



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Julie
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Rogers
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
Representative Matt Longjohn
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
City of Kalamazoo
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
241 West South Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
N/A
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Representative Julie Rogers-District 41
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
Between 2014 and 2025, Michigan Avenue between Howard and Drake Road has experienced an astounding 651 total crashes – an average of almost five (5) crashes per month on a segment of road a mere 1.43 miles long. The street is heavily traveled by young drivers and serves as a primary route to classes and events at Western Michigan University daily, as well as a major route to access downtown Kalamazoo from the west. This segment of road has an AADT of near 50,000 vehicles daily.

The high volume of traffic comes with direct and dire consequences for users. According to crash data, almost 80% of all crashes that occur along this stretch of road involve young drivers (between the ages of 18 and 24). Sadly, 15% of these crashes result in severe injury and three fatalities have occurred on this segment of road – making it a top concern and leading to plans to redesign and reconstruct it in 2027. Initial planning and design are underway now, with final design to be complete in 2026.

This project improves multi-modal connections for all users of Michigan Avenue between Drake and Howard – pedestrians, drivers, cyclists, transit users and more – and will achieve several primary goals:

Safety – Plans for the project include compliance with the City of Kalamazoo’s Complete Street Policy, creating slower, smoother, and safer travel. Nonmotorized travelers will be protected with improved sidewalks and walkways, reduction of lane width (including potentially dividing lanes), and the implementation of various evidence-based countermeasures.

Improved Connectivity – The project emphasizes supporting the safe use of the street by all users, improving pedestrian and non-motorized access to classes, businesses along this portion of the road, and various campus events. This segment of road doesn’t have typical “rush hours” but rather experiences high volumes of traffic throughout the day. Planned upgrades will support access using all modes throughout the day. Installation of additional lighting improves visibility, divided lanes support safety, and physical barriers that make access challenging will be removed.

State of Good Repair – The City of Kalamazoo is including photos of this segment of street and these photos serve as evidence that the street is in need of upgrades. The most recent Pavement Surface and Evaluation Rating (PASER) review of these streets yielded an average of 3.49 (out of 10). This indicates severe rutting, alligator cracking, occasional potholes, and patches in fair/poor condition. There are a plethora of potholes and alligator cracks which further contribute to the safety risks as drivers swerve to avoid damaging their vehicles. The PASER rating, post implementation, will return to 10 and the street will return to a normal repair cycle, lasting at least 25 years as it is updated.

There are no violations of Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution relative to this request.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

2750000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["Local"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Not applicable

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

N/A

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

Designs will be started and completed in 2026 and construction will be started and completed in 2027.

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes



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There are no violations of Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution relative to this request.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments are included in this PDF document for your review.

- **Project Photos**
- **Letters of Support for the Project from stakeholders**

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

\$2,750,000 (total project cost of \$3,500,000)

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

The City of Kalamazoo has committed \$750,000 of local funding to support this project.

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Local Unit of Government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

N/A

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

N/A

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

N/A

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

N/A

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, I certify this is correct.

