



Virtual Meeting Instruction

GOAL 2 ALLIANCE

Hello,

As many of you know, recent restrictions and mandates have been issued to reduce the spread of COVID-19. For this reason, and for the safety and wellbeing of our members and employees, we would like to continue to move GR Forward through virtual meetings.

We have decided to use Microsoft Teams for video/phone conferencing for all upcoming board and alliance meetings. Teams has many exciting features including screen sharing, recording, live captions, file sharing, and more. Below are instructions on how to access your upcoming virtual meeting.



MICROSOFT TEAMS

How to Join the Meeting:

1. It is recommended to download the App (but not necessary):
 - a. [Apple Devices](#).
 - b. [Android Devices](#).
2. When you click the following link, it will prompt you to choose: Launch App, Download App, or Join by the web. [Click here to access the June 8th Team meeting.](#)
3. Allow access to your mic and camera (this is very important for you to join the conversation).
4. Prior to joining the meeting, it will require you type your name. Make sure your mic and audio are on and click join.

Virtual Meeting Etiquette:

- Test the app and all technology (including camera/video, Wi-Fi, and audio) before the meeting.
- Always have a contingency plan, you may want to download the app to a second device.
- Mute your microphone when you're not speaking.
- Start a comment by saying your name. Not everyone may recognize your voice. This practice also facilitates the work of the person who is taking minutes.
- Be aware of your surroundings: make sure your background is professional and work appropriate.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please email mmcdaniel@downtowngr.org. Thank you!

Best,
Mandy



Mandy McDaniel
Administrative Assistant
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.

29 Pearl NW, Suite 1
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
P: 616 . 719 . 4610



AGENDA

GOAL 2 ALLIANCE

Board Members:

Aaron Terpstra • Brian Grooms • Daniel Kvamme • Danielle Rowland • Sarah Green • Dave Nitkiewicz • Jacey Ehmann •
Jenn Schaub • Katy Hallgren • Landon Jones • Latesha Lipscomb • Latrisha Sosebee • Monica App •

June 8, 2020

1:00pm-2:30pm

29 Pearl Street, NW Suite #1

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Call to order | Monica App |
| 2. | Approval of Minutes – April 2, 2020 | Monica App |
| 3. | Wayfinding RFP | Dave Nitkiewicz/ Melvin Eledge |
| 4. | HOT Team/ Community Engagement | Melvin Eledge |
| 5. | GR Forward Goal 2 Project Implementation update | |
| | • Heartside Restroom Update | Melvin Eledge |
| | • Heartside Quality of Life Implementation proposals | |
| | • Resident Development Training | Annamarie Buller |
| | • History Walking Tour of Heartside/ Downtown | Jenn Schaub |
| | • Pekich Park Gardening | Jenn Schaub |
| | • Heartside Gleaning | Annamarie Buller |
| 6. | Pedestrian Safety Enhancement | Mark Miller |
| | • Michigan and Bridge Pedestrian Safety Improvements | |
| | • Jefferson Pedestrian Safety Improvements | |
| | • Bike Safety and Infrastructure Improvements | |
| | • Ped Safety Agenda for Action Draft Documents | Annamarie Buller |
| 7. | Social Zones | Mark Miller |
| 8. | Advisory committee discussion | |
| 9. | Public Comment | |
| 10. | Next Meeting- July 13, 2020 | |



DOWNTOWN
GRAND RAPIDS INC.



Goal 2 Alliance & Downtown Neighbor Network Advisory

April 2, 2020

1. Call to order: Ms. Buller called the meeting to order at 11:35 am.
2. Goal 2 Members Present: Daniel Kvamme, Aaron Terpstra, Abby Cribbs, Danielle Rowland, Latesha Lipscomb, Katy Hallgren, Dave Nitkiewicz, Jenn Schaub, and Monica App.

Goal 2 Members Absent: Brian Grooms, Sarah Green, Jacey Ehmann, and Latrisha Sosebee.

DNN Members Present: Amy Skentzos, Kellie Jo Peltier, Daniel Drent, Latesha Lipscomb, Rose Martinez White, Eddie Tadlock, Jane Reynolds, Kathy Steindler, Laurie Craft, Mark Tangen, and Michael Dorney.

DNN Members Absent: Christopher Billmeier, Myric Harris, Drew Terwee, and Wilma Banks.

Others Present: Annamarie Buller, Marion Bonneaux, Mark Miller, and Mandy McDaniel (DGRI Staff).

