

### **PUBLIC REALM**

### WHAT IS THE PUBLIC REALM

The public realm refers to publicly-owned spaces that are easily accessible to the community, such as streets, parks, squares, plazas, courtyards, and alleys. These areas serve as communal gathering spaces and are designed to promote social interaction and enhance the well-being of the public. They are owned and maintained by the government or other public entities, and their primary purpose is to serve the community.

In contrast, the private realm consists of privately-owned areas, mainly occupied by buildings and associated developments. These spaces are not as readily accessible to the public, and their use is often restricted to the owners or occupants of the private property. While the private realm is crucial for shaping the physical landscape of the community, it has more limited accessibility and is not intended for public use in the same way as the public realm.

The balance between the public and private realms is essential to create a harmonious and inclusive environment that meets the diverse needs of the community. By providing accessible and inviting public spaces, the public realm contributes to the overall quality of life, encourages social interaction, and fosters a sense of community.

#### SITE CONSIDERATIONS

SCALE, SAFETY, CONTEXT, ACCESSIBILITY, CLIMATE, VIEWS, PLACE IDENTITY, SENSORY EXPERIENCE, MAINTENANCE, MULTFUNCTIONALITY, HABITAT

#### PHYSICAL ELEMENTS

TRAFFIC CALMING, MATERIALS, LIGHTING, SEPARATION, PAVING, PLAY EQUIPMENT, SIGNAGE, FURNITURE, WATER, PLANTS ETC.

#### ACTIVITY PROGRAMMING

COMMUNITY, FESTIVALS, SPORTS, PERFORMING ARTS, FARMERS MARKETS, EVENTS, FOOD, URBAN FARMING ETC.



### **PRIORITIES**

### INVESTING IN DOWNTOWN LANSING'S PUBLIC REALM



NON-MOTORIZED
NETWORKS + RIVER
CONNECTION

- **GREEN WEB**
- TACTICAL INTERVENTIONS

- Building on and refreshing downtown Lansing's "brand"
- Enhancing underutilized corridors and places
- Investing in economically emerging areas
- Building a Complete Streets network in downtown
- Enhancing Connecting Corridors that link districts together
- Connecting downtown streets and places to the river, visually and physically
- Investing in programming and activities
- Supporting growing downtown population with open space amenities
- Review of project priorities - tactile to full installation interventions

### **PRIORITIES**

To revitalize downtown Lansing, several strategies can be employed. Firstly, building on and refreshing downtown Lansing's "brand" is crucial. This involves identifying the unique characteristics and strengths of the area and leveraging them to attract visitors, businesses, and residents.

Secondly, enhancing underutilized corridors and places is essential to maximize the potential of these areas. By transforming neglected or vacant spaces into vibrant and functional places, the overall appeal and vitality of downtown can be significantly improved.

Lastly, investing in economically emerging areas is a strategic approach to foster growth and development. By allocating resources and support to areas with untapped potential, downtown Lansing can become a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic prosperity. These combined efforts will contribute to the revitalization of downtown Lansing, creating a thriving and dynamic urban center.

### INVESTING IN DOWNTOWN LANSING'S PUBLIC REALM



# NON-MOTORIZED NETWORKS + RIVER CONNECTION

### GREEN WEE

## TACTICAL INTERVENTIONS

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SMITHGROUP

### REFERENCE MATERIALS AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

















### **BEST PRACTICES**

#### **CREATE PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**



- Share funding opportunities
- Built-in maintenance and care
- Enhances downtown businesses
- Creates a variety of spaces for pedestrians
- Increases safety with more eyes on the street

### **ENCOURAGE A HEALTHY TREE CANOPY**



- Cools down the built environment for comfort
- Enhances downtown habitat
- Increases curb appeal

### **EXPAND PUBLIC ART**



- Enhances or creates new distinctions
- Engages with artists
- Expands the character of a business or district

### **BEST PRACTICES**

### DESIGN FOR POP-UPS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



- Create support and opportunities for small businesses or start-ups to participate, i.e. commercial kitchen, vending space, and branding.
- Curate a variety of experiences
- Expand shopping and creates new destinations

### **QUICK INTERVENTIONS**



- Lowers the cost of activation
- Creates opportunities to engage the community
- Shared maintenance and care
- Tests out ideas for future improvements

