

## Grand River Construction Project Final Design Meeting

May 1, 2019

Crowell Community Center

Prepared by David Legg

This was the final design meeting for the big construction project coming to Grand River in Rosedale Park this summer. The entire project will span from Southfield Freeway to Berg Road in Old Redford, but significant changes will come to our stretch of Grand River beginning this summer.

Grand River is a Michigan state trunk line highway, M-5, so it falls under state control. It was scheduled for resurfacing this year, and the state, city, and water department are working together to combine several initiatives, so they are done at once. The city framework for the Grand River corridor includes enhanced streetscape and pedestrian safety features. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department planned to replace the aging water mains under Grand River. New state policies include collaborating with cities and local residents to help set the scope and design of all highway projects.

The project's big features are a "road diet" and protected bike lanes, with a new traffic signal at CVS/Grandland Center, and five new signalized pedestrian crossings. Parking lanes will be marked, and all traffic signal and pedestrian crossing locations will include "bump outs." Those will move the curb out past the parking lane, which will reduce the crossing distance by 40 feet, allow for better sight lines, and prevent driving in the parking lane. There will also be center-lane refuge islands at the crossings, with flashing pedestrian signals on the sides and in the center islands. Midblock pedestrian crossings with signals will be located at Glastonbury, Stahelin/Avon, Piedmont/Grandville, Minock, and Auburn/Plainview.



One of five new midblock crosswalks in Rosedale Park, with signals, island, and bump outs. This one will be located between Piedmont and Grandville.

Warwick on the south side of Grand River will be totally reconfigured so it aligns with Warwick north of the intersection, eliminating the awkward off-center traffic signal. The odd intersection of Pembroke and Grand River will also be re-designed. The bike lanes will be two-way and located on the north side of Grand River only. The right-of-way is not wide enough to allow for bike lanes on both sides of the street. The bike lanes will be at the curb, with parking moved out away from the curb. There will be a small buffer between parked cars and the bike lanes, and bollards (standardized posts) will keep drivers out of the bike lanes. There will be no right-turn lanes for traffic, and bus stops on the north side of the street will be on new bus islands. New bus shelters with solar lighting will be added at Evergreen and at Ashton.



New design for Warwick at Grand River. Note that Warwick on the south has been shifted so it lines up on both sides of Grand River. There are new bump outs, bus stops, bike racks (BR), trash cans (T), and benches (B).

### Work Schedule

Because of the size of the project, the state decided to divide the whole length of the work into two phases over two years. Work between Southfield and Evergreen will take place this year, in 2019,

and work between Evergreen and Berg Road will happen in 2020. All landscaping work will be done in 2020. Work on the highway portion of the project is planned to begin in July, but water main replacement will begin before that time.

Water main work will happen in two phases. Work will begin on the north side of Grand River, go from Southfield to Evergreen, then turn around and go from Evergreen to Southfield on the south side. That work will include replacing ancient water mains, replace any lead service lines into buildings along Grand River, and update any old water meters. Outages for the businesses will only last a few hours at most. There should be no impact on residential water service on side streets at all.



*Grand River east of Evergreen. Note the bus island at Brettton on the north side. Buses will stop in the traffic lane at islands. The two-way bike lane is between the parking lane and the curb. Puritan and Plainview has been redesigned. Right turn lanes have been eliminated. The red rectangles indicate solar-powered bus shelters.*

Road and pedestrian construction will happen in three schedule segments. Work will begin on the north side of Grand River, then move to the south side of Grand River, and finally in the center section of the road. One lane of traffic and the center turn lane will be maintained during construction, and all side street entrances should be open except for short periods.

Contractor bids are out now and will be decided in the coming weeks. The project team members were careful to point out that the contractors could suggest changes to the schedule, but those would have to be approved by the state and city and would have to be based on practical considerations. The city plans to communicate with affected residents and businesses throughout the project, with at least one general meeting with the contractors and local stakeholders before the construction starts. They also plan to distribute door hanger info cards to the surrounding area.

This final design comes after many months of community meetings, surveys, and discussions with neighborhood residents and business owners. There is a long list of features the community wanted in this project. The goals included increasing walkability, pedestrian safety while walking along or across Grand River, providing for motorized and nonmotorized modes of transportation, reducing traffic speeds, and enhancing parking for businesses. In addition, DWSD will be replacing aging water mains, two problem-plagued intersections will be reconfigured, and a much-needed new traffic signal at Grandland will be installed. The bike lanes will eventually extend all the way to Berg Road. Many of the features added to the Rosedale Park section of the project will be included in the Old Redford section in 2020.

You can see the slide show from the meeting and learn more about the project at [www.detroitmi.gov/northwest](http://www.detroitmi.gov/northwest).