



I-375 RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PROJECT

GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 22, 2023

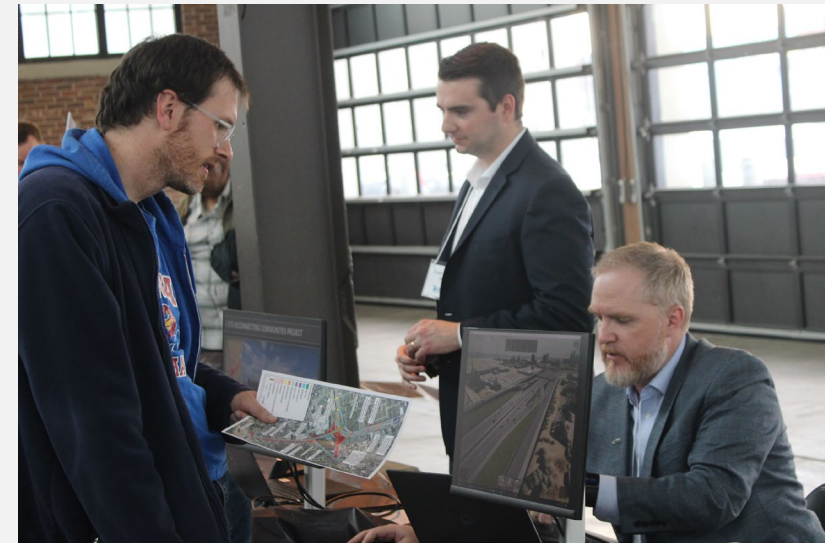
AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Project Updates**
- 3. Aesthetic Guide Update**
- 4. Design Update**
- 5. Small Business Enterprise And Workforce Development Update**
- 6. Traffic Operations During Construction**
- 7. Q & A**
- 8. Conclusion**

