

I-375 RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PROJECT

MEETING NOTES SUMMARY

LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 5 (COMBINED)

DATE: June 13, 2023

TIME: 5:30 – 7:30 pm

LOCATION: Michigan Science Center, 5020 John R Street, Detroit, MI 48202

ATTENDEES: Residential and Stakeholder LAC Members and Guests, City of Detroit Representatives, MDOT Staff, and HNTB Staff (**See Appendix A: Meeting Attendees**)

The fifth Local Advisory Committee (LAC) meeting with stakeholders and residents was held on June 13th. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss recent input on the design and provide a closer look at how to navigate the new configuration, including key route changes and additional route options created by the new 375 boulevard.

Leslie Love, from MDOT's project team, opened the meeting with a welcome and an overview of the agenda (**See Appendix B: Meeting Presentation**). Leslie explained that the purpose of meeting at the Michigan Science Center was to provide an interactive way to display the project and key routes on a substantially sized screen in order to give LAC members a closer look at the maps reviewed in previous meetings. Leslie then shared save the dates for the next LAC meetings on July 12th and September 13th.

Tony Migaldi, from the project team, then discussed recent engagement activities and went over some key points about the design alternative's development. In the month of May, the project team held several one-on-one meetings with stakeholders to better understand concerns. One of the key groups the team met with were first responders, and they provided valuable feedback. The team is reviewing their feedback and will continue to work with them on ensuring the corridor is safe. Tony let the group know that if any LAC member would like a one-on-one meeting, they can let the project team know, and that process will be continued throughout the summer.

Tony explained that the design alternative was selected with an extensive amount of traffic analysis and stakeholder engagement over the last four years. The project started in 2016, with the environmental phase completed in March of 2022. The team is now focusing on the operations of the project with the Local Advisory Committee and open house meetings. Design elements such as the project footprint, the limits of reconstruction, the number of lanes and interchange connection ramps to the boulevard, are finalized and cannot be

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changed because they have been approved through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

The Project team has developed a set of specific routes that aim to assist individuals in comprehending how their movements will change once the new 375 boulevard is constructed. There was a list of specific routes provided (**See Appendix B: Meeting Presentation**). Tony explained that there wouldn't be enough time to go through every route, but the remaining routes will be posted on the [I-375 project website](#). Before turning the meeting over to Dave Langlois, from the project design team, to go through some of the routes, Tony walked the group through one of the previously shared concept videos. He shared a few highlights while the video played traveling north along the new 375 boulevard from the Detroit Riverfront toward I-75 and ending at Mack Avenue. There is a new Montcalm connection, service drive, local connector east of the boulevard, a bridge connection connecting Eastern Market to Brush Park, and Tony shared that the boulevard will start at Atwater Street and continue north (**See Appendix B: Meeting Presentation**). This video and others of the corridor are posted online at [Michigan.gov/I375](#).

Dave Langlois reviewed a few of the specific routes LAC members shared concerns about in greater detail using Google Earth and noted there were 15 additional routes created that are now on the project website. Dave began by showing the routes as they are today with the current infrastructure, and then he overlaid the proposed design on the map and went through new alternative routes that can be used once the new 375 boulevard is constructed. The following routes were reviewed:

- Lafayette Park to Detroit Medical Center
 - Option 1: Lafayette to DMC via New Service Drive
 - Option 2: Lafayette to DMC via St. Aubin Street
 - Option 3: Lafayette to DMC via Brush Street
 - Option 4: Lafayette to DMC via Warren Avenue
- Gratiot Avenue to southbound I-75
 - Option 1: Gratiot Avenue to southbound I-75 via new 375 boulevard
- Northbound I-75 to Gratiot Avenue/Vernor Highway
 - Option 1: Northbound I-75 to Gratiot Avenue via new 375 boulevard
- Southbound I-75 to Eastern Market
 - Southbound I-75 to Eastern Market via new 375 boulevard

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- Eastern Market to northbound I-75
 - Eastern Market to northbound I-75 via Montcalm Street

As Dave finished his presentation, the project team gave members of the LAC a chance to ask questions. Participants asked questions surrounding access to Mack Avenue, the concern about the extra time needed to get to the hospital in case of emergencies, and adding traffic to residential areas. Regarding access to Mack Avenue, Dave stated that you will still be able to get off on Mack from southbound I-75 but cannot get off at Mack Avenue from northbound I-75 if utilizing the new 375 boulevard. He also stated that they are working on a model that will provide a better idea of timing.

