

I-375 PROJECT

MEETING NOTES SUMMARY

LAC MEETING 1 RESIDENT AND STAKEHOLDER

DATE: December 13, 2022

TIME: 5:30 – 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Horatio Williams Foundation, 1010 Antietam Ave Detroit, MI 48207

ATTENDEES: Residential and Stakeholder Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Members & Guests, City of Detroit Representatives, MDOT Staff, and HNTB Staff (see **Appendix A**)

The first local advisory committee meeting (LAC) included both resident and stakeholder LAC groups. The purpose of this kick-off meeting was to give a project overview to orient both new and old LAC members to the project. The meeting centered around background information on the planning phase that led to the design alternative, the history of the project area, the city of Detroit’s procedures and policies, and the LAC roles and next steps.

Introductions were made by the project team (MDOT, HNTB, City of Detroit). The project team then discussed the LAC purpose and vision of taking the unique experiences and knowledge of the LAC members and implementing them into the Land Use Framework Plan, Aesthetic Design Guide, and Community Enhancement Plan to help honor the project area and execute commitments made in the finding of no significant impact ([FONSI](#)). Jamon Jordan, the City of Detroit historian, presented the history of Black Bottom and Paradise Valley. Jon Loree, MDOT project manager, went over the project overview and highlights, and the City of Detroit gave remarks about their land-use process to policy. Following these items, the presentation concluded with a review of the next steps and an overview of the new [project website](#).

During the presentation, the team used Slido polling to determine how much attendees knew about the project, what project name they prefer, and what topics LAC members would like to focus on in the future. Most had a moderate understanding of the project. After deciding between three options, “I-375 Reconnecting Communities” received the majority votes for the project name.

Following the presentation's conclusion, the project staff answered questions from LAC members. These questions surrounded topics such as what will be done to mitigate the impacts of construction on local businesses, how will the excess land be zoned, LAC roles and future schedule, project timeline, and resources for the community.

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The meeting then concluded, and members had a chance to review the project's roll plots and make written comments.

ATTACHMENTS: Sign-in Sheet, Folder Materials

REVIEWED BY: Tony Migaldi, Bradleigh Merrill

SUBMITTED BY: Sasha Freeman

CC: [Invitees, Attendees, and Distribution List], File

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APPENDICES

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APPENDIX A: MEETING AGENDA

DATE: December 13, 2022

TIME: 5:30 - 7:00 pm

LOCATION: Horatio Williams Foundation, 1010 Antietam Ave., Detroit, MI, 48207

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Local Advisory Committee Purpose and Vision
- 3) Audience Polls:
 - A) How much do you know about the Project?
- 4) Brief History of Location
- 5) Project Highlights and Overview
- 6) City of Detroit Remarks
- 7) Next Steps
- 8) Audience Poll:
 - A) What Project name do you prefer?
 - B) Is there anything you would like more information on in a future meeting?
- 9) Questions

JOIN SLIDO

SLIDO.COM #2130452



PROJECT WEBSITE:



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APPENDIX B: MEETING ATTENDEES

ATTENDEES

Staff:

- Jon Loree, MDOT
- Leslie Love, MDOT
- Rita Screws, MDOT
- Kay Adefeso, MDOT
- Rob Morosi, MDOT
- Jami Trudelle, FHWA
- Tony Migaldi, HNTB
- Sarah Binkowski, HNTB
- Dave Langlois, HNTB
- Kelly Sweeny, HNTB
- Bradleigh Merrill, HNTB
- John Sivills, City of Detroit
- Samuel Krassenstein, City of Detroit
- Edwina King, City of Detroit
- Jamon Jordan, City of Detroit

LAC Residential:

- Nathan Fisher, Parc Lafayette
- Jennifer Pascha, Bailey Park Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Katrina Watkins, guest of Jennifer Pascha
- Jenifer Sexton, Parc Lafayette
- Terry Campbell, Office of U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow
- Carol Morton, Chateaufort Place Cooperative
- Beth Kmetz-Armtage, guest of Carol Morton
- Mona Ross Gardner, Brush Park Community Development Corporation
- Olga Stella, Lafayette Park

LAC Stakeholder:

- Bonnie Leone, Holy Family Church

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- David Wilson, Crains Communications
- Melanie Markowicz, Greektown Neighborhood Partnership
- James Jenkins, Jenkins Construction / NAACP
- Neico Jenkins, guest of James Jenkins
- Chalena Beasley, Ralph C Bunche Preparatory Academy
- Alicia Hunter, Horatio Williams Foundation
- Eric Larson, Downtown Detroit Partnership
- Lauren Hood, City Planning Commission
- Kenita Harris, Jefferson East, Inc.
- David Di Rita, Detroit Theatre District Association
- Mark Luckhardt, Bedrock Detroit
- Kimle Nailer, NABWIC / Nail-Rite Construction Company Inc.
- Ray Smith, The Blackbottom Group
- Lydia Maola, Saints Peter and Paul Jesuit Church
- Ellen Vial, Michigan Environmental Council
- Marcia Black, Black Bottom Archives
- Alex Draper, guest of Marcia Black
- Emily Williams Guffey, Christ Church Detroit
- Steve Kim, General Motors
- Karen Slaughter-DuPerry, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy
- John Drake, Hollywood Casino at Greektown
- Eric Candela, American Forests