PROJECT UPDATES



April Public Meeting Recap



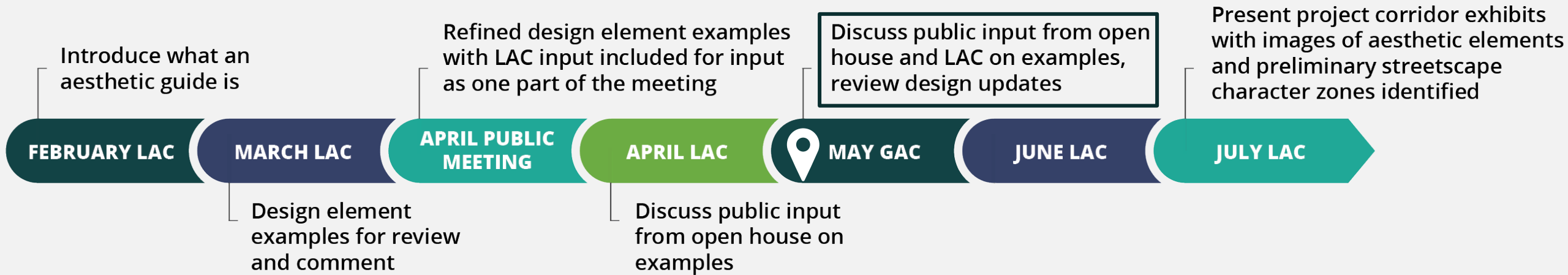
Local Advisory Committee Meetings



AESTHETIC GUIDE UPDATE



Aesthetic Guide Process



Aesthetics Exercise and Feedback

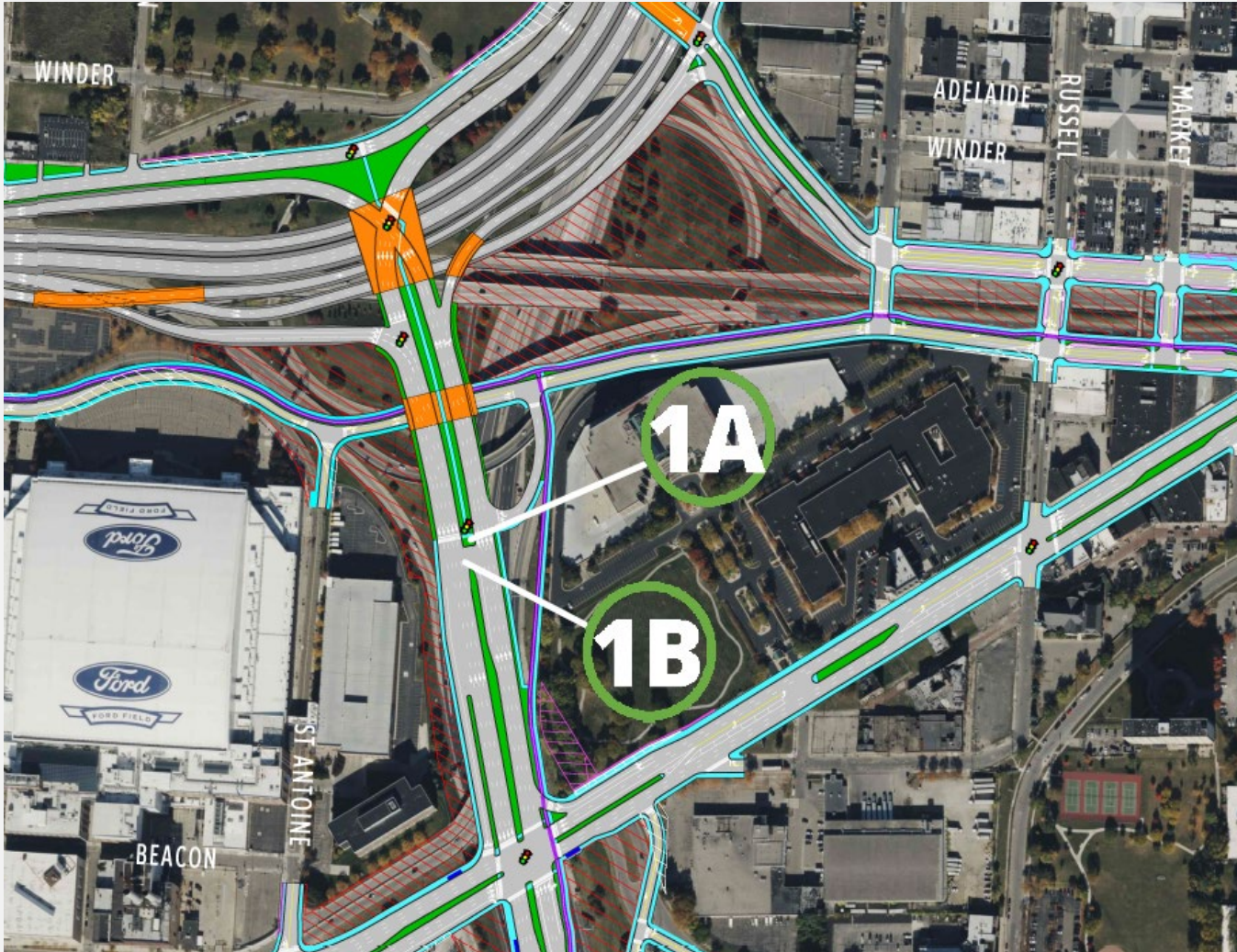
- During the April LAC and Open House, the project team collected feedback about aesthetic examples that could potentially be placed in the project area.
- Examples included pictures of benches, bicycle loops, interchange bridges, feature lighting, historic markers, median planting, pathways, paving, planters, public art, shelters, streetscapes, and tree grates.
- Using stickers, people were able to share their reactions to specific examples on the project boards.
 - A green sticker meant the image was liked, yellow meant it was somewhat liked, and red stickers were used to convey dislikes. Examples of feedback can be seen below.



