

# I-375 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

## A Guide to the Completed National Environmental Policy Act Process

Located in the city of Detroit, I-375 is a 1-mile-long freeway that connects the I-75 freeway directly to Jefferson Avenue. Through the I-375 Improvement Project, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) plans to replace an outdated freeway and deteriorating roadways and structures while improving safety and connectivity, and supporting economic development and placemaking opportunities.

### PROJECT UPDATE

In early 2021, MDOT opened a 45-day public comment period and hosted a public hearing and virtual meeting following the release of the Environmental Assessment (EA). MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have documented and thoroughly reviewed the public comments submitted in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) document. A FONSI is the final National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decision document required to move forward with the I-375 Improvement Project. The document describes why there are no expected significant environmental impacts upon construction of the Selected Alternative for the project. When the FONSI was signed, the [Preferred Alternative](#) identified in the EA became the **Selected Alternative** that will move forward into design. Project comments, with responses, can be reviewed in the FONSI. This document is now available on the [project website](#).

### FINALIZING THE NEPA PROCESS

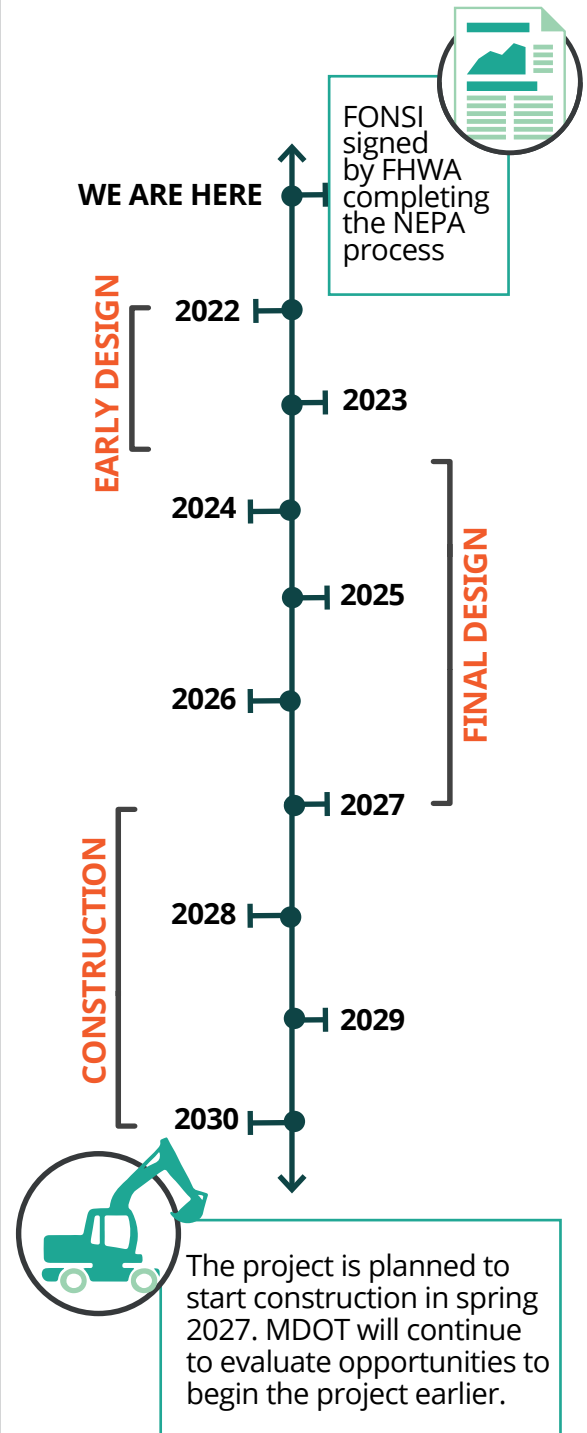
NEPA is about people and places. The NEPA process balances engineering and transportation needs with social, economic, and natural environmental factors. All changes made to the proposed project, mitigation measures, and the Community Enhancements are described in the EA errata sheets and Green Sheet in the FONSI.

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Through this engagement MDOT heard several historical accounts of environmental injustices occurring with the original building of I-375, which are documented in the FONSI document.

Throughout the process of developing and finalizing the EA, MDOT frequently engaged with stakeholders and the community. MDOT continuously heard from the project's Local Advisory Committee (LAC) and Government Advisory Committee (GAC), that the local community prefers replacement of the freeway with a facility that provides greater community connectivity and

### NEXT STEPS



more transportation options. That input contributed to the design of the Preferred Alternative presented in the EA in December 2020, which is now the Selected Alternative.

### MDOT'S COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

To address the public comments, MDOT will take measures that acknowledge the impacts on residents and business owners in the former Black Bottom and Paradise Valley neighborhoods when I-375 was originally built. MDOT will:

- Implement a process for the community to provide meaningful input that can be incorporated into final design and construction. The process will begin with the formation of a new community-based LAC that will lead development of a community enhancements plan.
- Facilitate, develop, and implement a Community Enhancements plan, land use framework plan, and aesthetic guide with the new LAC.
- Use the value of excess property to help the community.

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#### EARLY DESIGN AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE

The early design for the I-375 Improvement Project Selected Alternative will begin in March 2022. MDOT intends to have several more public meetings throughout the design and building of the project, including discussions on:

- Historical acknowledgements of impacts caused by the original building of the I-375 freeway.
- Community enhancement plan and land use framework plan development.
- Visual characteristic elements to include in the corridor design.
- Special event traffic management in theatre and stadium district.
- Maintenance of traffic plans for construction.

Details on the next public meeting will be available in summer 2022. For questions, please contact the project team at [MDOT-I-375corridor@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDOT-I-375corridor@Michigan.gov).



### WHERE TO VIEW OR REQUEST THE FONSI

- View the FONSI at: [www.Michigan.gov/I375Study](http://www.Michigan.gov/I375Study).
- View a hard copy at:  
**Detroit Public Library - Main**  
5201 Woodward Ave.,  
Detroit, MI 48202  
**Wayne County Community College District** - Copies are hosted in the President's Office and Learning Resource Center at  
1001 W. Fort St., Detroit, MI 48226
- To make a special request for the document or section of the document or to have it mailed to you, contact Monica Monsma, at 517-335-4381 or [MonsmaM@Michigan.gov](mailto:MonsmaM@Michigan.gov).
- Accommodations can be made for persons with disabilities and/or limited English-speaking ability, persons needing, auxiliary aids or services of readers, translation or large print. To make a request, contact Orlando Curry at 517-241-7462 or [CurryO@Michigan.gov](mailto:CurryO@Michigan.gov).



### CONTACT US

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#### VISIT

[www.Michigan.gov/I375Study](http://www.Michigan.gov/I375Study)

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