Non-LAC Attendee:

- M. Ahmed Beasley
- Paul Jones III, the Peoples Platform
- Sean Gearhart, CBRE
- John Gardner, JFDC

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APPENDIX C: MEETING PRESENTATION



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LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

DECEMBER 13, 2022



AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Local Advisory Committee Purpose and Vision
3. History: Down Hastings Street
4. Project Highlights and Overview
5. City of Detroit Remarks
6. Next Steps



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LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE PURPOSE & VISION

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graph TD; A[Local Advisory Committees: Residential and Stakeholder] --> B[Community Enhancements Plan, Land Use Framework Plan, and Aesthetic Guide]; C[Public Input: Public Meetings, One-on-one Meetings, Comment Forms] --> B; D[Government Advisory Committee] --> B;
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PURPOSE OF LAC

Gather residents and interest groups, businesses, and community representatives to help inform and develop plans for land use framework, community enhancements and a preliminary design for the project based on the Selected Alternative boulevard conversion.

VISION FOR LAC

A diverse and inclusive approach to public involvement that offers the Project input from representatives of and around the Project area to bring unique knowledge and perspective on the corridor and its respective issues and opportunities.

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HISTORY: DOWN HASTINGS STREET

The Rise and Fall of The Main Street of Detroit's Black Bottom and Paradise Valley

Jamon Jordan
Official Historian
City of Detroit

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THE NAME "BLACK BOTTOM"

- The Savoyard River, Parent's Creek, and numerous other small waterways flowed throughout the Lower East Side.
- These creeks and rivers deposited dark soil throughout the area.
- The French named the ground in that area "Fond Noir" – Black Bottom.



RESIDENTS OF BLACK BOTTOM/ HASTINGS STREET/PARADISE VALLEY

Each one of the groups below had communities in parts of what would be called "Black Bottom"

- The Native Americans, especially the Odawa (way before the 1700s).
- The French (early 1700s)
- Black people (early 1700s)
- The British (mid-late 1700s)
- The Irish (early 1800s)
- Germans (early 1800s)
- Jewish people – German (early to mid-1800s)
- More Black people – Underground Railroad & Free Black people fleeing the south (early to late-1800s)
- Greeks (late 1800s, early 1900s)
- Italians (late 1800s, early 1900s)
- Poles (late 1800s, early 1900s)
- More Jewish people – Polish, Eastern European, Russian (late 1800s, early 1900s)
- Lebanese & Syrians (late 1800s, early 1900s)
- Southeast Asians/Chinese – (early 1900s)
- More African Americans – Great Migration (early 1900s-1950s)



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EUROTAS PARMALEE HASTINGS



- Hastings Street was named after Eurotas Parmalee Hastings.
- Hastings, born in New York, moved to Detroit in 1825.
- He served as President of the Bank of Michigan, and then served as the State Auditor General.
- From 1830 to his death in 1866, Hastings was one of the power elite in Detroit.

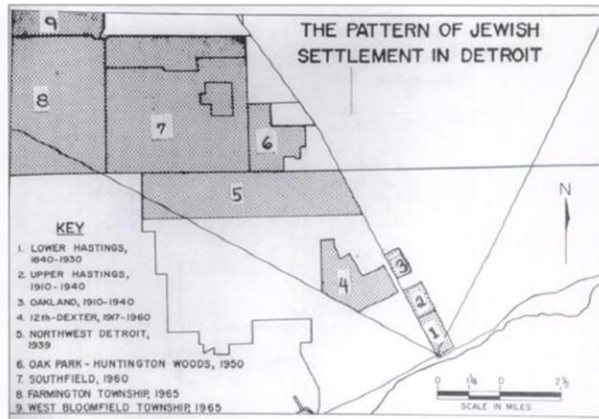
MDOT

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JEWISH DETROITERS OPEN DOORS



(Map courtesy of Phillip Applebaum.)



Club Harlem's "Shim Sham Shimmy" chorus



Daytime in the Valley



Night in the Valley



Club Congo



Club Plantation "The Orchestra"



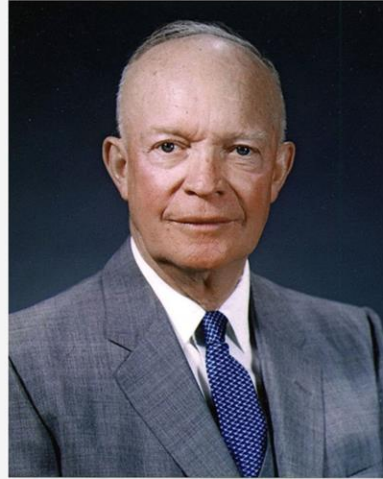
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THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ACT OF 1956

- Federal Highway Acts was the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act, also known as the Federal Highway Act of 1956.
- President Dwight Eisenhower saw firsthand the importance of having a national highway system.
- I-375 & I-75 were a direct outcome of that Act.