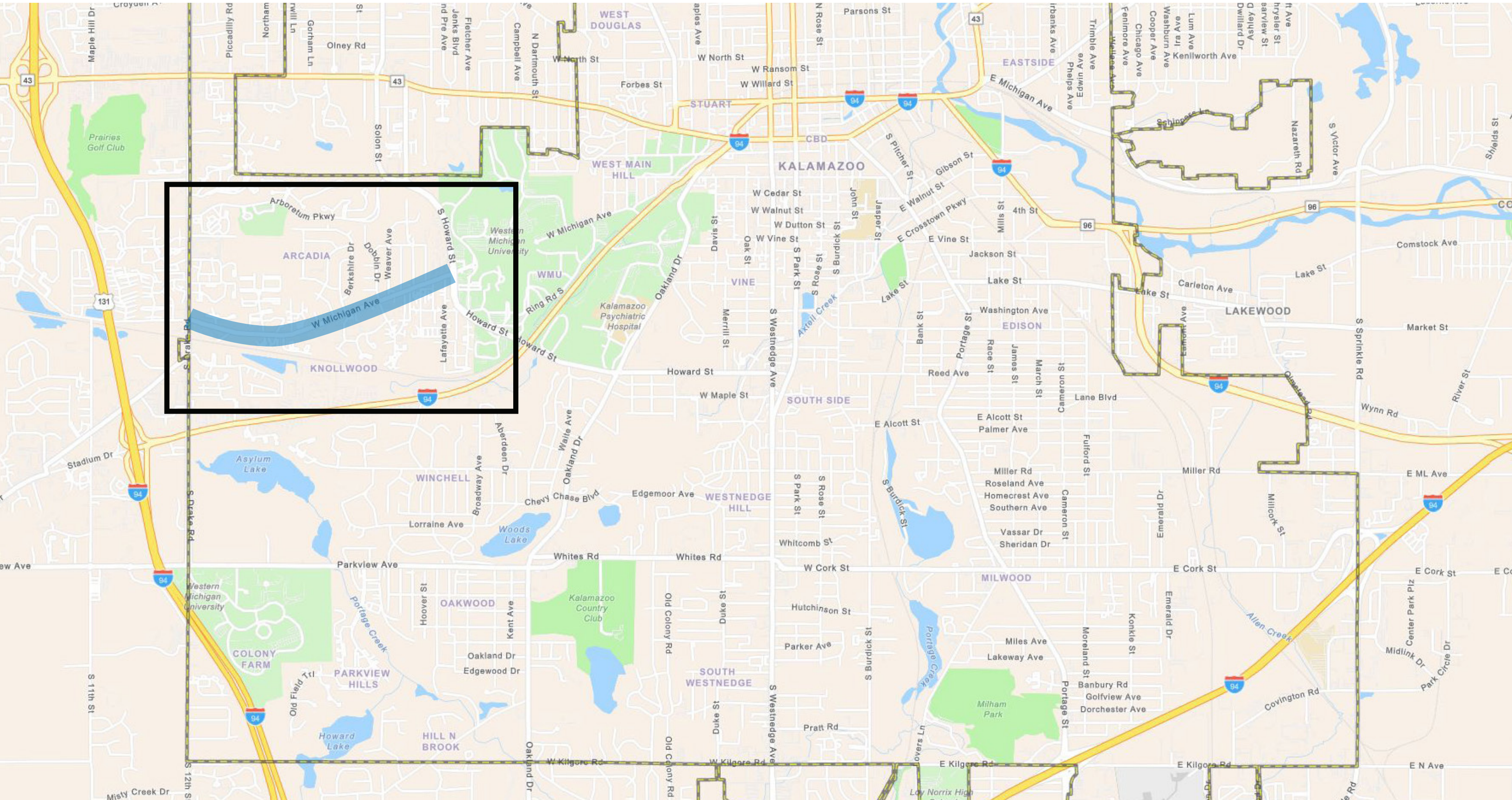
18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

