



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

TO: News Media
FROM: Grand Traverse County Road Commission
DATE: April 18, 2019
RE: **Recommended Solutions for Grand Traverse County Roads to Be Shared at Public Meeting**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Traverse City, MI) The Grand Traverse County Road Commission invites community members to participate in a public meeting on Tuesday, April 30 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Hagerty Center located at 715 East Front Street in Traverse City. The purpose of the meeting is to share the consultant team’s recommended short and long-term solutions regarding east-west corridors and crosstown connections, answer questions, and collect public feedback.

The doors will open at 6:00 p.m. Maps and information from the presentation will be displayed and available for review. A formal presentation of the study recommendations will begin at 6:30 p.m. The presentation will include a description of the evaluation criteria used to assess potential solutions, an overview of the public input received regarding proposed solutions, and an explanation of the traffic modeling outcomes for the proposed solutions.

Following the presentation, the meeting will transition to an “open house” format. Consultant team members working on the project will be present to share information, listen, and answer questions. Community members will also be invited to provide feedback and complete comment forms. Individuals who are not be able to attend the meeting may access information and maps on the Road Commission’s website, along with a link to an online comment form. Public comments on the recommendations will be accepted until May 10. Maps and information will also available for review from May 1 - 10 at the Road Commission’s office located at 1881 LaFranier Road.

More information about the study process can be found on the Road Commission’s website at www.gcrc.org.

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RECENT AND PLANNED STEPS IN THE STUDY PROCESS

- February 18: Public Meeting held at East Middle School, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- February 18 – March 1: Public reviewed maps and information regarding “Practical Solutions” and shared comments on the County Road Commission’s website – www.gcrc.org
- March 1: Final day for public comments on Practical Solutions
- March: Planning and engineering team refined solutions based on feedback and data provided by stakeholders and local agency groups. Team conducted traffic modeling and used Evaluation Criteria to evaluate solutions.
- April 16: Recommended Solutions were presented to local agency groups and stakeholders groups.
- April 30: Consultant team will share Recommended Solutions with the public. Meeting will be held from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Hagerty Center.
- May 1 – May 10: Comments accepted on website (www.gcrc.org) regarding recommendations.



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- Late May: Planning and engineering team presents final report recommendations 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.

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's and MDOT's jurisdiction, however due to the scope of the Road Commission's authority, the potential solutions presented will be limited to areas outside the City limits and will not include recommendations for City streets, bike, or pedestrian infrastructure, or MDOT roads.

The study process is being led by the Grand Traverse County Road Commission and OHM Advisors. 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.