HASTINGS STREET



Hastings & Gratiot, in 1956

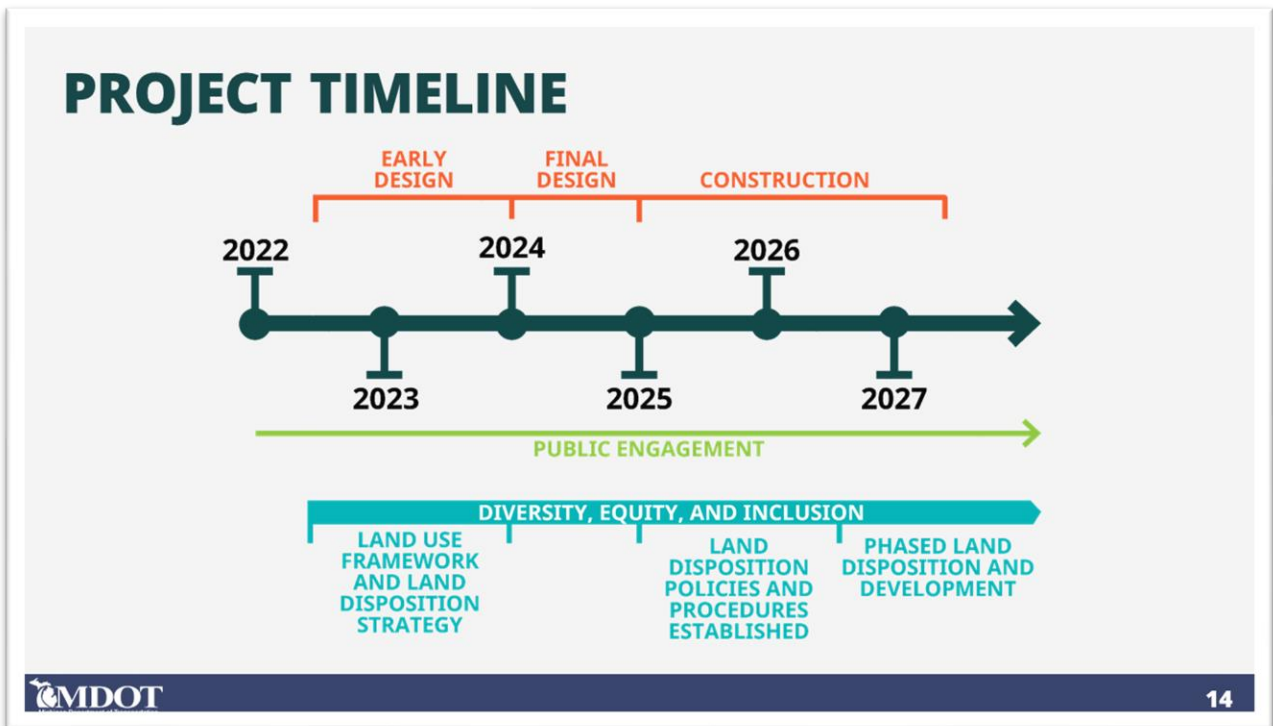
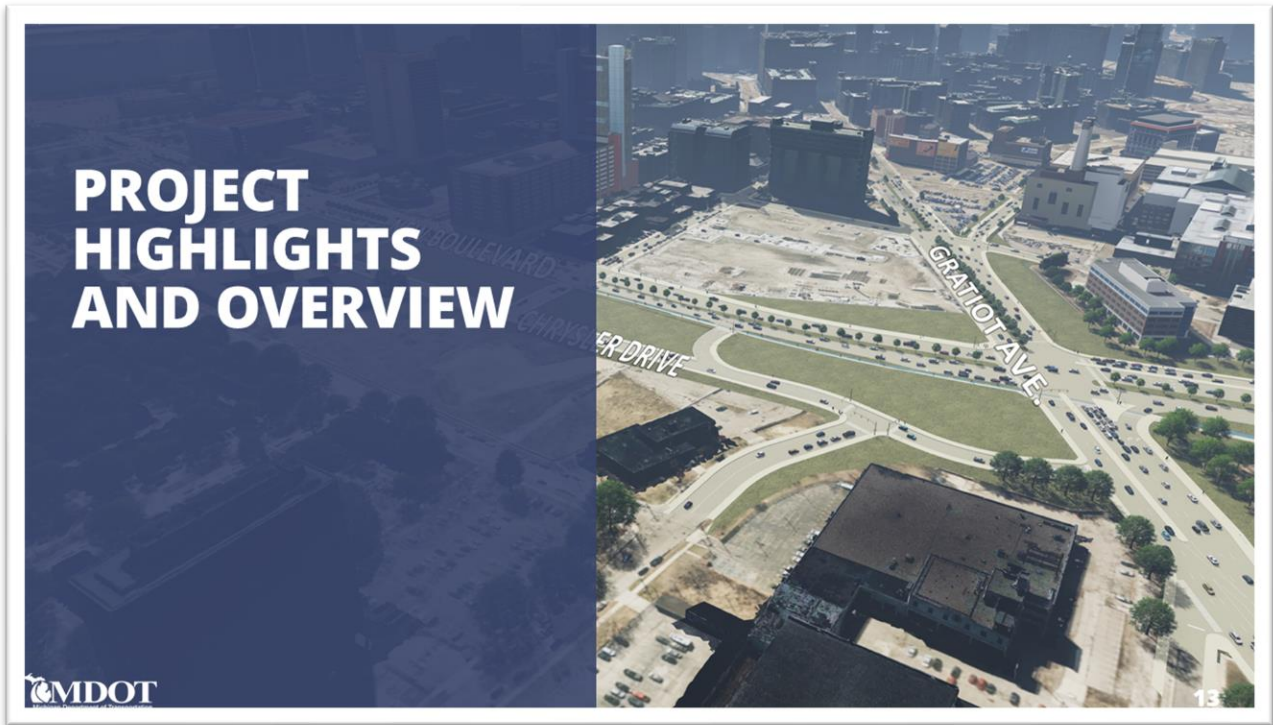
- In 1957, Hastings Street began being demolished.
- By 1964, the first stretch of I-75 & I-375 replaced Hastings Street.
- Hastings Street originally ran from just north of the Detroit River north to E. Grand Blvd.
- Today, there are about 4 blocks of Hastings that remain between I-94/Harper and E. Grand Blvd – far away from the Black Bottom/Paradise Valley neighborhoods.