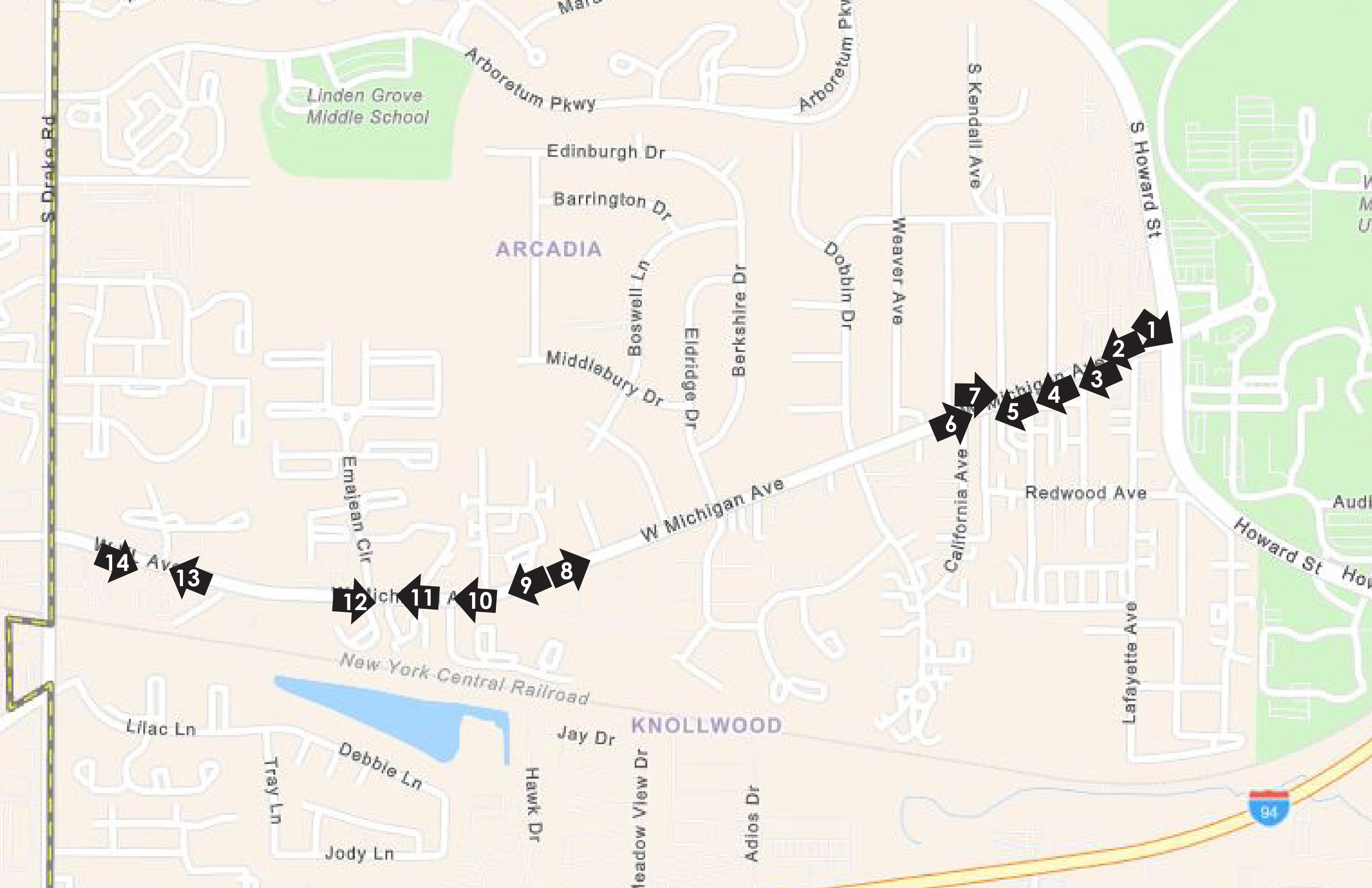
Designs (preliminary and final engineering, including community engagement) will be started and completed in 2026 and construction will be started and completed in 2027.

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes, all information in this request is certified to be true and accurate.

W Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI





Linden Grove
Middle School

Arboretum Pkwy

Arboretum Pkwy

Edinburgh Dr

Barrington Dr

ARCADIA

Boswell Ln

Eldridge Dr

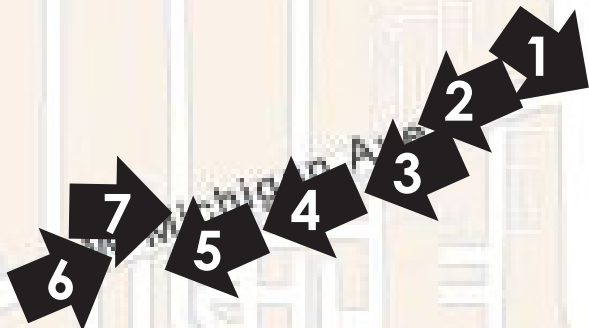
Berkshire Dr

Cobbin Dr

Weaver Ave

S Kendall Ave

S Howard St



California Ave

Redwood Ave

Lafayette Ave

Howard St

W Michigan Ave



New York Central Railroad

KNOLLWOOD

Jay Dr

Adios Dr

Meadow View Dr

Hawk Dr

Debbie Ln

Jody Ln

Tray Ln

Lilac Ln



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13



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External Partnerships

1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI
49008-5247 Phone: (269) 387-3606 •
wmich.edu/community

March 3, 2025

City of Kalamazoo
241 West South Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Subject: Letter of Support for the City of Kalamazoo's Congressionally Directed Spending Request

On behalf of Western Michigan University (WMU), I am pleased to offer strong support for the City of Kalamazoo's request for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) to fund the design and construction of Michigan Avenue between Howard Street and Drake Road.

