



DOWNTOWN
GRAND RAPIDS INC.

FY 2021 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

- Downtown Plan

Planning initiatives to further the goals of GR Forward. Proposed initiatives in FY2021 include:

- Implementation of the soon to be complete Governance and Management Plan for the Grand River Corridor

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

- Downtown Enhancement Grant

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 for two distinct initiatives in collaboration with Disability Advocates of Kent County and Common Notice to continue the inclusive and equity work initiated last year with the Inclusive Design Charrettes.

- Inclusive Design 2021: Move from prototype to programming for the top two (2) prototypes established during the initial work and continue inclusive design charrettes to bring three (3) additional prototypes to the point of implementation.

- Collective Impact Strategic Plan: Work across five agencies to determine a shared set of values, design principles and strategic objectives that will further the accessibility of Grand Rapids. This plan is proposed to continue with funding in FY22 to measure the social impact and the plan's successes and improvements.

- Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements
Funding to continue the implementation of bike parking and infrastructure in partnership with MobileGR.

- Mason Street / Ottawa Avenue Reconstruction
MNTIFA contribution to the reconstruction of Mason Street and Ottawa Avenue. Anticipated to begin in FY21 with TIFA funding directed to pedestrian enhancements to improve the streetscape and walkability.

- Women's Way Alley Improvements and Activation
FY21 funding to complete previously approved project in association with the Womens Way Alley Improvement and Activation program.

- Transit Improvements in Monroe North District
Funding to help support the continued operation of DASH North, including proposed weekend and evening service. Funds are also provided to complete the installation of new transit shelters.

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

- Canal Street Park Improvements
Funding to further implement the River for All Design Guidelines and complete upgrades to Canal Street Park. Funding is for the previously approved project(s), as well as Phase II improvements anticipated to initiate in spring 2021.

- Urban Recreation
Funding for continued enhancements to Monroe North Parks, including the implementation of River for All Design Guidelines.