### **DESIGN FOR ALL WEATHER**



- Creates comfortable outdoor experiences during all months of the year
- Covers from rain, heat, wind, and cold
- Use elements to achieve comfort with heaters, fires, fans, water, blankets, etc.
- Visually create comfort with design elements, i.e lighting, planting, shelter
- Rotate programming for the seasons

### **BEST PRACTICES**

### **DESIGN FOR PEOPLE WATCHING**



- Creates a variety of seating and staying experiences
- Enhances safety

### **DESIGN FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION**



- Creates public places for people to come together with a shared experience
- Places for people to meet others

### **EXPAND PROGRAMMING**



- Increases a variety of events or activities to create interest and reason to visit an area
- Engages local artists, communities, and businesses
- Enhances safety

### **BEST PRACTICES**

#### **DESIGN FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES**



- Expand spaces to accommodate all users to engage with businesses and public spaces
- Enhance safety through universal design and by increasing users
- Create new experiences by expanding user access

### **CREATE PUBLIC AMENITIES**



- Address human needs, thereby expanding the amount of time people can spend in public spaces
- Increase public space hygiene
- Expand to include digital infrastructure

#### INVEST IN MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY



- Increase eyes on the street through maintenance and safety staff
- Create local jobs
- Increase public space hygiene