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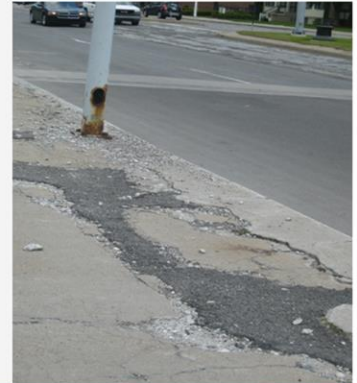
PROJECT PURPOSE

Transportation

- Replace the outdated freeway and deteriorating roadways and structures while improving safety and connectivity and supporting economic development and placemaking opportunities.
- Deliver a solution that considers safety, operations, pedestrian connectivity, and access to downtown destinations for motorized and non-motorized travelers.

Equity and Community

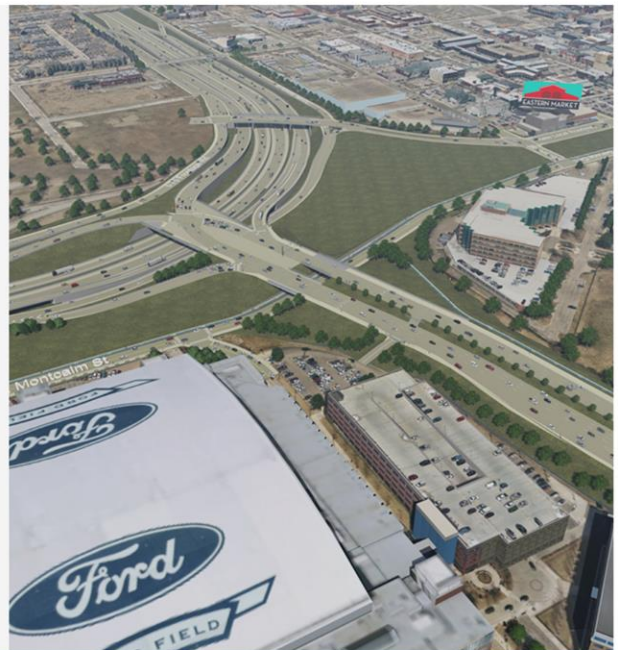
- Address Historic Environmental Justice (HEJ) and social equity concerns.
- Develop a Community Enhancement Plan that honors the history and supports the current needs of the project area.
- Advance a program focusing on workforce development and supporting small and minority-owned businesses.



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TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS

- Strengthens existing and future transportation, multimodal mobility choices, and roadway safety.
- Improving connectivity.
- Enhancing access enables future development and other placemaking opportunities with official land use and long-term economic development plans.
- Enhancing connections to existing and planned transit services and improving community health, equity, and safety.



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HOW DETROITERS WILL BENEFIT

- FONSI and Appendix D lay groundwork for equity.
- Investment of the fair market value of the land into the community.
- Extensive community engagement with various opportunities to provide input.
- Implementation of a visionary approach for including minority businesses in the Project that is representative of the community and extends beyond the ribbon cutting.



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ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Since 2017, the team has met with numerous business, educational, community, faith-based, and civic stakeholders.



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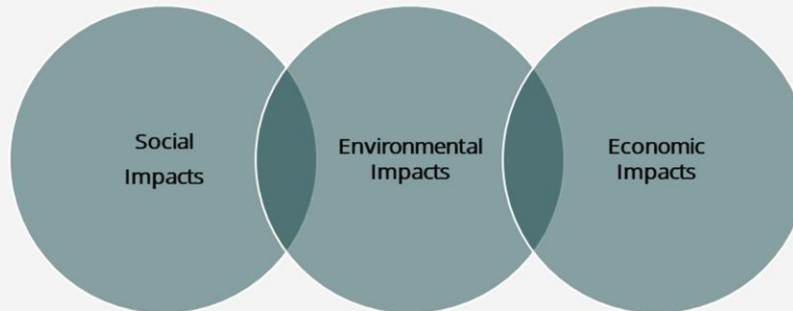
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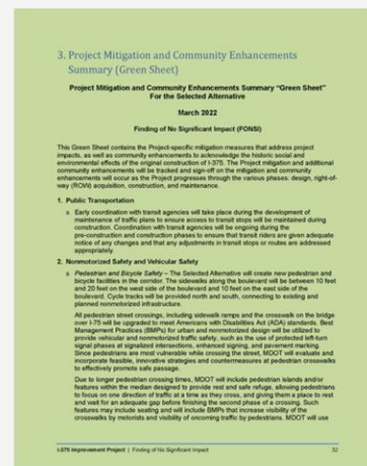
WHAT IS NEPA?

- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- All projects receiving federal dollars or federal approval must be reviewed for environmental impacts:



FINALIZING THE NEPA PROCESS

- No expected significant environmental impacts were found upon the project's construction of the Selected Alternative.
- All changes made to the proposed project, mitigation measures, and community enhancements are described in the Environmental Assessment errata sheets and Green Sheet in the (Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)).



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EQUITABLE PROJECT DELIVERY

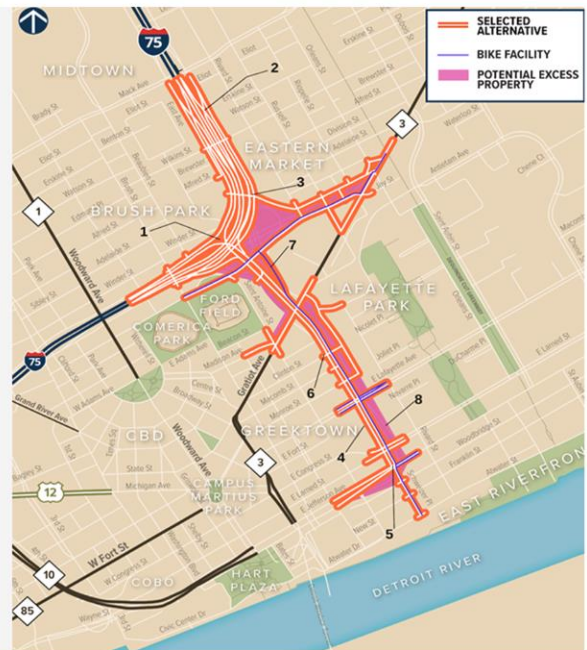
The I-375 FONSI laid the framework for extensive community engagement for the Selected Alternative around the following areas as the Project goes through early design, final design, and construction:

Historical acknowledgments of impacts from the original building of I-375 and honoring the past	Community Enhancements Plan	Land Use Framework Plan development
Visual characteristic elements for corridor design Aesthetics Guide	Special event traffic mgmt. in theatre and stadium district	Maintenance of traffic plans for construction



