

DOWNTOWN KALAMAZOO PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGE (PEL) STUDY (Revised)

STUDY AREA: Stadium Drive between Howard Street and Michigan Avenue; Michigan Avenue between Stadium Drive and Kalamazoo Avenue; Kalamazoo Avenue between Douglas Avenue and Harrison Street; Michikal Street between Michigan Avenue and Kalamazoo Avenue; Riverview Drive between Harrison Street and Gull Road; and Douglas Avenue between West Main Street and Kalamazoo Avenue.

Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL)

- This is an approach to transportation decision-making that helps the Michigan Department of Transportation, local governments and agencies consider environmental issues early in the transportation planning process and use the information and analysis conducted in planning for design.
- Addresses complex environmental challenges early and avoids environmentally sensitive natural resources
- Designs projects that meet mobility, environmental and community needs
- Utilizing the constraints information, engagement results and alternatives developed during the PEL process, helps minimize duplication of efforts and data during project development if a preferred alternative is identified.

This project development process will include:

- Developing a purpose and need
- Engaging the community, resource agencies, and stakeholders
- Developing decision making criteria for evaluating conceptual alternatives to conclude with recommendations that have the most benefits and least impacts.

The PEL Process will use a collaborative and integrated approach to select future transportation improvements that:

- Consider environmental, community and economic goals.
- Uses the information, analysis and products developed during this process to inform the environmental review process during subsequent project development.
- Develop a project purpose and need and practical alternatives for the corridor in the study area.
- Review the feasibility of alternatives considered moving toward a preferred alternative.

Prior Study

The KATS/MDOT charrette was held in 2014 to address the long term future needs and a vision for the vehicular movement, access and increased pedestrian/bicycle safety for the Stadium Drive/West Michigan Avenue corridor from WMU eastbound to the Kalamazoo River. This PEL study will review the recommendations, engage stakeholders, the public and others to research and discern what fits this road and this community.

4/12/16