3. Approval of Goal 2 Alliance Minutes - March 2020
Daniel Kvamme, supported by Abby Cribbs, motioned to approve March 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes. None opposed. Motion passed.
4. Approval of DNN Advisory Minutes - March 2020
Daniel Drent, supported by Kathy Steindler, motioned to approve March 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes. None opposed. Motion passed.
5. Introductions

6. Goal 2 Alliance FY 21 Budget Review

Ms. Buller referred to the Goal 2 Alliance budget for the upcoming fiscal year, July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. She stated this is the 3rd year with The Heartside Quality of Life (HQL) Implementation in the budget. Last year was the 1st implementation where we were spending funds that included resident trainings such as, a Citizen Planner Course through MSU and the City, Mental Health First Aid Training, Rent this Way Training (regarding renter's right), and Action Planning for Community Change which was created by Jenn Schaub and Annamarie Buller. The MSU Citizen Planner course will be rescheduled to the summer or in the fall depending upon the COVID-19 crisis.

Ms. Buller stated under the HQL budget, we would like to continue the expansion of fresh food access downtown, continue our partnership with the Dwelling Place on the Pekich Park Gardening program, and continue incentivizing local farmers markets through The Heartside Gleaning Initiative, the YMCA Veggie Van, and a bi-weekly farmers market. The farmer's market would be a total of 6 events occurring every other week in July, August, and September.

Ms. Buller stated continuing under the HQL budget for fiscal year 21, we would like to budget for a Heartside Downtown Walking Tour. A pilot tour was originally scheduled for the Spring but will be postponed due to COVID-19. We would also like to create a Heartside/ Downtown Resident Employment Program in the next fiscal year targeted towards downtown residents who are underemployed.

Ms. Buller stated some projects through HQL are to be completed soon are all the lighting improvements (by the end of the summer) and the Heartside public restroom (installation scheduled for July 2020). Ms. Buller stated we are still planning to complete a restroom audit to see what is needed and continue to advocate for restrooms for our downtown parks. The cleaning/maintenance of the restrooms are under Goal 5's budget.

Ms. Buller stated the Downtown Neighbor Network (DNN) is funded through DDA and reports to the Goal 2 Alliance. The DNN's key areas for the fiscal year 21 budget is communication and marketing. The DNN would like to continue to build and evolve the DNN brand. The budget includes a staff member for operational support, the continuation of monthly newsletters, the addition of a standalone website, and build its social media presence. In addition, the DNN would like to boost its brand and target marketing towards resident's downtown to grow their knowledge of what the DNN is.

Ms. Buller stated also included in the DNN's budget for fiscal year 21 are some major events to help build the network and share information with residents. There will be a winter holiday gathering, a spring Mix, Mingle, and Share event, and community conversations on topics such as fresh food access conveyed as needed. The spring Mix, Mingle and Share event scheduled for May 2020 will be postponed to the fall.

Ms. Buller stated the DNN engagement focus is to build an agenda for action and coalition around pedestrian safety improvements. Another focus of engagement is continuing to make downtown more welcoming to neighbors. Educating our residents is important to the DNN and a lot of that was covered through HQL process. Ms. Buller plans to schedule a nationally acclaimed speaker on pedestrian safety, conduct some research on best practices internationally as well as local statistics, build a coalition to decide 6-8 top things to pilot and improve on, and collaborate with the DNN, Goal 2, and Goal 3 Alliance.

Ms. Buller stated some pedestrian safety improvements that are already taking place include, the river trail crossings at Fulton, Monroe crossing at Campeau, a crossing at Ottawa in front of City Hall, a raised median refuge at Market and Weston, and a complete conversion of pedestrian signal heads. In addition, Monroe Avenue mid-block crossing improvements, but unsure of where exactly that is located. Mr. Miller stated it is safe to assume it is in between the Devos Convention Center and City Hall. There is money in the budget for pedestrian safety behind Monroe center, turning it into a green alley with permeable pavers and innovative space. There is also a Wayfinding RFP to help improves pedestrian safety downtown.

Ms. Buller stated there is a lot that DNN, Goal 2, and Goal 3 can collaborate on including mobility education and initiatives. Also, DGRI has funded research with Disability Advocates and Common Notice to work on making Downtown more welcoming for people of all abilities.

Mr. Nitkiewicz asked if COVID-19 will impact the 2020 budget? Ms. Buller stated yes it will, DGRI and the DDA will have to work hard to create a plan of action.

Ms. Hallgren asked if the bidding process for the Portland Loo has started. Ms. Miller stated we have received 2 bids, one from Wyoming Excavators and the other from Nagel Construction. We will be proposing to the DDA next week to enter into contract with one of them.

