



# CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

750 LAKESIDE DRIVE SE-EAST GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49506

August 21, 2024

## **Non-Motorized Transportation Infrastructure Information-Notice/Update**

Dear East Grand Rapids Resident/Property Owner:

Please see below for an update and project background information related to the non-motorized pedestrian side path/sidewalk improvements for the southside of Robinson Road and Cascade Road.

### **Updates:**

The City of East Grand Rapids has been notified by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) that a sidewalk/side path for the southside of Robinson and Cascade Roads from Plymouth Road to Manhattan Park adjacent to the East Beltline has passed reviews pertaining to all aspects of the project including, but not limited to, environmental, architectural/historical, archaeological, and civil/traffic engineering and is scheduled for the MDOT local agency projects October 2024 bid letting. With a fall bid, the side path/sidewalk project will be constructed in spring of 2025. Additional notice and information will be sent and also updated on the city construction updates webpage in advance of the project this coming spring.

The Kent County Road Commission (KCRC) that is permitting the East Grand Rapids joint project in KCRC public right-of-way (ROW) will be adjusting several tapers and intersection radii at Cascade Road and Pioneer Club Road and Cascade Road and Kingswood Road in the near future. This work will align with a micro seal-pavement preservation treatment for Cascade Road from Robinson Road to the East Beltline tentative for September 2024. At the conclusion of the micro-surface treatment, this section of Cascade Road will be re-stripped with a new road diet pavement marking layout to accommodate sidewalk separation distance for the side path/sidewalk project in spring of 2025. Additional information related to the Cascade Road improvements is noted in the project background.

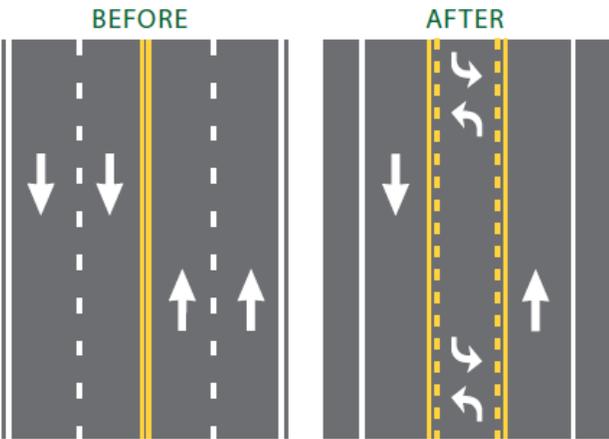
### **Project Background Information:**

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 Road 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](http://www.eastgr.org) and search "Mobility-Bike Action Plan."

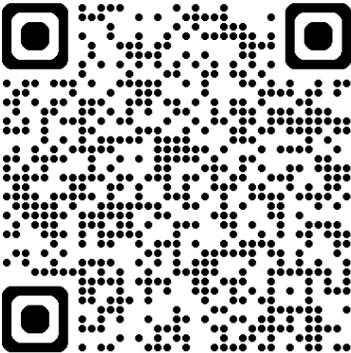
With the infrastructure need identified by the East Grand Rapids community and neighboring jurisdictions, the city applied for Federal grant funding consideration and was awarded ~\$780,000 in grant funds, with a local match requirement of ~\$360,000, covered by the City of East Grand Rapids, to fund 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 ROW jurisdiction of the KCRC. 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. Generally, the KCRC ROW limit is located adjacent to 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 requested adjacent property owners would consider providing between 6 and 10-foot easements south of the existing Consumers Energy utility poles

to construct a 5-foot wide, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant concrete sidewalk through the corridor that balanced buffering from Cascade Road and setbacks of homes. The city sent out several notices with invitations for residents to meet with city staff in-person to discuss the potential project and associated easements. Securing easements became a challenge. Feedback received from in-person resident engagement from those who participated was supportive of pedestrian facilities and easements for pedestrian facilities, however a desire for improvements to Cascade Road itself was also almost universally common. With this feedback and the need for more easements, city staff re-engaged the KCRC to study, review, and discuss possible enhancements to the Cascade Road corridor as well to seek alternative solutions to address both the road concerns and pedestrian facilities. The conclusion of this process culminated in the KCRC partnering to modifying Cascade Road with a road diet to accommodate fully constructing 5-foot wide, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant concrete sidewalk within the existing public KCRC public ROW. This means that no private easements are needed for this section of the overall project. Additionally, and in conjunction with the sidewalk/side path project, Cascade Road will have a micro seal treatment applied and reconfigured via pavement markings to transition from four lanes of traffic (two lanes in each direction) to a new configuration of wider shoulders (for separation distance for pedestrians and accommodate yard waste/leaf service) and two travel lanes, one in each direction, as well as a center turn lane. This will provide for the safe and appropriate pedestrian separation distance from the sidewalk/side path and address concerns regarding Cascade Road that were heard from the in-person engagement. Below is a graphic of this change.



To view updated plans, please visit [www.eastgr.org](http://www.eastgr.org) and click on the construction updates quick link and scroll to the “Robinson-Cascade Road Sidewalk/Side path Project” or scan the QR code provided below to go directly to plans.



This communication is being sent to East Grand Rapids residents/property owners along the southside of Robinson Road and Cascade Road from Plymouth Road to the East Beltline. City staff would like to continue engagement with residents. To schedule a site visit or for any questions comments or concerns, please send an email communication to [publicworks@eastgr.org](mailto:publicworks@eastgr.org)

Respectfully-  
East Grand Rapids Department of Public Works