



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009

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MDOT invites public in Grand Rapids to learn about 'The Fix on I-196'

WHAT:

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) invites the public to attend an open house to learn more about the planned reconstruction of I-196 from the Grand River to Fuller Avenue in the City of Grand Rapids. The benefits of this project will be increased mobility and a smoother, safer road surface for motorists. Preparation work will begin in mid-September 2009 for a construction start date of Spring 2010.

The open house will provide an update of the project and present concepts developed from previous discussions with local residents, businesses and major service providers such as Spectrum Health Hospital, Grand Valley State University and others.

Fall 2009

- Removal/Replacement of Eastern Avenue over I-196
- Preparation for maintaining traffic along I-196
- Concrete joint repairs from Fuller Ave to I-96
- Surface improvements and widening at the Fuller Avenue Interchange

Spring 2010

- Reconstruct/widen from the Grand River to Fuller Avenue along I-196
- Remove/replace structures at Coit Avenue and Lafayette Avenue

The public is invited to stop by any time between 3pm and 6pm to discuss the project with MDOT staff members and view maps, drawings and proposed plans.

WHO:

MDOT staff
Community representatives
Interested residents
Local businesses

WHEN:

Thursday, May 21, 2009
3pm to 6pm

WHERE:

Immanuel-St. James Lutheran Church
2 Michigan Avenue NE Grand Rapids, 49503

Special accommodations: Please call Art Green at 616-464-1800 one week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

BACKGROUND:

MDOT began planning to reconstruct I-196 in the city of Grand Rapids in the fall of 2007 and first met with key stakeholders on Jan. 24, 2008. Since then, MDOT staff members have met several times with city officials and key stakeholders, most recently on Feb. 10, 2008.

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MDOT: Working to improve our state roads and bridges.