Mr. Nitkiewicz stated it looks like there has been a lot of effort branding the Fulton corridor. He asked is we are collaborating with Experience GR and others for the DNN signage? Ms. Buller stated the marketing efforts of the DNN will be focused more on welcoming current residents. Goal 2 is focusing on how to communicate businesses and amenities to residents. It is all still developing.

Ms. Lipscomb stated perhaps the HDNA Board could be invited to a DNN meeting or the DNN could be encouraged to attend a monthly potluck meeting in the future. We must be intentional about building bridges. This provides a way for better collective impact overall.

Ms. Buller will come up with a specific numbers budget and will share that with members soon. The budget will be presented to the DDA next week for approval. There will be a lot more questions of what's on our budget because of the pandemic right now.

7. Grand Rapids Police Department update

Ms. Buller stated Officer Grooms injured his Achilles tendon and will be off duty for a while. We will see if Officer Martin, who is a new community officer, or another officer is able to attend the meetings.

8. Next Meeting Dates:

- DNN Advisory on May 7, 2020 11:30am
- Goal 2 Alliance on May 11, 2020 at 1:00pm

9. Member discussion

Ms. Buller stated please reach out to friends, family, and colleagues during this challenging time and to take care. Also, if you have a great idea or something that would be impactful for Goal 2, DNN or DGRI to do, please let Ms. Buller know. We are open and looking to innovate to help support our residents, our stakeholders, our businesses, and employees during this time.

Ms. Lipscomb asked if the May meetings are in person? Ms. Buller stated it is unlikely but stay tuned.

Mr. Terwee stated it would be great to have a phone number to call if we see something that needs attention downtown. Ms. Buller stated you can contact 311 for city related questions. The new Community Officer is Pat Martin. You can contact Officer Martin at (989) 450-1485. Community Officer Jenny Rood's phone number is (616) 292-1595. You can also call the Downtown Ambassadors at (616) 250-8263. 211 is a great number to call for those looking for help housing, food scarcity, or in need of a job.

10. Public Comment

None

11. Adjournment

Ms. Buller adjourned the meeting at 12:25 pm.

Minutes taken by:
Mandy McDaniel
Administrative Assistant
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.

MEMORANDUM

DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY



DATE: July 10, 2019

TO: Downtown Development Authority

FROM: Mark F. Miller, Managing Director of Planning & Design

SUBJECT: Grand River Trail Crossing Funding Authorization

Agenda Item #4 & 5
July 10, 2019
DDA Meeting

Goal 3 of GR Forward recommends the **Implementation of a 21st Century Mobility Strategy**, by *providing a stress-free pedestrian experience for all ages and abilities* (page 186). Specifically, GR Forward *seeks to improve the safety of the Michigan / Bridge corridor for all users* (page 193) by advocating for crosswalks, narrowing travel lanes, and improving pedestrian safety when crossing the street.

Additionally, the City of Grand Rapids River for All Design Guidelines, completed in November 2018, envision enhanced crosswalks on both sides of the Michigan Street bridge. The Guidelines depict these enhanced crosswalks as part of the broader Grand River Trail network.

To this end, DGRI has collaborated with the City of Grand Rapids (specifically Mobile GR and City Engineering) to design and implement enhanced crosswalks and Grand River Trail street crossings on both the east and west side of the bridge at Michigan and Bridge Streets. The east side crossing will be at the U.S. Post Office and Devos Place while the west side crossing will be adjacent to Bridgewater Place and Ah-Nab-Awen Park.

East side (Michigan Street) crosswalk includes:

- New center median and pedestrian refuge area with rolled curb and gutter.
- Movable planters will be placed in the center median. These movable planters are not irrigated and can be moved (with the aid of a forklift) to accommodate access for Devos Place, as needed.
- Existing right turn lane on the north side of the street will be converted to a wider concrete sidewalk. This new concrete curb, gutter and sidewalk within the existing right turn lane will expand the sidewalk space and narrow the street width.
- North side sidewalk will incorporate raised planters, new street trees and understory landscaping.
- These raised planters will be irrigated.
- New accessible curb ramps on the north and south side, connected by a white continental crosswalk.

West side (Bridge Street) crosswalk includes:

- New accessible curb ramps on the north and south side, connected by a white continental crosswalk.



This project was designed by HRC and was bid by the City of Grand Rapids in June, with bids due on July 3. Anticipated construction start date is late August 2019. DGRl is funding the full construction cost of the two crosswalks and providing maintenance for both the raised north side planters and the center median removable planters, as well as the irrigation system. A Memorandum of Understanding outlining maintenance for the River Trail crossings at Michigan and Bridge is included.