### **BEST PRACTICES**

### **CREATE PLAYFUL ACTIVITY**

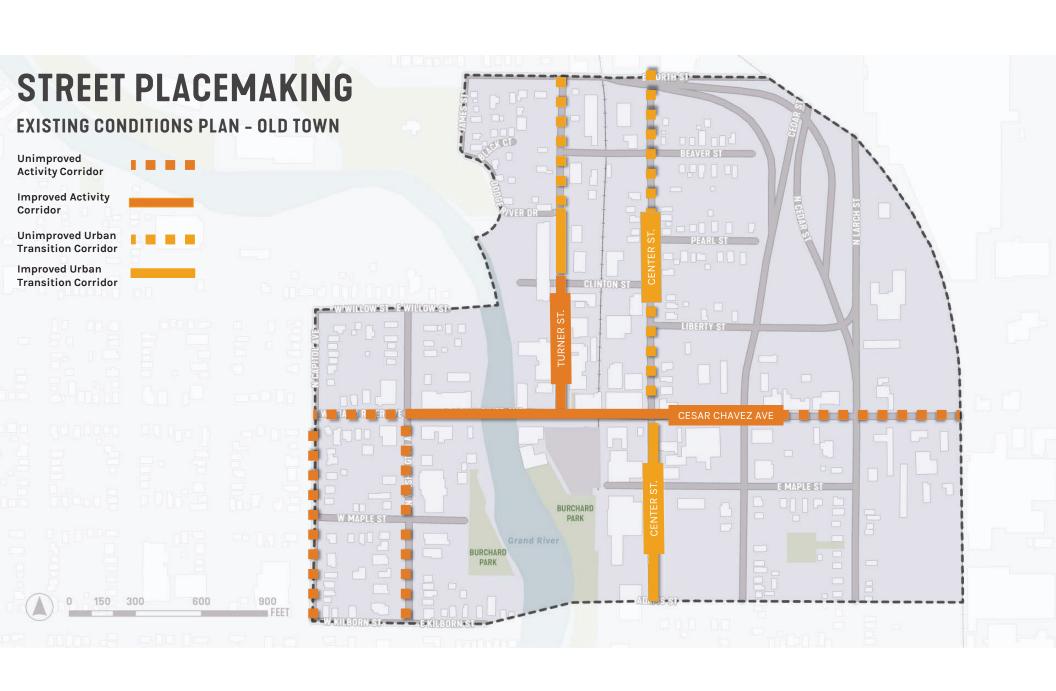


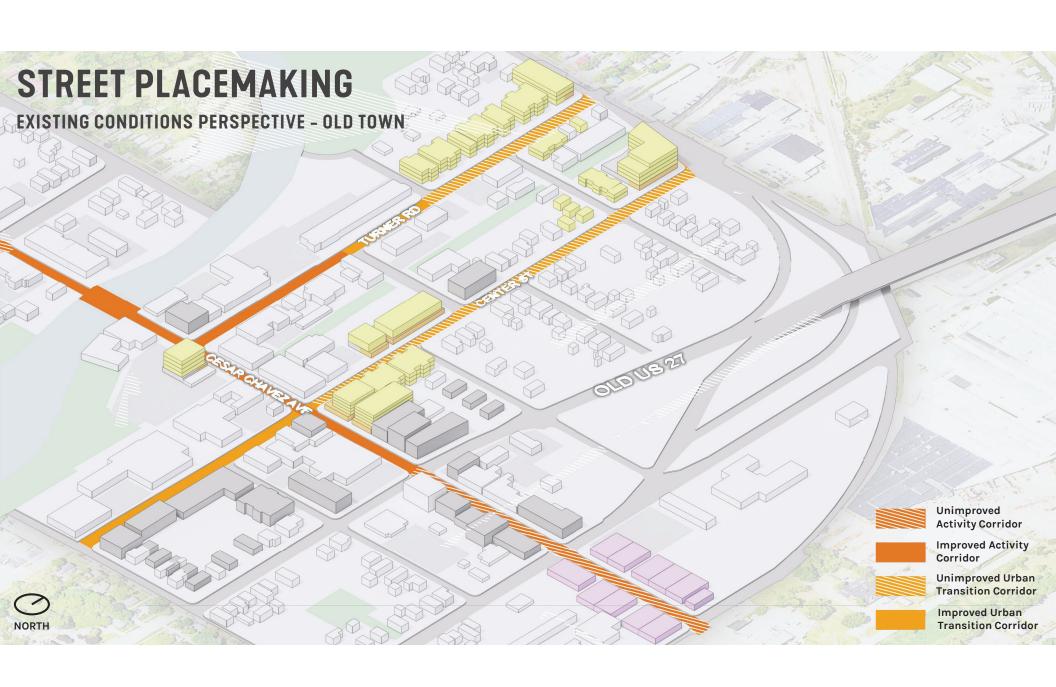
- Create visual nighttime interest
- Enhance comfort
- Expand new nighttime experiences

#### CREATE A NETWORK OF CONNECTED PEDESTRIAN-ORIENTED STREETS

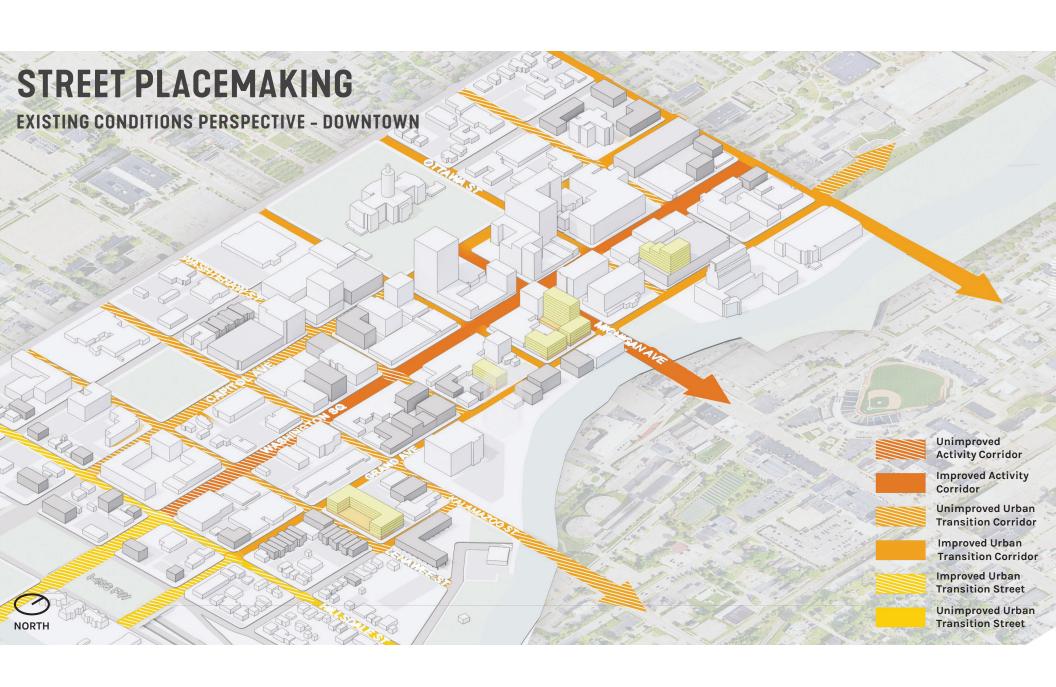


- Ensure that pedestrians feel welcome on active streets
- Complete the network of streetscape improved streets that build on the existing work.
- Encourage private investment in key growth areas through public investment.
- Design in response to existing street character and scale of development.