SELECTED ALTERNATIVE

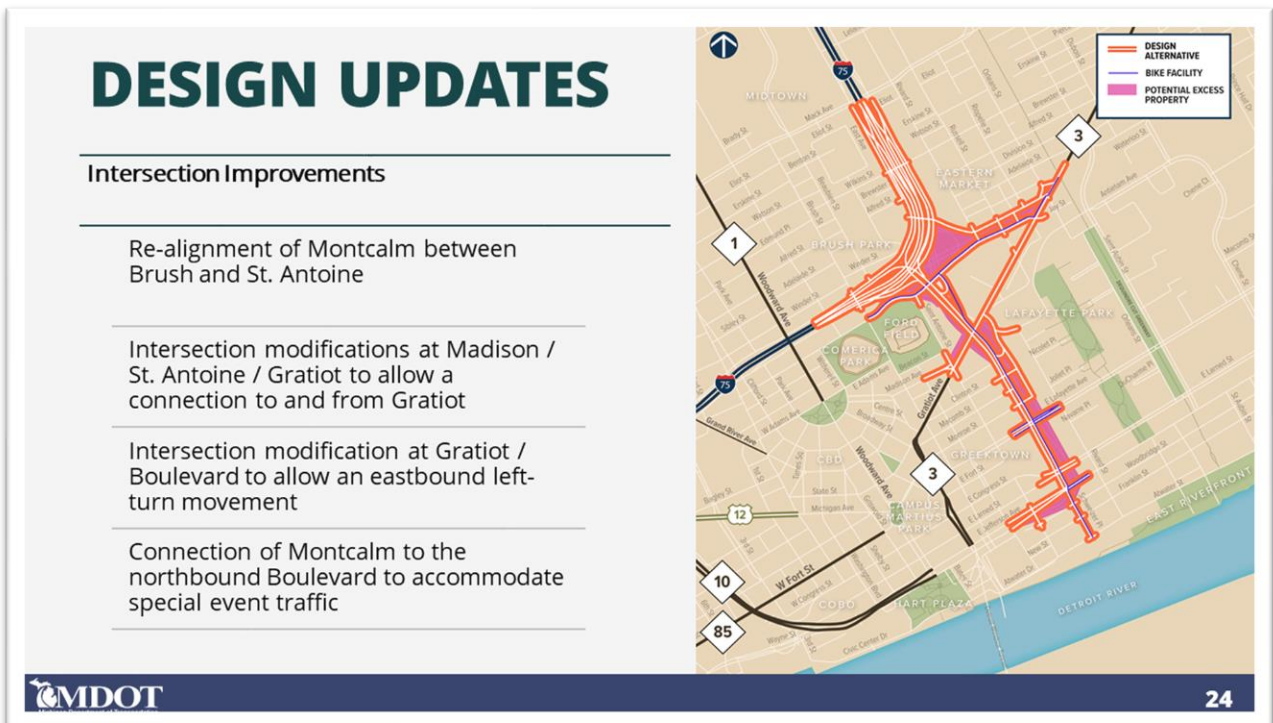
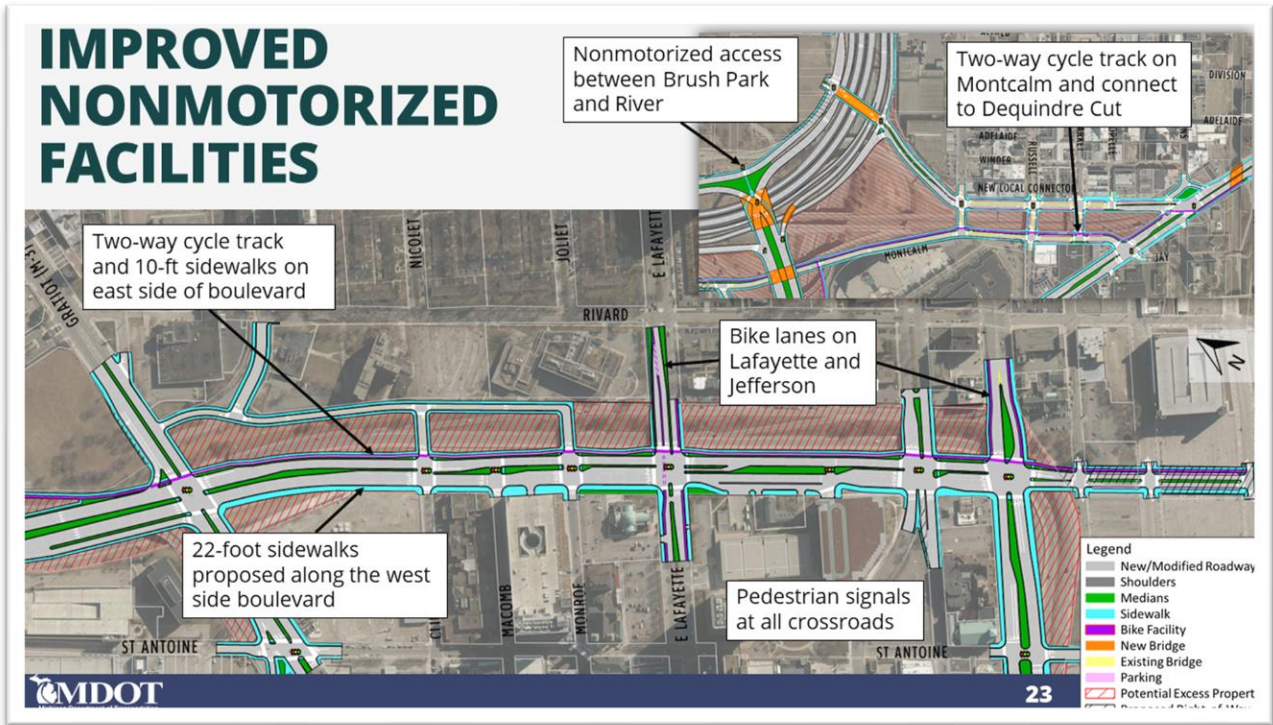
1. I-75/I-375 Interchange
2. Mack Avenue Braided Ramps
3. Brush Park/Eastern Market Connectivity
4. City Street-Level Boulevard
5. Signalized Intersections Along the Boulevard
6. Direct Left-Turns Allowed Along the Boulevard Except for Gratiot Ave.
7. Improved Nonmotorized Facilities
8. Potential Excess Property



