

M-45: Resurfacing, Rehabilitation and Widening

Context

The project is located in the cities of Grand Rapids and Walker in Kent County on M-45 from 100 feet east of Manzana Drive easterly to 25 feet west of Fulton Street.

Purpose and Description

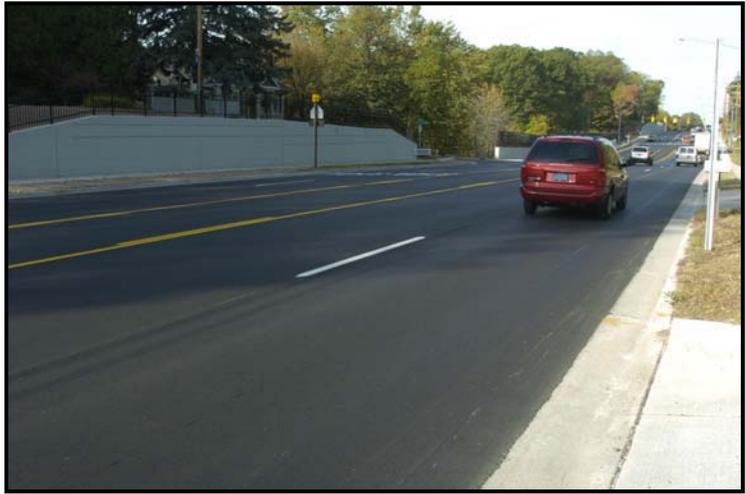
This project included approximately three miles of HMA cold milling and resurfacing, construction of center left turn lanes, concrete joint repairs, retaining walls, sidewalks, curb and gutter, guardrail upgrades, signing and pavement markings. Drainage structure adjustments and signal loop replacements also were included.

Public Engagement

MDOT partnered with the cities of Grand Rapids and Walker. The department also held two public meetings to discuss this project with local residents and business owners to address their questions and concerns. MDOT coordinated with the local schools to determine the best times for detours and completion of work in certain areas to minimize impacts to their operations. A website was established for this project to help keep the public informed of lane restrictions and work progress. MDOT also developed a construction and motorist information brochure for the project. Construction staff went door to door as necessary to keep the residents and businesses informed of work happening in front of their property and to notify them of any inconveniences they may experience.

Challenges

The primary project challenge was constructing a center left turn lane while minimizing the impacts to properties along the corridor. The addition of several large retaining walls to accommodate sidewalk, which was requested and paid for by the city of Grand Rapids, created additional space issues and property impacts that had to be resolved with residents. Addressing how to



best protect the ends of the walls while taking into account drive locations and very limited space, safety, aesthetics, and meeting the necessary design criteria presented a challenge. Another challenge was obtaining a noise ordinance variance from the city of Grand Rapids to allow the contractor to perform work on a limited number of nights during this project.

Context Sensitive Solutions Approach

MDOT coordinated with the cities of Grand Rapids and Walker during the design and construction of the project. The department also worked with the Holy Spirit Church and School to try to accommodate their needs and requests not only during construction but also long term. MDOT and the city of Grand Rapids continue to work with the church on long term needs as it relates to traffic flow in and out of their facility. MDOT worked with residents in areas of retaining wall construction to obtain input from them on types of fence they would like to have in front of their homes, as well as other aesthetic related concerns. Additional meetings were held with Representative Sak and concerned residents along the corridor in order to address specific items of concern that they had. MDOT utilized work zone law enforcement in an effort to provide a safe work zone and safe route of travel, which was a major concern of residents. MDOT's construction staff worked with the contractor on a plan that would minimize the disturbances caused at night, as well as minimize impacts to traffic during the peak traffic times during the day, while meeting the required schedule.

Outcome

As a result of this project, the roadway has experienced improved traffic flow and is safer for the motoring public. The project also helped to provide a safe place for pedestrians to travel on the south side of the roadway.

Funding

The total cost of this project was approximately \$7 million. The city of Grand Rapids contributed approximately \$1.42 million and the city of Walker contributed approximately \$559,000.

Contact: Bart Franklin, Cost & Scheduling Engineer, Grand Rapids TSC, 616-451-3091