

PETER J.F. MEIJER
THIRD DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

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(616) 451-8383

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2203

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
OVERSIGHT, MANAGEMENT, AND
ACCOUNTABILITY – RANKING MEMBER
INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTER TERRORISM
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE:
EUROPE, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND CYBER
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENERGY
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

**Surface Transportation Member Designated
Project submissions**

1. Project Name: Division Avenue Project
 - a. Sponsored by: City of Grand Rapids
 - b. Address: North Division Avenue, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
 - c. Amount requested: \$4,200,000
2. Project Name: Wealthy Street Project
 - a. Sponsored by: City of Grand Rapids
 - b. Address: Wealthy Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506
 - c. Amount requested: \$7,250,000
3. Project Name: Grandville Ave Project
 - a. Sponsored by: City of Grand Rapids
 - b. Address: Grandville Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
 - c. Amount requested: \$4,000,000
4. Project Name: Ottawa Ave Project
 - a. Sponsored by: City of Grand Rapids
 - b. Address: Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
 - c. Amount requested: \$845,000
5. Project Name: Grand River Edges West
 - a. Sponsored by: City of Grand Rapids
 - b. Address: Grand River Edges (west), Grand Rapids, MI 49504
 - c. Amount requested: \$4,000,000
6. Project Name: Plaster Creek Trail
 - a. Sponsored by: City of Grand Rapids
 - b. Address: 3155 Kalamazoo Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508
 - c. Amount requested: \$743,000
7. Project Name: Sidewalk/Trail Connectivity – Neighborhoods of Focus and Other Locations
 - a. Sponsored by: City of Grand Rapids
 - b. Address: various locations, Grand Rapids, MI 49507, 49503, 49504
 - c. Amount requested: \$5,800,000
8. Project Name: Hastings Street Project
 - a. Sponsored by: City of Grand Rapids
 - b. Address: Grand Rapids, MI 49503
 - c. Amount requested: \$2,800,000
9. Project Name: Substructure Replacement on I-94 under 17 Mile Road
 - a. Sponsored by: Michigan Dept. of Transportation
 - b. Address: I-94 under 17 Mile Road in Calhoun County, MI
 - c. Amount requested: \$4,656,000

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Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Division Avenue project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is the City of Grand Rapids and the project is located at North Division Avenue, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

The funding is designated for removing the existing street, replace/rehab aging infrastructure (1885-1940), upgrade Street Lighting/Traffic Signals to LED, improve pedestrian signals and replace end of life Street Lighting/Consumers Energy (added \$3.25 million investment) conduit systems and reconstruct the street to current Vital Streets standards, including green infrastructure and provide for all modes of transportation. This meets Federal, State and City goals to maintain the existing system of streets in good condition.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: The street is in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids, Medical Mile and North Monroe area. Recent investment here totals over \$200 million with additional planned. Immediately adjacent to the street are Grand Rapids Community College and Kendall School of Art and Design of Ferris State University. The City and Downtown Development Authority have invested heavily in the downtown street system and this important Principal Arterial route needs to be upgraded.

In addition to the Vital Streets Plan/Design Guidelines, the “GR Forward Plan” and “Equitable Economic Development and Mobility Strategic Plan” will be used to inform the design.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



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April 27, 2021

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Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Grand River Edges West project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is the City of Grand Rapids and the project is located at the Grand River Edges west in Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

The funding is designated for constructing a trail along the west bank of the Grand River that will connect Grand Valley State University campus, Grand Rapids Public Museum, and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. This non-motorized trail will be part of the 7.5-mile Grand River Edges loop in downtown Grand Rapids, which provides pedestrian and bicycle routes along the east and west banks of the Grand River. The project includes construction of a new trail to close a gap in the system and renovation of an old section that is not universally accessible. These new universally designed pathways will change the mobility of the region, especially for the westside of Grand Rapids. The trail will connect to bike lanes and regional trails, providing accessible alternatives for local commuters, reduce traffic and parking congestion, improve mobility throughout the downtown region, and connect residential neighborhoods with business districts and cultural institutions in the urban core.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits:

This project will complete a key river trail segment, improving bike/pedestrian mobility and safety and facilitating access to the restored river. It will address equity for the westside residents, many of whom depend on bicycles for transportation. This project is prioritized based on outcomes of the GR Forward and River For All planning processes, which engaged thousands of community constituents.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



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Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Grandville Avenue project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is the City of Grand Rapids and the project is located at Grandville Avenue SW Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

The funding is designated for a former MDOT trunkline that serves 8,000 vehicles/day and is in Poor condition. The project will remove the existing street, replace aging public and private utilities and reconstruct the street to current Vital Streets standards, including green infrastructure and provide for all modes of transportation. This will meet Federal, State and City goals to maintain the existing system of streets in good condition.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits:

Transformation has begun. Plaza Roosevelt, just north, a \$50 million P3 includes new housing, high school, City park and expansion of health care/arts/cultural opportunities and is nearing completion. If funded, this will complete the corridor, improve safety, add green infrastructure and provide significant investment in an underserved Neighborhood of Focus and open up redevelopment possibilities.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

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Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Hastings Street non-motorized path project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is the City of Grand Rapids and the project is located in Grand Rapids, MI, 49503.