The City of Grand Rapids received four (4) qualified bids for this project on July 3, 2019. The accepted bid was from Anlaan for the amount of \$298,163.56. Additionally, project approval also seeks the funding for construction administrative services for HRC, a 12% construction contingency, and City Engineering administrative services and fees, in the amount of \$111,836. These services, in addition to a concrete repair allowance included from the City of Grand Rapids, bring the total project cost to \$460,000. If funding is approved by the DDA, the contract will go to City Commission for approval at their July 23, 2019 meeting.

Recommendation: Approve the allocation of a not to exceed amount of \$410,000 for the construction of two river trail crossings at Michigan and Bridge Streets. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding for maintenance.

MEMORANDUM

DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY



DATE: May 8, 2020

TO: Downtown Development Authority

FROM: Mark F. Miller AIA AICP
Managing Director of Planning & Design

Agenda Item #09
May 13, 2020
DDA Meeting

SUBJECT: Pedestrian Safety Improvements-Jefferson Avenue

Goal 3 of GR Forward identifies providing a stress-free pedestrian experience for all ages and abilities (page 186) as a foundational element toward implementing a 21st century mobility strategy. The Plan further recommends prioritizing pedestrian safety and connectivity (page 187) through a series of actions that include:

- Pedestrian refuge islands and raised medians
- Replacing two-line crosswalks with continental crosswalks
- Developing a system for pedestrian safety improvements that emphasizes connection to transit nodes and activity generators

As the COVID-19 pandemic forced our health care systems to respond to unprecedented and uncertain times, Mercy Health/St. Mary's, the City of Grand Rapids, Progressive AE, and DGRI collaborated to improve two pedestrian crossings on Jefferson Avenue. Initiated by Mercy Health/St. Mary's, the specific improvements were identified to better and more safely connect pedestrians coming from the Heartside neighborhood, adjacent transit stops, and nearby parking, to the hospital.

The project includes two pedestrian safety improvements at existing street crosswalks as indicated on the attached map and described below:

1. Jefferson and Maple (north crosswalk): The improvement project proposes to install two Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB) signs (push button activated), a continental striped crosswalk, and new curb cuts with tactile warning surfaces.
2. Jefferson, at BRT stops (south crosswalk): The existing brick crosswalk will be improved by installing a removable center median. This median will provide pedestrians a refuge while they cross the street and



will also act as a traffic calming device to reduce traffic speeds. The median is a removable structure to provide quick deployment and allow for future removals if the street is reconfigured for additional bike lanes or other improvements.

The project is anticipated to begin in May, with the RRFB signage installed by the end of May. The installation timing for the center median will be later due to production lead times. All items will be completed as soon as possible as both Mercy Health/St. Mary's and the City have prioritized this project.

The project's estimated cost is:

North crosswalk: RRFB Traffic Beacon and Crosswalk: \$29,951.00

South crosswalk: Removable Refuge Median: \$15,867.00

Total: \$45,818.00

DGRI recommends providing full investment of this project to support the local health systems during this unusual time, to provide safer access to the hospital for both potential patients and critical care workers, and to continue the building of a broader connected pedestrian network in our Downtown. This investment will also assist Mercy Health during these uncertain economic times.

Recommendation: Authorize funding in an amount not to exceed \$46,000 for the completion of Mercy Health/St. Mary's pedestrian improvements on Jefferson Avenue.



A. NORTH CROSSWALK

INSTALL RRFB

PAINT CONTINENTAL CROSSWALK

INSTALL CURB CUTS AND TACTILE WARNINGS

B. SOUTH CROSSWALK

INSTALL REMOVABLE MEDIANS



B. REMOVABLE MEDIANS



A. RECTANGULAR RAPID FLASHING BEACON (RRFB)

MEMORANDUM

DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY



DATE: May 8, 2020

TO: Downtown Development Authority

FROM: Mark F. Miller AIA AICP
Managing Director of Planning & Design

Agenda Item #10
May 13, 2020
DDA Meeting

SUBJECT: Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements and Design Services

Goal 3 of GR Forward envisions *creating the most bicycle friendly Downtown in the Midwest* (page 212) and recommends *enhancing physical and perceived connections to neighborhoods surrounding Downtown for all modes* (page 212). The Plan further suggests that “*to help more people in Downtown feel safe riding a bike on its streets, additional infrastructure will be necessary to provide greater protection from vehicle travel and parking lanes. The infrastructure can be supported with increased and secure bike parking, better information, and more encouragement and safety programs. This will all create a unique culture in Downtown and help the City attract new businesses, residents, and visitors.*”

GR Forward further proposes that a bike plan be incorporated as part of the City’s Vital Streets Plan. The bike plan is envisioned to provide the road map to implement a network of facilities with an emphasis on developing infrastructure, prioritizing the installation of infrastructure, and making more meaningful connections within the overall city non-motorized network.