After the presentation, the following questions and comments were raised:

- An LAC resident commented that if there is no Mack Avenue exit, the reduction in speed during peak traffic hours will cause longer travel time
- It was asked whether Wilkins Street would be replaced
- An LAC resident asked if the project team is only considering one route option or all route options
- Another LAC resident commented that Rivard Street is a busy street during events, and that the current infrastructure will not be able to handle newly routed traffic
- It was also mentioned that the project team should study non-motorized forms of travel like walking and biking, and not just driving on the main roads
- A Lafayette Park resident wanted to understand their route from Lafayette Park to southbound I-75

In response to the Mack Avenue comment, the project team replied that the speed limit will be 35 miles per hour along the new 375 boulevard north of Jefferson Avenue and 25 miles per hour south of Jefferson Avenue. Travel times will be longer, but the project team is working with the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan to make routes as efficient as possible. As for the replacement of Wilkins Street, the project team responded yes, it will be replaced because that area needs to accommodate new ramps. Regarding the example routes, it was explained that these routes are some possible options among many that people can take to get around and these were selected to help the group understand how common travel movements will change. In response to the last inquiry about how to get to

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southbound I-75 from Lafayette Park, the project team explained that they would take Lafayette Street to the new 375 boulevard, and stay in the left lanes to take the ramp to southbound I-75.

Following questions, the group went into breakout sessions to allow members of the combined LAC to speak to project team members, with the aid of corridor roll plots, about further questions and concerns.

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APPENDIX A: MEETING ATTENDEES

Staff:

- Kay Adefeso, MDOT
- Leslie Love, MDOT
- Tony Migaldi, HNTB
- Dave Langlois, HNTB
- Evan Forgacs, HNTB
- Lesley Turk, HNTB
- Regine Beauboeuf, HNTB
- Bradleigh Merrill, HNTB
- Kelly Sweeny, HNTB
- Sasha Freeman, HNTB
- Jalen Jennings, HNTB
- Jared Davis-Sims, HNTB
- Dan Lijana, Lovio George Communications
- Christina Lovio-George, Lovio George Communications

City of Detroit:

- John Sivills, City of Detroit
- Kevin Schronce, City of Detroit
- Samuel Krassenstein, City of Detroit

LAC Residents:

- Terry Campbell, Office of U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow
- Olga Stella, Navarre Place
- Christian Unverzagt, Lafayette Park
- Mona Ross-Gardner, Bailey Park Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Jennifer Pasha, Bailey Park Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Izegbe N'Namdi, Lafayette Park
- Nathan Fisher, Parc Lafayette Condos
- Jay Gregory Love, Indian Village Manor Condominium
- Maria Urquidi, Lafayette Town Houses Co-Op

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- Gloria Myers, Resident
- Rebecca Chung, The Pavillion
- Shirley Berger, North Park Co-Op
- Jennifer Sexton, Parc Lafayette Condominium Association
- Gregory Reed, Resident

LAC Stakeholders:

- Melanie Markowicz, Greektown Neighborhood Partnership
- David Di Rita, Detroit Theatre District Association
- Michael Darga, Giffels Webster (representing the Detroit Theatre District Association)
- Dan Carmody, Eastern Market Partnership
- Karen Slaughter-DuPerry, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy
- Kimle Nailer, NABWIC, Nail-Rite Construction Company, Inc.
- Emily Williams Guffey, Christ Church Detroit
- Katy Trudeau, Eastern Market
- Jim Bonahoom, Wolverine Packing Company
- Jay Bonahoom, Wolverine Packing Company
- Veerender Singh Sardar, Bedrock
- Ken Marchetti, Old St. Mary's Detroit
- Dietrich Knoer, Eastern Market
- Allison Bohn, Office of U.S. Senator Stephanie Chang

Non-LAC Attendees:

- Joshua Roberson, City of Detroit Department of Neighborhoods
- Keith Butler, City of Detroit Department of Neighborhoods
- Alex Ivanikiw, Resident
- Connie Ivanikiw, Resident

**Some non-LAC members may be sitting in for a member at their organization*

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APPENDIX B: MEETING PRESENTATION



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LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 13, 2023



AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Project Updates
3. Design Alternative Overview
4. Questions

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SAVE THE DATES

Local Advisory Committee Meetings

July 12

- Stakeholder 3:00–4:30 p.m.
- Resident 5:30–7:00 p.m.

September 13

- Stakeholder 3:00–4:30 p.m.
- Resident 5:30–7:00 p.m.



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DESIGN ALTERNATIVE OVERVIEW

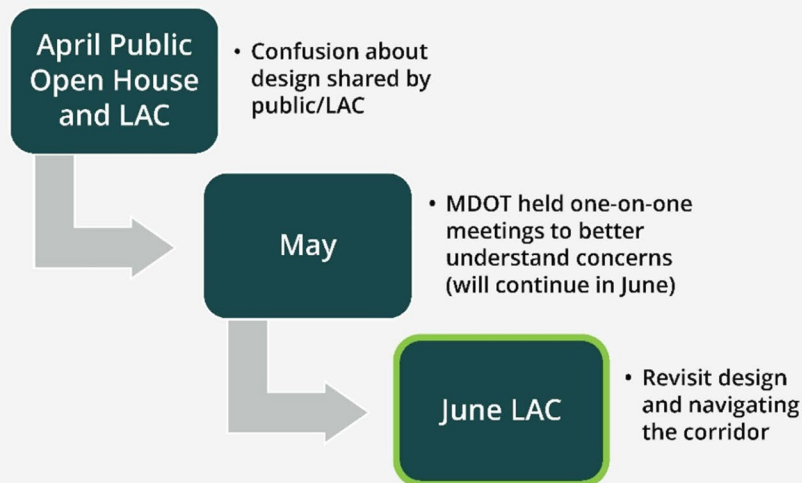


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RECENT ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW



DESIGN ALTERNATIVE NEXT STEPS

Finalized during NEPA phase:

- The project footprint/limits of the reconstruction
- Number of lanes on the new at-grade boulevard
- Interchange connection ramps at the at-grade boulevard

Design features that can be altered moving forward:

Refinements to geometry:

- Intersection layout
- Freeway ramp layout and curve radii
- Non-motorized path and sidewalk alignment
- Driveway configurations

Implementation of innovative infrastructure:

- Modernized traffic signals
- Signing
- Pavement markings

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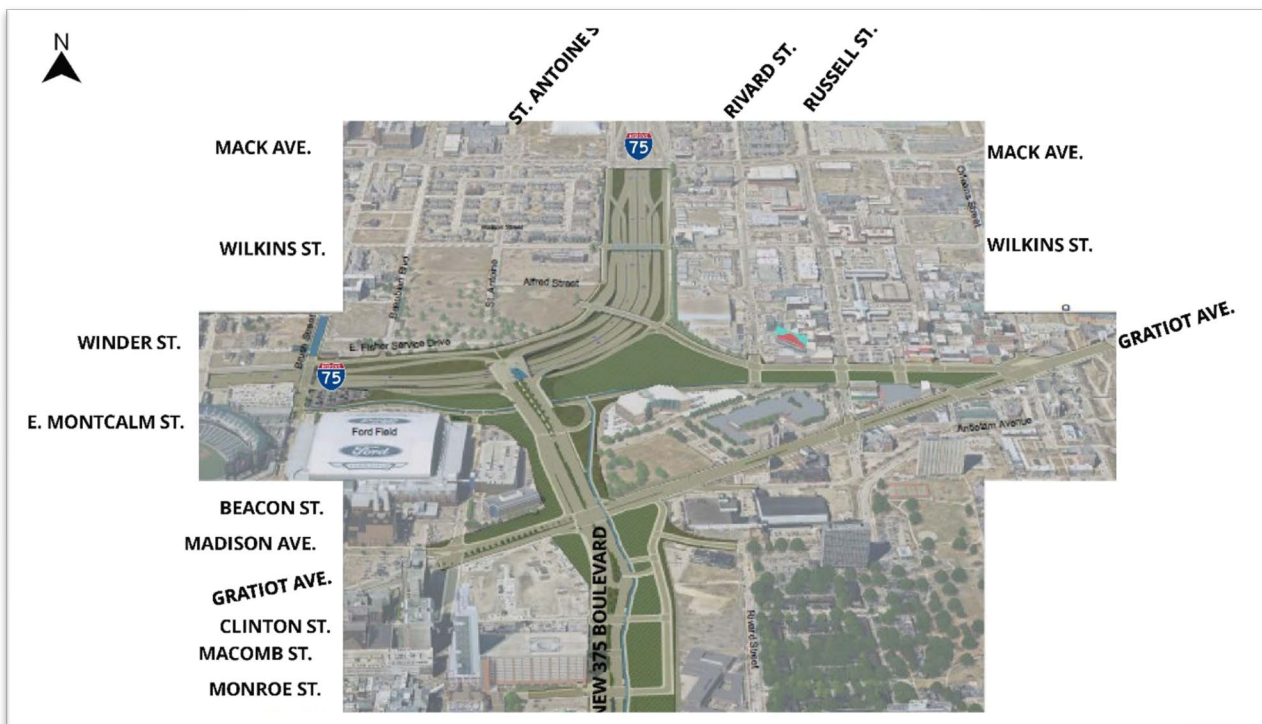
REVIEW SPECIFIC ROUTES

- Lafayette Park to Detroit Medical Center
- North I-75 to Eastern Market
- South I-75 to Eastern Market
- Gratiot Ave. to Southbound I-75
- Gratiot Ave. to Northbound I-75
- North I-75 to Gratiot Ave.
- Chrysler Elementary School to North I-75
- Greektown to North I-75
- South I-75 to Greektown
- South I-75 to the Riverfront
- Entertainment District to North I-75
- North I-75 to Entertainment District
- Ford Field to South I-75
- South I-75 to Ford Field
- North I-75 to Ford Field

All routes will be online by June 15 at: www.Michigan.gov/I375 under the Local Advisory Committee tab or follow up with a team member for a demonstration.



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