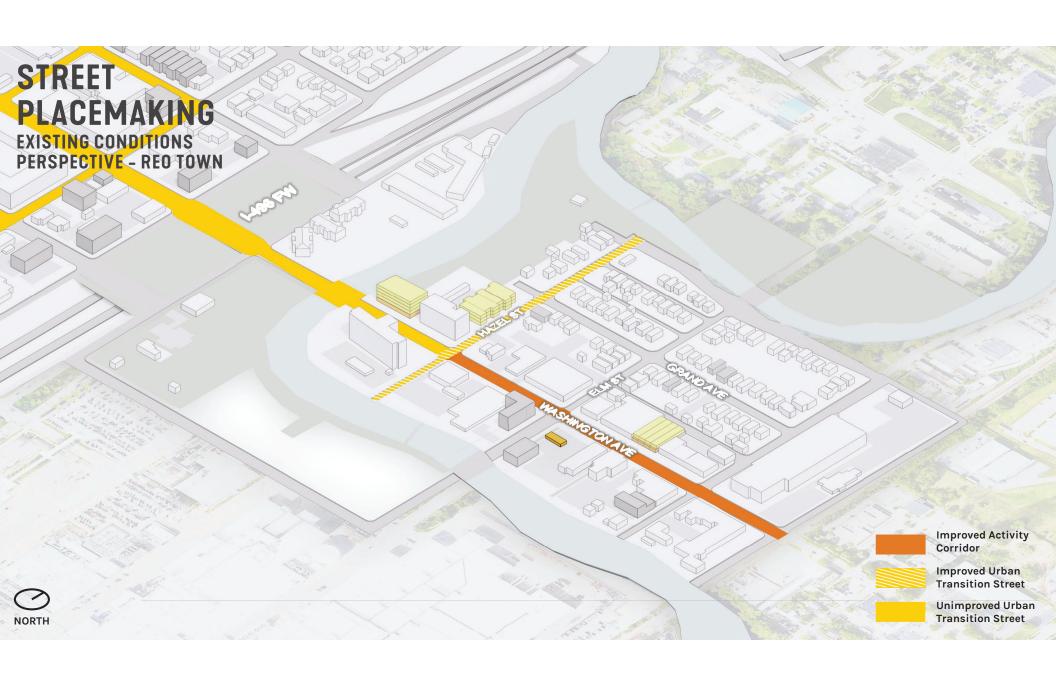












### **PRIORITIES**

Several key initiatives can be implemented to create a more livable and connected downtown. Firstly, building a Complete Streets network will serve as a vital link connecting different downtown districts and creating an inviting and seamless movement between them. Furthermore, connecting downtown streets and places to the river, both visually and physically, is essential.

The riverfront can be a significant asset for the downtown area, providing scenic views and recreational opportunities. The connection between downtown and the river becomes more prominent by ensuring that streets and pathways lead directly to the riverfront and incorporating features like overlooks, parks, and waterfront promenades.

This integration enhances the area's aesthetic appeal and encourages people to engage with and enjoy the riverfront. By implementing these connections, downtown can be transformed into an accessible, well-connected urban center that encourages exploration and supports economic activity for its residents, workers, and visitors.

### **INVESTING IN DOWNTOWN LANSING'S PUBLIC REALM**

# STREET PLACEMAKING

# NON-MOTORIZED NETWORKS + RIVER CONNECTION

### GREEN WEE

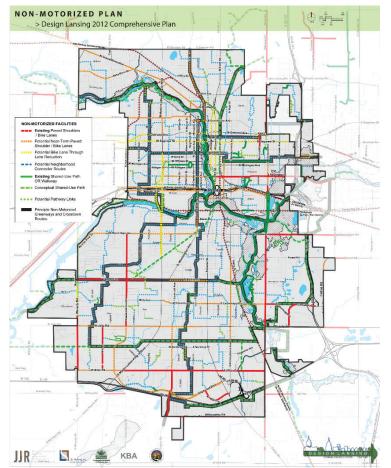
TACTICAL NTERVENTIONS

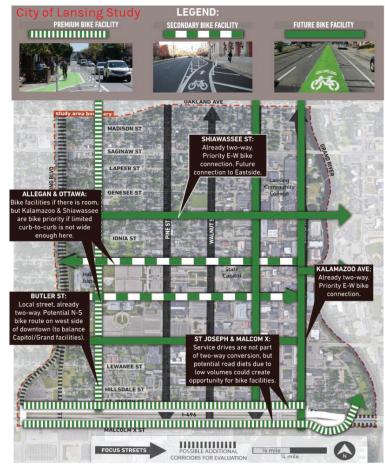
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### REFERENCE MATERIALS AND EXISTING CONDITIONS