DESIGN UPDATE



Geometric Updates



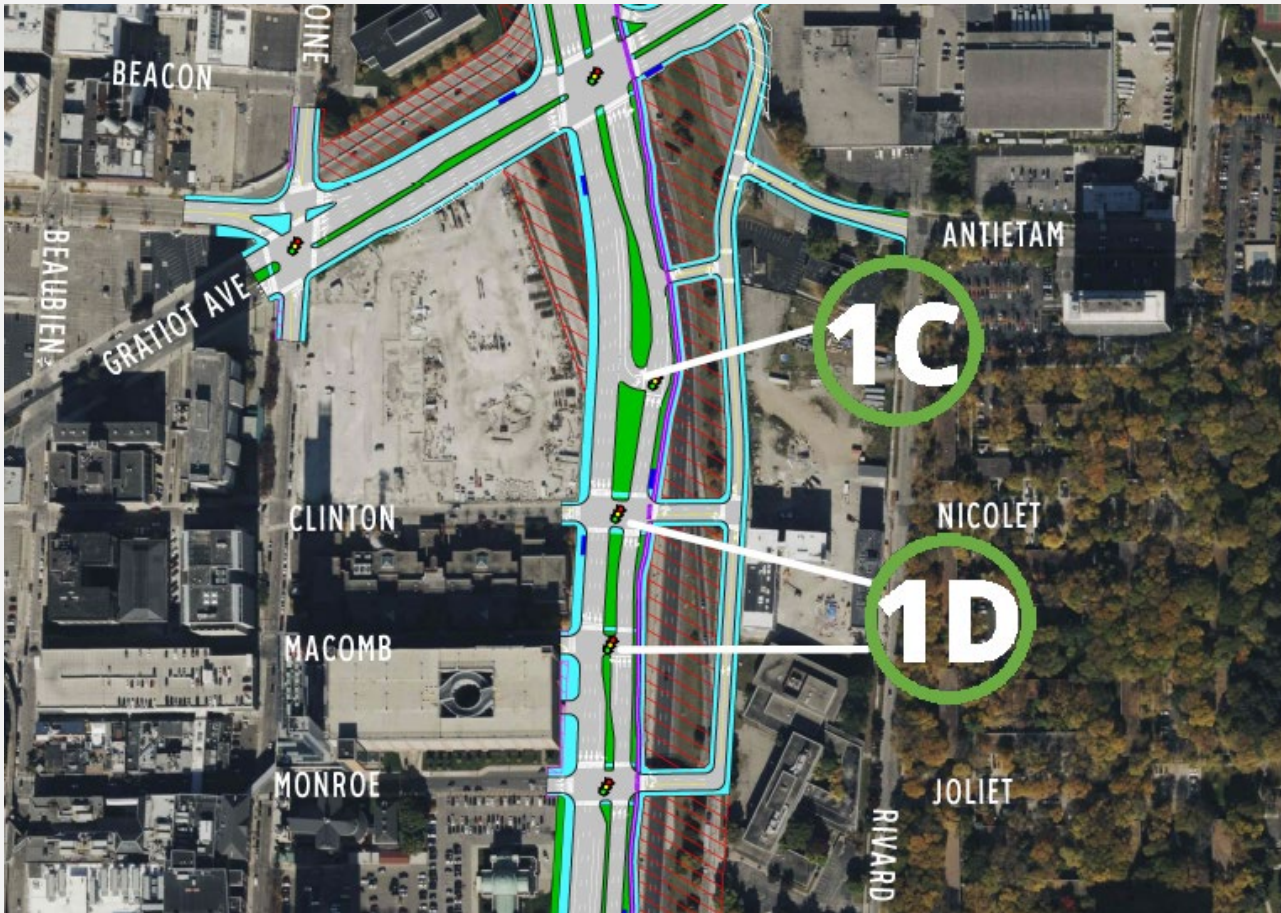
1A – SIDEWALK IN MEDIAN NORTH OF GRATIOT AVENUE

- Move sidewalk from outsides of the Boulevard to the median from south of Montcalm connector to north of interchange
- Eliminates pedestrian crossing and signal at the NB I-75 on-ramp
- Reduces overall bridge width for the I-75 structure

1B – INDIRECT LEFT NORTH OF GRATIOT AVENUE

- Improves access from WB Gratiot to SB Boulevard
- Improves access from NB Boulevard to WB Gratiot
- Accommodates large truck with trailer (WB-67) u-turn