Subsequently the City of Grand Rapids developed the Bicycle Action Plan (approved by the City Commission in July 2019) which furthers the goals established in GR Forward by prioritizing connectivity, safety, comfort, equity, and health. The plan maps out infrastructure improvements and investments in the form of building new bicycle routes, filling in gaps in existing bicycle routes, and installing bike racks and repair stations throughout the city.

DGRI and Mobile GR department staffs have collaborated to create a list of strategic bicycle-related investment priorities that implement the goals of GR Forward, the Bicycle Action Plan, and the City of Grand Rapids Strategic Plan. These priorities, in ten strategic areas, include building new bikeways, improving existing bikeways, filling gaps between existing bikeways, installing bike parking and public repair stations, and developing preliminary designs for recommended bikeways. During the last two months these initiatives have been put into a sharper focus due to the changing mobility and safety protocols associated with physical distancing and COVID-19, and as a result we have collectively worked to fine-tune this list in order to develop an investment



package of projects and design services that have the highest impact on safety and connectivity while also providing a quick implementation timeline.

These bicycle infrastructure improvement projects included in this proposed package are as follows:

1. New Bicycle Facilities (on-street bicycle lanes and connections)
 - a. 4th Street, Front to Scribner: Shared lane markings
 - b. 6th Street, Monroe to Front: Shared lane markings
 - c. River Edges Trail crossing at 6th Street: new crosswalk and improved signage
 - d. Front Ave, Watson to Butterworth: 6-foot bike lane striping
 - e. Logan Street, Grandville to Century: re-striping for bike lane, adjust parking, new signs
2. Safety Access Changes to Existing Bicycle Facilities (on-street bicycle lane improvements)
 - a. Division Avenue, North of Michigan overpass: additional green bike lane markings
 - b. Division Avenue, Crescent Street: additional green bike lane markings
 - c. Division Avenue, Fountain Street: install (2) green bike boxes at intersection
3. Bicycle Parking and Repair Stands
 - a. Bike Racks: at least 40 stainless steel racks (80 spaces), at least 64 black polyvinyl-coated racks (128 spaces), at least 25 parking meter post mounted racks (25 spaces), and the associated concrete work required to install these racks at select locations.
 - b. Public Repair Stands and Pumps: 1 at Commerce near Oakes and 1 at Wealthy/Butterworth area.
4. Bikeway Design Services in Downtown including data collection, concept design, phasing, pilot options, and opinions of probable cost. This work advances the Bicycle Action Plan recommendations, supports GR Forward initiatives, and takes a step toward future implementation.
 - a. Ionia Avenue, Fulton to Logan*
 - b. Century Avenue, Grandville to just south of Logan at DDA boundary*
 - c. Turner/Mount Vernon/Front Avenue, Wealthy to 4th Street*
 - d. Pearl Street, Division to Lake Michigan Drive

**These projects also include portions of Ionia, Century, and Turner that extend beyond DDA boundary. DDA funding is only within the DDA boundary and City funds will be used for those portions outside the boundary.*

5. Design Services for Phase 2 of Division Avenue Bikeway including data collection, design of future phasing including barrier options, phasing, flexibility, opinions of probable cost, and maintenance impacts. This work is the next incremental step of the Division Avenue Bikeway pilot and ultimately the next stage of implementation.

The bicycle facility projects are anticipated to begin in May and be completed by June 30, 2020. The parking and repair stand equipment will be purchased and then deployed sequentially over the summer months. The design services will commence immediately.

The project's estimated costs are:

1. New Bicycle Facilities: \$4,150.
2. Safety Access Changes to Existing Bicycle Facilities: \$18,700.
3. Bicycle Parking and Repair Stands: \$49,950.
4. Bikeway Design Services, Downtown (4 projects): \$40,100.
5. Design Services for North Division Avenue Better Bikeway Phase 2: \$12,100.

Total: \$125,000, not to exceed

These specific projects are in Downtown Grand Rapids and represent a portion of the overall investment that the City is making in bicycle infrastructure throughout the entire city. As such DGRI recommends providing full investment of this project to support the implementation of GR Forward, the City of Grand Rapids Bike Action Plan, and the City Strategic Plan. This effort also supports mobility options, potential broader access to Downtown, and increased physical activity options during social distancing and COVID-19 recovery.

Recommendation: Authorize funding in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 for bicycle infrastructure improvements and design services in the Downtown.