



CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

750 LAKESIDE DRIVE SE-EAST GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49506

November 21, 2023

Non-Motorized Transportation Infrastructure Information-Second Mailer

Dear East Grand Rapids Resident/Property Owner:

The City of East Grand Rapids went through a multi-year public engagement process in 2021 and 2022 towards developing a community Mobility/Bike Action Plan in 2022. Since its adoption the city has implemented many of the noted facilities regarding bike lanes/routes, additional pavement markings and associated signage to improve non-motorized infrastructure for pedestrian experience and safety. One of the areas noted for desired infrastructure improvements is the Robinson and Cascade Road corridor. This same east/west corridor is also noted in City of Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Township connections in their respective non-motorized community plans. For more information on the City of East Grand Rapids Mobility-Bike Action Plan, please visit www.eastgr.org and search "Mobility-Bike Action Plan."

With the infrastructure need identified by the East Grand Rapids community and neighboring jurisdictions, the city proposed a project for Federal grant funding consideration and was awarded ~\$780,000 in grant funds, with a local match requirement of ~\$360,000, covered by the City of East Grand Rapids, to fund a sidewalk/side path on the south side of Robinson and Cascade Road from Plymouth Road to Manhattan Park adjacent to the East Beltline. This means there is no direct cost for this infrastructure improvement project.

The Robinson and Cascade Road corridor from Plymouth Road to East Beltline is under the right-of-way (ROW) jurisdiction of the Kent County Road Commission (KCRC). The KCRC has indicated an intergovernmental agreement with the City of East Grand Rapids can be considered for the construction and maintenance of sidewalk or side path infrastructure in their ROW. After initial review of available ROW, it was determined that there is generally not sufficient ROW along the southside stretch of Cascade Road to provide for adequate separation distance from the roadway and sidewalk/side path infrastructure. Currently the KCRC ROW limit is generally located at the back of the Consumers Energy utility poles along Cascade Road, which only allows the ROW space between these poles to the roadway. In order to construct a sidewalk or side path with additional buffering from Cascade Road, the city respectfully requests adjacent property owners consider providing between 6 and 10-foot easements south of the existing Consumers Energy utility poles. The scope of the project is to construct a 5-foot wide, ADA compliant, concrete sidewalk through the corridor that balances buffering from Cascade Road and setbacks of homes. Easements do not transfer property to the city, but allow permission for the city to construct, maintain, insure, and service sidewalk across private property.

This communication is a follow up to the letter sent out in late September. This communication is being sent to East Grand Rapids residents/property owners along the southside of Cascade Road generally from the intersection of Robinson Road to Manhattan Park who have not met with city staff to discuss the project or respective easements. City staff would like to engage with residents by visiting each property to discuss potential easements and other matters of interest with residents by mid-December. Please send an email communication to publicworks@eastgr.org to provide dates/times of availability for scheduling a site visit with city staff and also for any questions or topics of interest.

Any resident/property owners that do not desire to meet with or discuss the project with city staff and/or do not desire to partner with easements for the proposed sidewalk are encouraged to send a communication to publicworks@eastgr.org as well so alternative design and layout work can be revised for the proposed sidewalk adjacent to your property/home can be designed for construction consideration in KCRC public ROW directly adjacent to Cascade Road.

Respectfully-
East Grand Rapids Department of Public Works