



*"Our mission is to upgrade and maintain
a safe and efficient road system"*

TO: News Media
FROM: Grand Traverse County Road Commission
DATE: March 1, 2019
RE: **ROAD COMMISSION SEEK INPUT ON TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS**
PUBLIC SURVEY DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MARCH 15, 2019
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Traverse City, MI) The Grand Traverse County Road Commission has extended the deadline for public comments on proposed Practical Solutions to address crosstown transportation needs. Those wishing to share feedback and ideas are invited to complete an online survey by Friday, March 15, 2019. The survey can be accessed online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GTCRC2019>.

Maps and summary information about each proposed Practical Solution are available for review and can be printed out from the Road Commission's website at www.gcrc.org, along with a link to the online survey. Paper maps and exhibits are also available for review at the Road Commission's office located at 1881 LaFranier Road, Traverse City, MI.

In early March, the planning and engineering team led by OHM Advisors will refine Practical Solutions based on public feedback, will conduct traffic modeling for the proposed solutions and will draft a suite of Preferred Solutions. In late March the Preferred Solutions and outcomes of traffic modeling will be presented to local agency groups and stakeholders groups. They will then be shared with the public at a meeting in early April. Then, the planning and engineering team will make further refinements to potential solutions based on feedback from local agency groups, stakeholders, and the public. In late April, the planning and engineering team presents final study report to the Grand Traverse County Road Commission at a public meeting.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Transportation Study is to recommend alternatives and actions that address safety, improve mobility and efficiency, improve transportation mode options and improve connectivity with a focus on east-west travel for all users of the Road Commission's network in the study area. The alternatives and actions should consider the natural environment and enhance positive benefits for adjoining properties, neighborhoods, parks and businesses.

The need is demonstrated by the high levels of congestion and excessive delay for motorists traveling east and west along the five key road corridors during peak and non-peak seasonal hours within the study area which extends from Grandview Parkway south to Beitner Road and from US-31 east to 4-Mile Road. There are limited east-west routes in the Traverse City area due to the natural geography of the city, bay and river. Within the study area there are intersections that have higher than average crashes. Due to lack of infrastructure, non-motorized mobility is also limited within the urbanized study area.

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The outcomes of the study are intended to:

- Support the Road Commission's mission: "To upgrade and maintain a safe and efficient road system."
- Reflect the participation and input from local agencies, stakeholders and the public.
- Identify improvements to safety and efficiency for all modes of travel within the County road system.
- Create a plan that responds, to the extent possible, to the needs of various interests for enhancements and accessibility benefits. These interests include commuters, businesses, neighborhoods, parks, goods movement, tourists, transit, pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Provide solutions that consider the character and context of the study area.
- Improve system resiliency for peak seasonal events or incident management.
- Provide solutions that consider the potential implications of existing and future land use patterns related to alternatives.
- Improve accessibility, routing and connectivity for modes of travel.
- Evaluate and incorporate natural and cultural resource conservation best practices into designs and solutions.
- Maintain or improve air quality.
- Evaluate a package of solutions that can be adopted based on agency budgets and planned or projected financial resources.

Although the study area was limited to the scope defined above, other areas and routes that influence transportation and traffic patterns in the study area will also be evaluated. The study process will include information about transportation assets under the City and MDOT's jurisdiction. However, due to the scope of the Road Commission's authority, the potential solutions presented by OHM Advisors will be limited to areas outside the City limits and will not include recommendations for City streets or City bike or pedestrian infrastructure or MDOT roads.

The study process is being led by the Grand Traverse County Road Commission. The Road Commission wants to engage effectively with other agencies and stakeholders as it focuses on its mission, while recognizing that its own implementation of the study's preferred alternatives may be constrained by the availability of funding, the width of existing right-of ways, and/or other factors. The Road Commission is committed to continuing to communicate and jointly plan with other agencies and entities as it implements future projects.

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