

TO: NEWS MEDIA

FROM: GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

DATE: January 7, 2019

SUBJECT: ROAD COMMISSION INVITES PUBLIC TO EDUCATION SESSION REGARDING LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Traverse City. The Grand Traverse County Road Commission invites community members to participate in a free public education session regarding land use and transportation access management. The session will be held on Monday, January 14, 2019 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Traverse Area District Library, 610 Woodmere Avenue, Traverse City MI 49684

Land use decisions, including how and where driveways are permitted along roadways, impact the way transportation systems function. The purpose of the education session is the share information with the public regarding access management best practices and about local government roles and levels of authority for land use and access management decision-making. The access management presentation will be shared by Brad Strader of MKSK, a landscape architecture, urban design and planning practice. Mr. Strader is a member of the consultant team led by planning and engineering firm OHM Advisors who was hired by the Road Commission to complete a transportation study and develop a range of solutions focused on east-west corridors and crosstown connections. Access management practices are important considerations that will impact potential solutions.

The geographic scope of the study includes Grandview Parkway south to Beitner Road between US-31 and east to 4 Mile Road. Other areas and routes that influence transportation and traffic patterns in the study area will also be evaluated. The study process will include information about transportation assets under the City and MDOT's jurisdiction, however due to the scope of the Road Commission's authority, the alternatives presented by OHM Advisors will be limited to areas outside of the City limits and will not include recommendations for City streets, City bike/ pedestrian infrastructure or MDOT roads.

The consultant team is following the Federal Highway Administration's Planning and Environmental Linkages process, which is designed to address social, ecological and economic considerations and constraints related to transportation and mobility. The outcomes and deliverables of study will include an assessment of travel demand, a map and report that depicts social, environmental, economic constraints and issues in the study area, publicly-informed goals (called a Purpose and Need statement) and criteria to evaluate projects, a range of alternatives that fit the criteria, and preferred alternatives.

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Public and stakeholder input has helped to define the study's Purpose and Need statement and to frame the criteria for the way projects will be selected and the way potential solutions will be evaluated. The Purpose and Need statement can be viewed on the Road Commission's website.

The public will have an opportunity to review the range of conceptual alternatives being developed in February 2019. The public's feedback will help to inform the development of a set of preferred solutions and a suite of projects that may be implement over the short and long-term. It is anticipated this phase of work will be completed in April 2019. More information about the study process is available on Grand Traverse County Road Commission's website: www.gtcr.org.

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