Geometric Updates



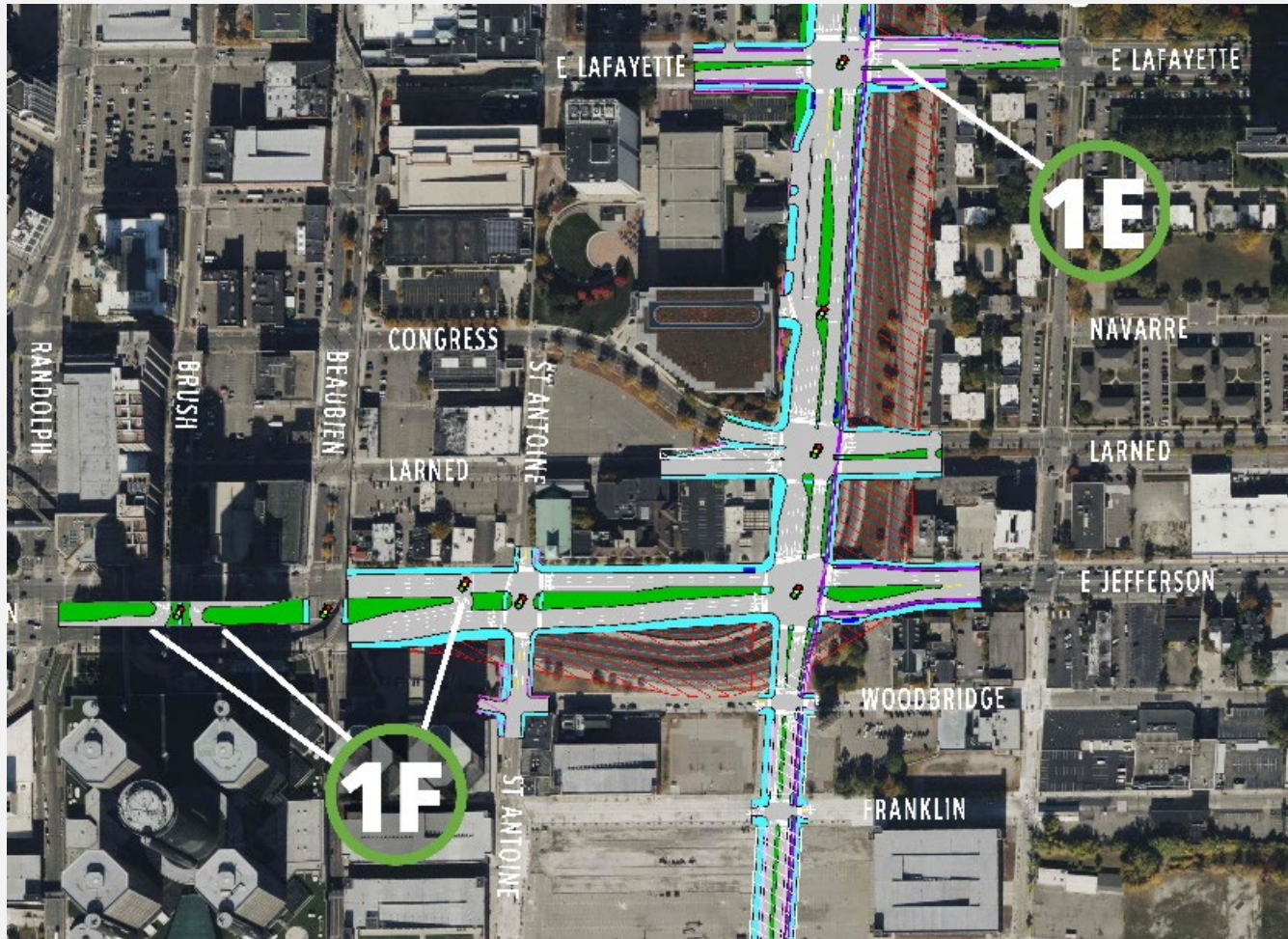
1C – INDIRECT LEFT SOUTH OF GRATIOT AVENUE

- Improves access from EB Gratiot to NB Boulevard
- Improves access from SB Boulevard to EB Gratiot
- Accommodates large truck with trailer (WB-67) u-turn

1D – BOULEVARD CHANGES AT MACOMB STREET AND CLINTON ST.