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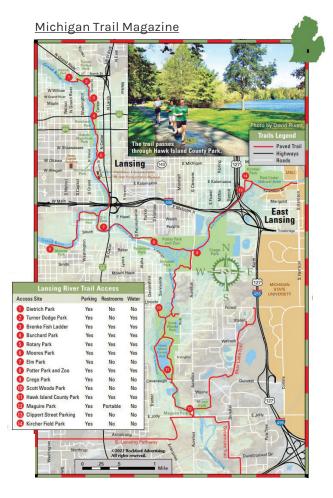












#### BEST PRACTICES NON-MOTORIZED NETWORKS PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS



#### BUS BULB WITH RAISED BIKE LANE

#### Description:

- Curb extension that aligns a bus stop with the parking lane.
- Help buses move faster and more reliably by decreasing the amount of time lost when merging in and out of traffic.
- Raised Bike Lane: Located at the level of the adjacent sidewalk, vertically separated from motor vehicle traffic.



#### **CURB EXTENSION**

#### Description:

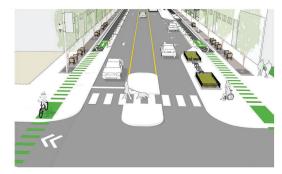
- Located at the mouth of an intersection.
- Installed at the entrance to a residential or low speed street.
- Intended to mark the transition to a slower speed street.
- Creates a gathering space.



#### RAISED CROSSWALK

#### Description:

- A ramped speed tables spanning the entire width of the roadway.
- Acts as a traffic-calming measure that allows the pedestrians and cyclists to cross at grade with the sidewalk.

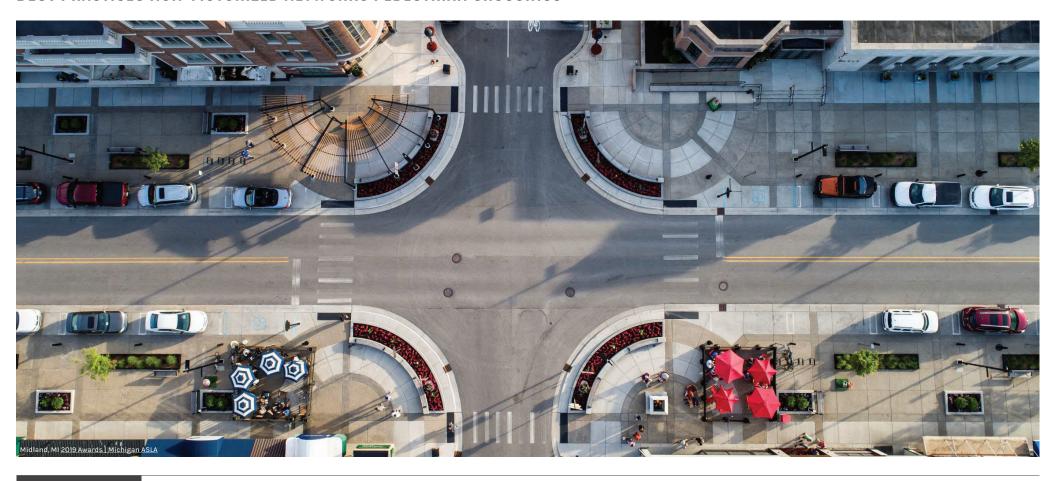


#### **REFUGE ISLAND**

#### Description:

 A median with a refuge area that is intended to help protect pedestrians who are crossing a multi-lane road.