As a key corridor connecting Western Michigan University to the broader Kalamazoo community, Michigan Avenue plays an essential role in facilitating safe and efficient transportation for students, faculty, staff, and residents. The proposed improvements—including sidewalks, crosswalks, and traffic-calming measures—will significantly enhance pedestrian infrastructure, addressing longstanding safety concerns in an area with a high accident rate, including four fatalities in the past decade.

WMU fully supports this project as it aligns with our commitment to fostering a safe, connected, and accessible environment for our campus and the surrounding community. Specifically, we recognize the importance of:

- **Safety Enhancements** – Reducing vehicle speeds and improving pedestrian and cyclist safety in a high-traffic corridor.
- **Student and Community Accessibility** – Ensuring students and residents have safe, walkable, and well-connected transportation options.
- **University-City Collaboration** – Strengthening the relationship between WMU and the City of Kalamazoo by investing in infrastructure improvements that benefit all stakeholders.

With a total project cost of \$3.5 million, the City of Kalamazoo's commitment of \$750,000 as match funding demonstrates its dedication to this critical initiative. The design and community engagement process planned for 2026 will ensure that diverse perspectives are incorporated into the project's development. WMU looks forward to actively participating in these discussions to help shape a corridor that serves the needs of our students and the broader community.

Western Michigan University is proud to support this initiative and urges the approval of funding for this essential project. We appreciate the City's leadership in prioritizing infrastructure improvements that enhance safety, accessibility, and connectivity, and we look forward to continued collaboration to bring this vision to reality. If further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact me at (269) 387-3606.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lisa Garcia'.

President for External Partnerships



Connecting People Throughout
Kalamazoo County

March 5, 2025

Ms. Kerry L. Williams, MPA, Grants Division Manager
City of Kalamazoo
241 West South Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Dear Ms. Williams,

I am writing to express Metro's support for the City of Kalamazoo's Congressionally Directed Spending request aimed at planning, designing, and constructing the portion of Michigan Avenue between Howard Street and Drake Road.

This important project, slated for design in 2026 and construction in 2027-2028, will address serious safety concerns. High rates of speed on this portion of Michigan Avenue give rise to a concerning number of accidents, including four fatalities in the past 10 years. This pressing project will incorporate sidewalks, crosswalks, and traffic-calming measures essential for the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders and drivers. These improvements will also create better connections between the campus area, downtown, and regional shopping corridors.

Metro is actively involved in upgrades to the downtown Kalamazoo streets network as the regional public transit provider. Metro has a vested interest in providing safe, reliable public transportation for those traveling in the downtown area and to destinations throughout Kalamazoo County. We currently see over 2 million passengers boarding and alighting Metro buses at our downtown Transportation Center and Intermodal Center as well as passengers traveling downtown for Amtrak, Greyhound, and Indian Trails service.

Metro welcomes advancement of this project which further supports the City's and Metro's longstanding partnership on issues of community safety. It is in our best interest to provide the citizens of Kalamazoo safe, well-functioning streets that foster safe, efficient connectivity within our community.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of this funding request. Please let us know if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Sean P. McBride
Executive Director



The Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Greater Kalamazoo Area

5220 Lovers Lane, Suite 110
Portage, MI 49002
☎ 269-343-0766
✉ info@KATSmpo.org

March 10, 2025

The Honorable Gary Peters
United States Senate
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Peters,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support and feedback on potential projects through the congressionally directed spending process. The Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Kalamazoo urbanized area. As the agency charged with implementing the federal planning process for the metropolitan area, KATS is well positioned to provide support for the following City of Kalamazoo project submitted for your consideration:

- Michigan Avenue- Howard Street to Drake Road

This critical project will incorporate essential pedestrian infrastructure for students who travel throughout the area daily, including sidewalks, crosswalks, and traffic-calming measures. These changes will enhance safety for all users—pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and drivers—while creating better connections between the campus area and the city.

The project is identified in the draft Fiscal Year 2026-2029 KATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as illustrative. Once funding is identified, the project will be amended into the funded KATS program following our approved Public Participation Process. As an agency that fosters a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative process we are ready to collaborate with our partner agencies to deliver these projects if selected.

The Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study would be happy to discuss these projects in further detail. Please feel free to contact me via email (sstepek@katsmpo.org) or by phone at (269) 343-0766 ext. 13.

Sincerely,

Steven L Stepek, AICP
Executive Director
Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study