to reduce nutrient loading in the St. Joseph River from agriculture run-off and lawn care products.						X		City, Others	Public	No action. Some discussion with Berrien and Cass County MSR Group meeting.		Recommendations for outreach will be included in updated SWIPP document.
<i>Action:</i> Complete the combined sewer overflow disconnection.						X		City	Public	In compliance with CSO-NPDES permit. 2017 CSO project complete. Flow monitoring currently underway in order to determine storage size for 2019/2020 Project.	In process of permit renewal this year.	In compliance with CSO NPDES permit. Design has commenced on phase 1 of the CSO storage tank. The CSO storage tank is expected to be the final corrective measure of the CSO control program.
<i>Action :</i> Preserve existing wetland functions and consider adopting a local wetland ordinance for added protection.						X		City	Public	No action. The treatment of Japanese Knotweed will help to protect wetlands.	Continued work as previously outlined.	No action taken. Japanese Knotweek continues to be treated.
<i>Action:</i> Evaluate strategies to control invasive species.						X		City	Public, Private, Grants	2017 is third summer contractor has been hired to treat the central ravine area along the sewer easment for Japenese Knotweed, also reach out to adjacent properties for private service. City staff certified to treat on various City properties. Hosted and attended symposium. Monitored existing invasive species map. Prepare newsletter articles and provide information on website.	Continued work as previously outlined.	No action taken. Japanese Knotweek continues to be treated.
<b>Goal: Explore policy making and management options for local alternative energy use and conservation of resources.</b>												
<i>Objective:</i> Consider adopting ordinances that detail permissible use alternative energy sources; as well as conservation measures.			X									Planning Commission reviewing draft lanugage pertaining to Solar Panels.
<i>Objective:</i> Identify energy efficiency cost saving opportunities for residents and business owners.			X							City is approximately 50% complete with changing downtown streetlight conversion to LED		All City owned street lights have been converted to LED.



<i>Action:</i> Create measureable goals to incentivize businesses and residents, identifying appropriate non- regulatory benchmarks.						X		City, Others	Public, Grants	No action.	No action taken.	No action taken.
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<i>Objective:</i> Improve infrastructure for electric vehicles.			X									
<i>Action :</i> Explore a comprehensive electric vehicle infrastructure ordinance to encourage provision of electric car charging stations.						X		City	Public	No action.	No action taken. City purchases hybrid vehicles when possible.	All City owned street lights have been converted to LED.
<i>Objective:</i> Improve stormwater management on public and private properties.			X									MS4 NPDES Permit Stormwater Post Construction Control Guidelines were recently approved by EGLE.
<b>Goal: Improve access to local food.</b>												
<i>Objective:</i> Expand the City of St. Joseph Farmer's Market			X									
<i>Action:</i> Review the location and operating hours of the farmers market. Consider operating it near local employment base during business hours to offer workers the opportunity to purchase fresh foods.				X				City, Others	Private, Others	Discussions were had with organizers to relocate to new location or expand hours. No changes from past years occurring in summer 2017.	No action taken.	In Summer 2023, St. Joseph Today launched a Wednesday night farmers market in Court Place Plaza.
<i>Action:</i> Address delivery logistics to reduce congestion.				X				City, Others	Private, Others	Discussions have occurred. Issuing one parking permit per farmstand.	No additional action taken.	No action taken.
<i>Objective:</i> Promote and expand small scale food entrepreneurship			X									
<i>Action:</i> Explore locations for community gardens.						X		City, Others	Private, Grants, Others	No action.	No action taken.	No action taken.
<i>Action :</i> Encourage and support regional food entrepreneurs by providing a hub for advertising and shuttles to farms, vineyards, and breweries.						X		City, Business Owners, Others	Private, Others	No action. Some restaurants sponsor tours. Not a city activity.	No additional action taken.	No action taken.