



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

TO: News Media
FROM: Grand Traverse County Road Commission
DATE: May 3, 2019

RE: Road Commission Seeks Public Input on East-West Corridor Recommendations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Traverse City, MI) On April 30, the consultant team led by OHM Advisors presented recommended short- and long-term solutions for east-west corridors and crosstown connections. The Grand Traverse County Road Commission invites community members to share their perspectives on the consultant's recommendations.

A copy of the presentation slides is available for review on the Road Commission's website, along with a link to an online comment form. The presentation slides include a summary of the short-term (1-5 year) and long-term (5-10 year) and potential future (10-25 year) solutions, as well as 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 outcomes of the traffic modeling completed for the proposed solutions.

Public comments on the recommendations will be accepted until May 10. Maps and information are 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. Go to Popular Links and selected "East-West Corridor Study". The survey link and presentation materials are available as you scroll down on this page. The survey can also be accessed directly at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GTCRCFinalSurvey>.

Planning and engineering team will present a final report and recommendations to the Grand Traverse County Road Commission at a public meeting in late May.

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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:



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- 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.