



FY 2019 Recommended Budget

Narrative

The following narrative document outlines priority project areas developed with the five GR Forward Goal Alliances over the past few months. Projects and funding represent commitments to on-going obligations, as well as existing, on-going, and new projects in the next fiscal year.

Goal #1 – Creating a Connected and Equitable River Corridor

- Asset and Riverwalk Maintenance (NTI)

Funding to continue the seasonal upkeep of the existing Riverwalk.

- Downtown Plan

Planning initiatives to further the goals of GR Forward. Proposed initiatives in FY2019 include:

- Completion of Streetspace and River Design Guidelines
- Governance and Management Plan for the Grand River Corridor

- Grand River Activation

Contribution to complete the design and permitting for the restoration of the Grand River.

- Riverwalk Retrofits

Implementation of recommendations for capital improvements from the River Design Guidelines process.

Goal #2: Create a True Downtown Neighborhood Which is Home to a Diverse Population

- Development Support

Funding for future projects. Program funds will be used to further promote economic growth and development in Monroe North by funding approved eligible expenses for new projects.

- Downtown Census

Update to existing Downtown census. DGRI has committed to updating the census on a biannual basis to better understand the changing dynamics of the Downtown resident, employee and visitor populations.

- Downtown Enhancement Grant (i.e. Streetscape Improvement Incentive Program)

Funding for the Downtown Enhancement Grant Program. Funds will be used cover existing obligations, and to continue to assist property and business owners in the rehabilitation of the Downtown public realm. Funds are utilized to reimburse eligible activities, including installation of street furniture, snowmelt, and other public realm improvements.

- Infrastructure Improvements - Miscellaneous

Funding improved public infrastructure in Monroe North, including new tree plantings.

Goal #3: Implement a 21st Century Mobility Strategy

- Accessibility and Streetscape Improvements

Funding to implement recommendations from the Downtown accessibility audit conducted by the Disability Advocates of Kent County.

- Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements

Funding to continue the implementation of bike parking infrastructure throughout Downtown in partnership with MobileGR. A portion of funding is also anticipated to go toward the initiation of bike share.

- Mason Street Reconstruction

MNTIFA contribution to the reconstruction of Mason Street from Monroe to Division Avenue. Project is currently scheduled for FY2020 and will likely include pedestrian enhancements to improve the streetscape and walkability.

- Newberry Street Reconstruction

MNTIFA contribution to the reconstruction of Newberry Street from Monroe to Division Avenue. Project is currently scheduled for FY2019 and will include pedestrian enhancements to improve the streetscape and walkability.

- Ottawa/Coldbrook/Monroe Intersection Improvements Reconstruction

MNTIFA contribution to the reconstruction of the intersection at Ottawa, Coldbrook and Monroe Avenues, to support the redevelopment of the Coldbrook Water Station. Project is currently scheduled for FY20202.

- Public Realm Improvements

Investment in infrastructure to support the continued improvement of the public realm in Monroe North, including trash and recycling bins.

- Transit Improvements in Monroe North District

Funding to help support the continued operation of DASH North, including proposed weekend and evening service.

Goal #5: Reinvest in Public Space, Culture and Inclusive Programming

- Street Lighting Banner Brackets

Expansion of infrastructure to enable district identity banners to be installed.

- Urban Recreation

MNTIFA contribution to the installation of outdoor fitness equipment in Canal Street Park. This is an FY18 budgeted activity that will be billed in FY19.