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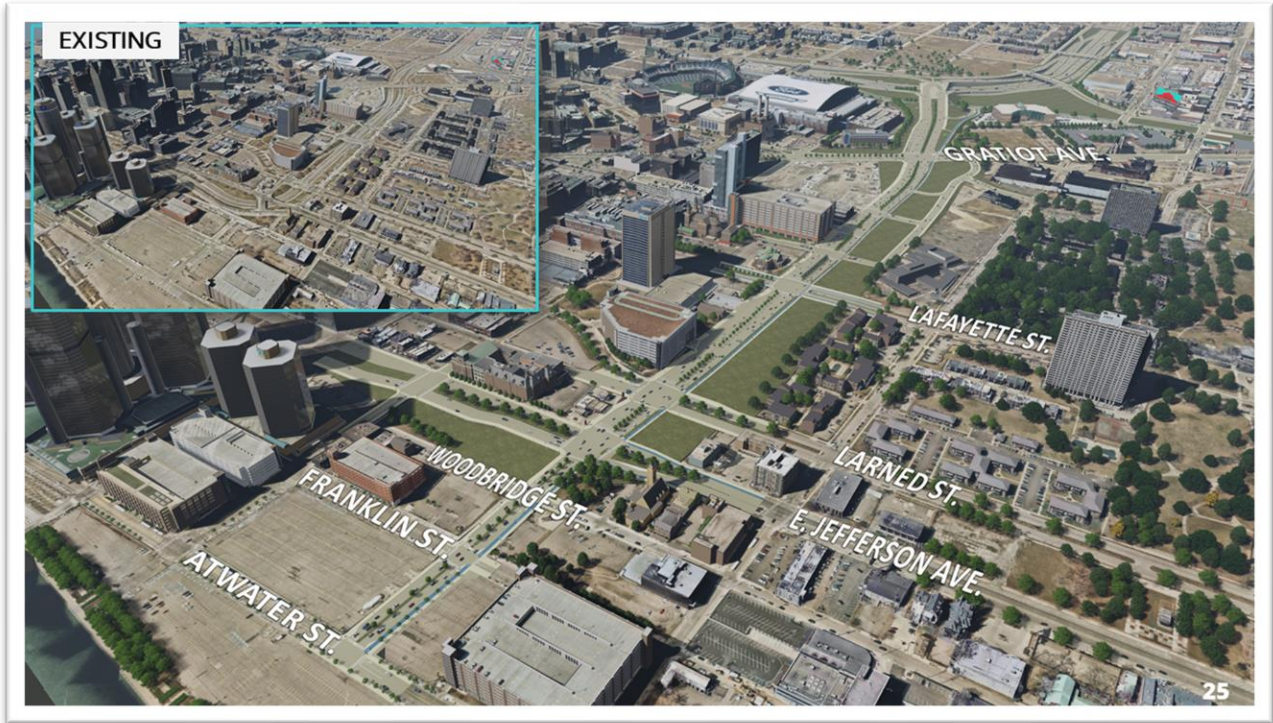
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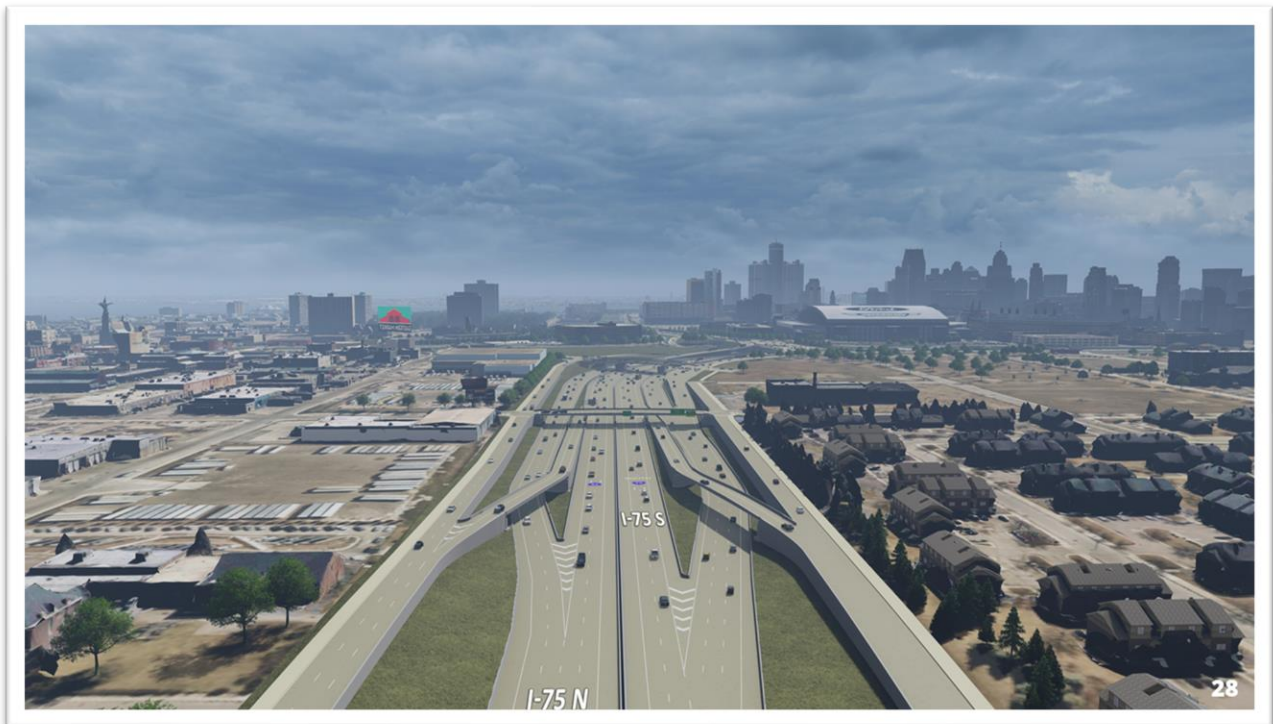
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**THE FRAMEWORK:
LAND USE AND
URBAN DESIGN**

City of Detroit Planning
and Development
Department


MDOT

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THE FRAMEWORK: PRIORITIES

- URBAN DESIGN** → Zoning (FBC possible), open space, storm-water management, walkable neighborhood, mobility options, reconnecting city grid, physical profile
- BOULEVARD DESIGN** → Urban experience, City of Detroit standards, aesthetic standards, capacity (regular and special events), traffic management (smart technology)
- DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION** → Market analysis and value capture, affordable housing strategy, community benefits/enhancements*, minority development participation, mitigating impacts, historic documentation

MDOT

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THE PROJECT: PROJECT COMPONENTS

WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE EXCESS LAND?