- Adds a NB left turn lane at Macomb from the Boulevard
- Provides direct access to Greektown neighborhood from NB Boulevard at Macomb
- Removes low volume NB left turn lane at Clinton from the Boulevard
- Improves pedestrian and vehicular traffic safety and operation at Clinton

Geometric Updates



1E – TWO CONTINUOUS THRU LANES ON LAFAYETTE BOULEVARD

- Improves thru traffic safety and operation
- Requires new right-of-way acquisition in northeast quadrant of the intersection
- Longer pedestrian crossing due to added thru lane

1F – INDIRECT LEFT TURNS AT JEFFERSON

- Improves safety and operations by eliminating left turn movements
- Provides pedestrian access and completes the downtown grid at St. Antoine
- Keeps corridor consistency along Jefferson Ave.

SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



Project Equity Focus



**Transportation
for All Modes**



**Small Business
Enterprise Program
and Workforce
Development**



**Community
Enhancement
Plan**



Framework Plan

MDOT Contracting Process

Prior to hiring a Construction Contractor, MDOT plans to engage Small and Disadvantaged businesses in Detroit to facilitate the process or training to become project-ready

MDOT puts a project out for bid

Contractors bid on it

Contractors look for businesses that are DBE-certified and have MDOT pre-qualifications

Small Business Enterprise and Workforce Development Planning

**Construction end is subject to change as details finalized.*

Now - 2025

2025 – 2027/2028*

Goal

Engage Detroit-based, minority-owned businesses and workforce in the execution of the pre-construction, construction, and post-construction services.

Pre-construction Activities

- Small Business Enterprise program
- Labor Opportunity Enhancement
- High School and College internships
- Construction and maintenance contractor and labor preparation