The funding is designated to construct Phase 3 of the Hastings Street non-motorized path, which will connect the Monroe North business district to the Neighbors of Belknap Lookout (NOBL) neighborhood and the Medical Mile. Monroe North is part of the NOBL neighborhood. Both areas provide housing, and Monroe North also has jobs, services, and Grand River frontage. However, they are separated by a 100' high bluff and the existing stairs are in disrepair. NOBL is also a gateway to the Medical Mile, a densely developed area on Michigan Street that is one of the largest employment centers in the state, including hospitals, universities, and businesses. Improvements include an elevated walkway, path, overlook, lighting, benches, and landscaping.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits:

The area struggles to balance transportation demands of residents and businesses. Non-motorized infrastructure is critically needed to deter and mitigate automobile traffic. This project will provide an accessible, non-motorized path that connects housing, education, jobs, healthcare, and prime recreational assets.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

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Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the substructure replacement on I-94 under 17 mile road project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is the Michigan Department of Transportation and is located at I-94 under 17 Mile Road in Calhoun County, Michigan.

The funding is designated to replace a bridge on I-94 under 17 Mile Road in Calhoun County, MI. This replacement is also preservation job that will improve the safety of Michigan's transportation network.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: This project will improve the safety of Michigan's transportation network by replacing a substructure of a bridge on an Interstate Highway.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

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Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Ottawa Avenue project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is the City of Grand Rapids and the project is located at Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

The funding is designated for removing the existing street, replace/rehab aging infrastructure (1885-1940), upgrade Street Lighting to ornamental LED lighting and reconstruct the street to current Vital Streets standards, including green infrastructure, where possible, and provide for all modes of transportation. This will meet Federal, State and City goals to maintain the existing system of streets in good condition.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits:

This street in the heart of the North Monroe area is a critical link for 3,000 vehicles/day and is in Poor-Good condition. The area is being transformed from heavy industrial to housing, hotel and office. The investment at Grand Rapids Innovation Park, Embassy Suites and Spectrum Center for Technology and Innovation exceeds \$300 million.

In addition to the Vital Streets Plan/Design Guidelines, the “Monroe North Area Specific Plan” and “Equitable Economic Development and Mobility Strategic Plan” will be used to inform the design: In addition to the Vital Streets Plan/Design Guidelines, the “GR Forward Plan” and “Equitable Economic Development and Mobility Strategic Plan” will be used to inform the design.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project

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Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Plaster Creek Trail project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is the City of Grand Rapids and the project is located at 3155 Kalamazoo Ave SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49508.

The funding is designated for constructing a new multi-use trail. Plaster Creek Trail is a non-motorized path beginning in Ken-O-Sha Park (off Kalamazoo) and following the course of Plaster Creek westward. A public PK-5 elementary school is also located at the park. Currently, pedestrians and bicyclists must walk or ride in the driveway to reach the trailhead in the park. This project will construct a separated, non-motorized trail beginning at the trailhead and extending to Kalamazoo Avenue, reconstruct the driveway serving the school, and provide a safe crossing at the intersection of Kalamazoo and 32nd Street.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits:

This will increase safe, non-motorized access to both the trail system and the school and create a direct connection to an underserved neighborhood in the city. This project closes a gap between the trail, sidewalks, school and housing.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

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Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Sidewalk/Trail connectivity project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is the City of Grand Rapids and the project is located at various locations in Grand Rapids, MI.

The funding is designated for systematic and citizen-requested sidewalk repairs, ADA sidewalk ramps, and new connectivity where no sidewalk exists today. This project would fill in gaps in the sidewalk network with either sidewalks or, where non-motorized facilities are needed as well, trails.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: This project would support doubling the amount of sidewalk that has been added to date and improving safe mobility in urban areas. The locations will be prioritized beginning in Neighborhoods of Focus and using established criteria in scoring. The City could address over 30 priority locations and approximately 7 miles of sidewalk. In some locations, it may be best to add a path instead of sidewalk if bike facilities are lacking About ¼ to 1/3 of the population is not able or chooses not to drive cars. Also, those that use transit or other modes, typically need to walk for the first and last mile. Also, the share of the population with reduced mobility find their freedom reduced where there are not good, safe routes for pedestrians. It has been found that physical activity not only improves physical health, but mental health as well. An estimated length of 95 miles of sidewalk (at least on one side of the street) is needed to complete requested and identified locations.

The scoring for the prioritization of locations has been approved by the Vital Streets Oversight Commission. More information about the importance of sidewalks is included in the Vital Streets Program link:

<https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Programs-and-Initiatives/Vital-Streets-Program>

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



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Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the Wealthy Street project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The project sponsor for this project is the City of Grand Rapids and the project is located at Wealthy Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

The funding is designated for removing the existing street, replace/rehab aging infrastructure: water main (1909), sanitary and storm sewer (1896-1931), reconstruct the brick street, upgrade Street Lighting/Traffic Signals to LED, possibly ornamental lighting, and porous pavers in the parkway/parking lanes, green infrastructure/trees will be placed where possible. This meets Federal, State and City goals to maintain the existing system of streets in good condition.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: This continues the public/private investment in the Easttown area which is part of the Uptown Business Improvement District and is consistent with the purpose of Uptown:

The Uptown Business Improvement District will seek to leverage special assessment funds to obtain additional funding from all applicable funding streams, including but not limited to:

- Private investment (in the form of voluntary contributions from neighborhood community associations and participating business associations) also including private business
- Agencies providing technical assistance, including Neighborhood Ventures
- Community institutions, including higher education, community foundations, and other nonprofits
- City, state, and federal programs

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Peter Meijer
Member of Congress
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