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THE PROJECT: LAND-USE PROCESS TO POLICY

FRAMEWORK
(STATE & CITY)

↓

IDEAS/DESIGN
RECOMMENDATIONS

PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT

↓

PLANNING/ZONING
POLICY DEVELOPMENT

CITY PLANNING
COMMISSION

↓

MASTERPLAN/ZONING
RECOMMENDATIONS

+ +

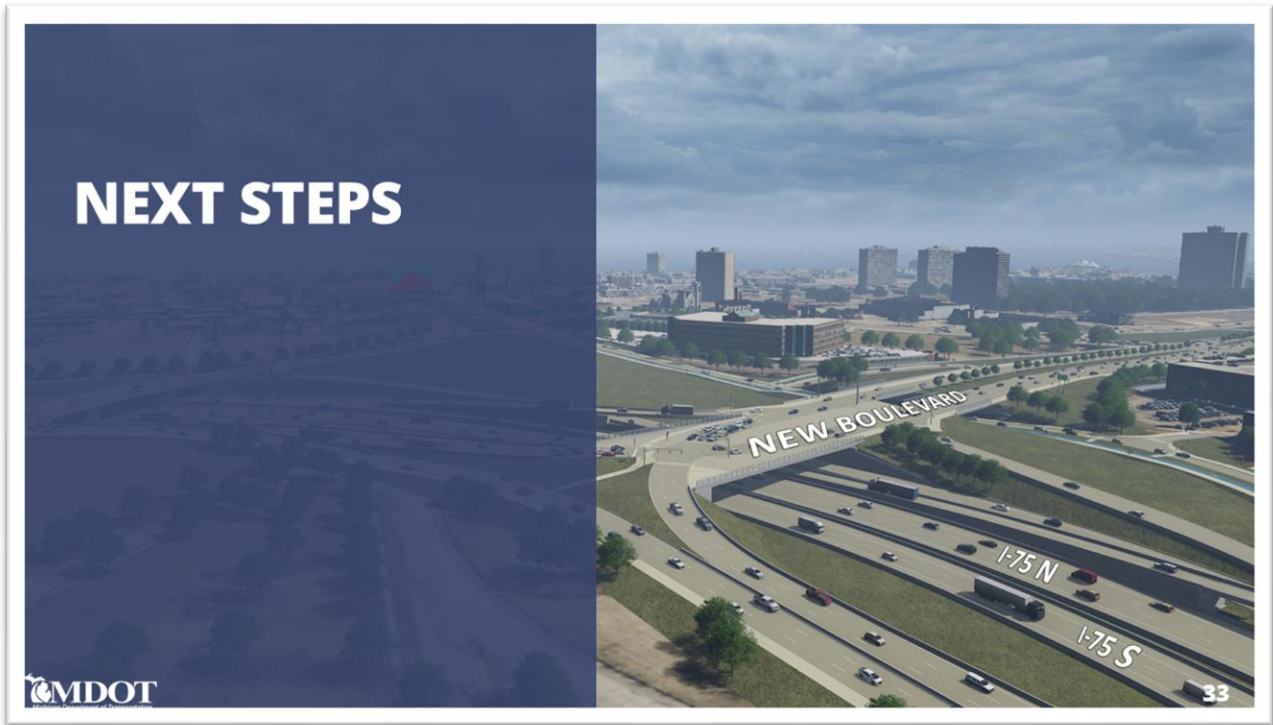
CITY COUNCIL REVIEW AND APPROVAL

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NEXT STEPS 2023

	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Aesthetics Guide												
Maintenance Of Traffic Plans												
Special Events Traffic Plans												
Develop Ways To Honor The Past												
Community Enhancements Plan												
Land Use Framework Plan												



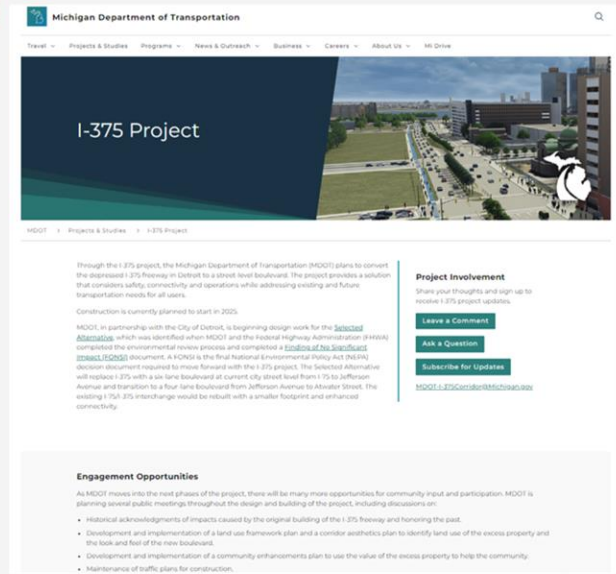
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PROJECT WEBSITE

- www.Michigan.gov/I375
- Latest Project information
- Engagement opportunities
- All Project related reports and studies



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THANK YOU!

I-375 PROJECT MANAGER: JONATHAN LOREE, P.E.
MDOT-I375CORRIDOR@MICHIGAN.GOV or 313-573-0690

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