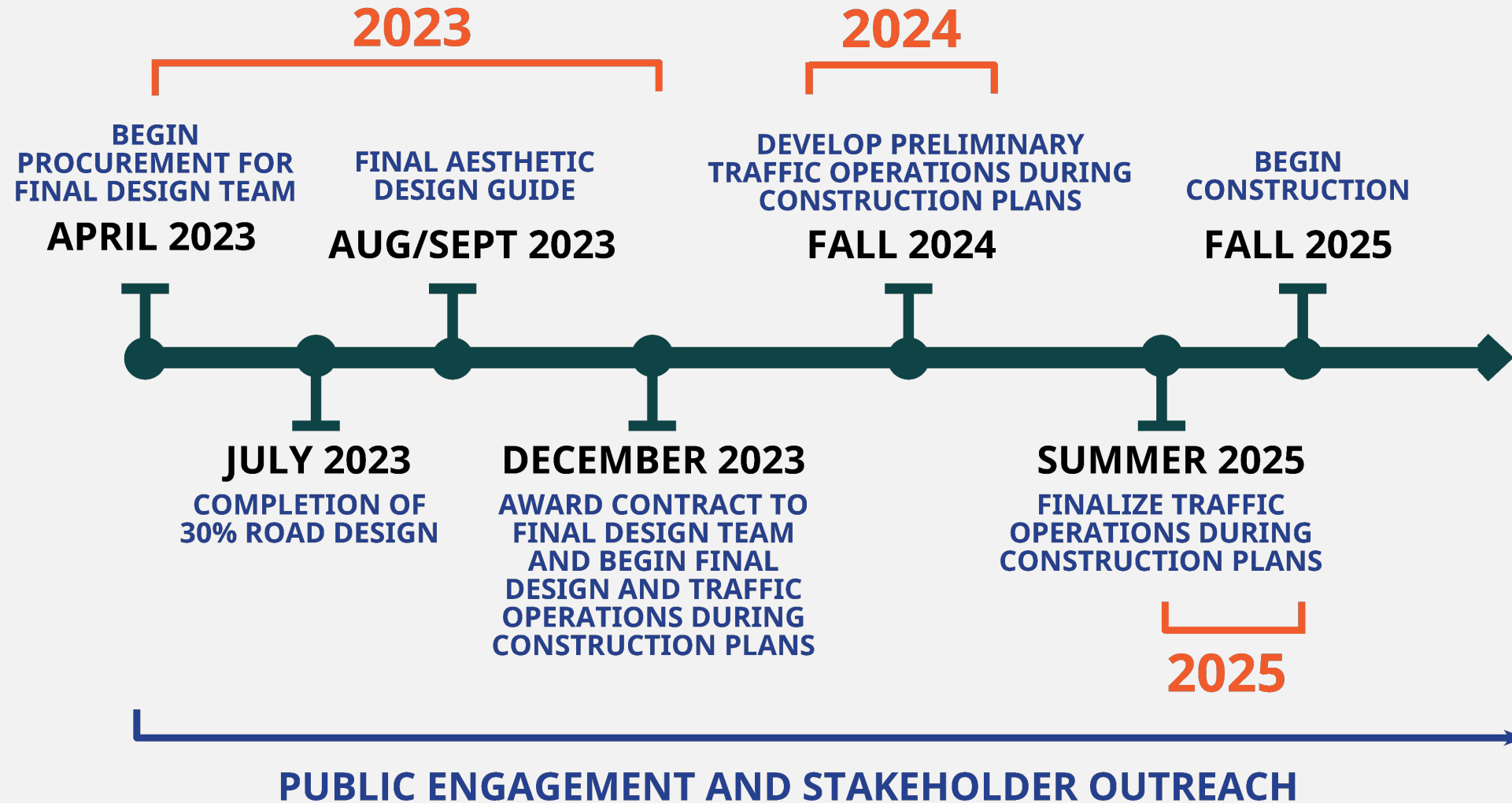
Construction Activities

- Project packaging and phasing to maximize opportunities
- Construction contract provisions to incentivize social, environmental, and economic equity outcomes
- Small Business Enterprise program
- Labor opportunity enhancement
- Existing local business considerations
- Workforce development

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS DURING CONSTRUCTION



Timeline



Guiding Principles

- **Safety Concerns**

- Design of traffic operations during construction will facilitate safe travel for all transportation modes (pedestrian, bicycle, vehicular, bus, etc.) throughout construction zones.

- **Access Concerns**

- Access will be maintained to residential areas, local businesses, and community spaces throughout the project area.

- **Time Concerns**

- Design of traffic operations during construction will evaluate providing greater access, which results in longer construction time, versus providing reduced access, which will reduce construction time.
- In some cases, a reduction in access or less convenient travel route may be more tolerable if it also reduces the time that access is reduced.

Next Steps in Plan Development

Select a final
designer/contractor to
join the team

- Need to collaborate on traffic operations plans with this contractor
- Final designer and contractor will collaborate with MDOT and stakeholders to develop and optimize construction plan

Conduct utilities work

- Deep drainage needs to be addressed

Gather public input

- The breakout discussions today will be used for baseline goals and objectives

LAC Traffic Operations During Construction Breakout Session

- **Common themes within the LAC feedback included:**
 - Safe stopping points for busses
 - Pedestrian safety - barricades from traffic, route maintenance, temporary lighting
 - Access between east and west during construction
 - Access to current business and future developments throughout the project construction
 - Continue open and clear communication with affected businesses during construction
 - More preference for a longer construction timeframe if it means impacts to businesses would be reduced. If ingress and egress points are maintained, construction time is less of an inconvenience for everyone
 - Avoid closures during the summer and peak time as much as possible
 - Establish maintained detour routes

LAC Traffic Operations During Construction Breakout Session

- **Additional common themes within the LAC feedback included:**
 - Concerns about construction noise and debris affecting surrounding areas and neighborhoods
 - Alternate routes should use surrounding roads in good condition, not poor condition
 - Provide paper routes to pedestrians during construction and students in the area
 - Rodents and pests being stirred up due to construction
 - Access to hospitals and emergency services within the project area during construction
 - Easy access into Greektown during and after construction is crucial
 - Drainage and flooding issues are very concerning for residents
 - The finished project should be accessible by all modes
 - The project should include long-term community investment for all Black Detroiters



QUESTIONS?

The background is an aerial photograph of downtown Detroit, Michigan. Overlaid on this is a semi-transparent map that highlights a specific urban area. The map shows a grid of streets with labels: GRATIOT AVE. at the top, LAFAYETTE ST. below it, LARNED ST. further down, and E. JEFFERSON AVE. at the bottom right. On the left side, the map shows FRANKLIN ST., WOODBRIDGE ST., and ATWATER ST. The word 'QUESTIONS?' is centered in large, bold, dark green capital letters over the map area.



THANK YOU!

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COMMENT: BIT.LY/I375COMMENT

SUBSCRIBE: BIT.LY/I375SUBSCRIBE