**BEST PRACTICES NON-MOTORIZED NETWORKS PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS** 





POPULATION ABLE WILLING TO BIKE

% of population able and willing to bicycle under certain conditions



NO WAY, **NO HOW** 

% of population unwilling, unable or uncomfortable cycling anywhere



**STRONG & FEARLESS** 

Comfortable on non-residential streets without any bicycle facilities

LTS 4

11% OF ABLE RIDERS

**Strong & Fearless** 

No bicycle lanes

Riding in busy traffic

COMFORTABLE



**ENTHUSED &** CONFIDENT

Comfortable on non-residential streets with conventional bicycle lanes

LTS<sub>3</sub>

19% OF ABLE RIDERS

**Experienced Riders** 

Conventional and

buffered bicycles

COMFORTABLE



Comfortable to

some degree

using protected

bicycle lanes on

non-residential

streets

51%

INTERESTED. **BUT CONCERNED** 

30%

Comfortable to some degree bicycling on residential streets or using separated trailways



LTS 2

70% OF ABLE RIDERS COMFORTABLE

Most Adults

Separated bicycle lanes

"Dutch Standard"

LTS<sub>1</sub>

100% OF ABLE RIDERS COMFORTABLE

All Age & Abilities

Slow, low-volume streets

Sidepaths trails

Number of Vehicle Lanes Speed of Traffic Vehicle Volumes

BLOCK

Number of Crossed Lanes
Speed of Cross Streets
Intersection Approaches
Signal & Stop Controls

Curbside Uses (Parking)

Bicycle Facility Design & Physical Features

**LEVEL OF TRAFFIC** STRESS (LTS)

Source: (2016) Dill J. and McNeil N., Revisiting the Four Types of Cyclists: Findings from a National Survey, Journal of the Transportation Research Board.

Designing bikeways as protected bikeways will encourage more ridership for those less comfortable with riding in the street.

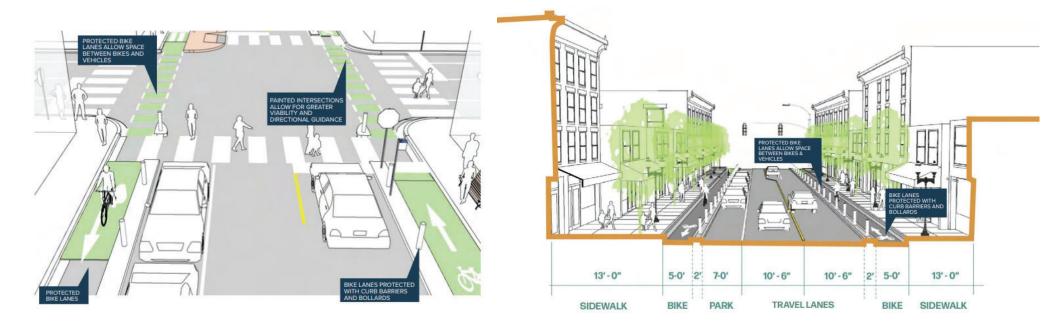
STANDARD FACILITIES ONLY **ACCOMMODATE ~19% OF** ABLE BICYCLE RIDERS LOW STRESS FACILITY **DESIGNS AT LTS 2 ARE COMFORTABLE FOR ~70%** OF ABLE BICYCLE RIDERS

Downtown Lansing | Public Realm



#### BEST PRACTICES NON-MOTORIZED NETWORKS TWO-WAY PROTECTED BIKEWAY

Protected bike lanes are proposed for locations as depicted on maps starting on page 29.



### BEST PRACTICES NON-MOTORIZED NETWORKS TWO-WAY PROTECTED BIKEWAY

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BEST PRACTICES NON-MOTORIZED NETWORKS TWO WAY PROTECTED BIKEWAY



### **BEST PRACTICES RIVER CONNECTION**

#### CITY CONNECTIONS



- Create opportunities within the city core to access the riverfront
- Use the connection to enhance both

### **SENSORY EXPERIENCES**



- Provide moments for pedestrians to engage with the riverfront using all the senses
- Engage with the river through design elements and programming

### **NATURAL CONNECTION**



- Create opportunities within the city's more "natural" areas to access the riverfront
- Use the connection to enhance both

### **BEST PRACTICES RIVER CONNECTION**

#### **CLEAR AND ACCESSIBLE ROUTE**



 Routes and access to the river that is highly visible and accessible to all users

### **GREENWAYS**



 Create clear and direct connection from the city to the river

### SAFE RIVER CROSSINGS



- Enhance river crossings to provide easy pedestrian access
- Enhance views to the river and from the river

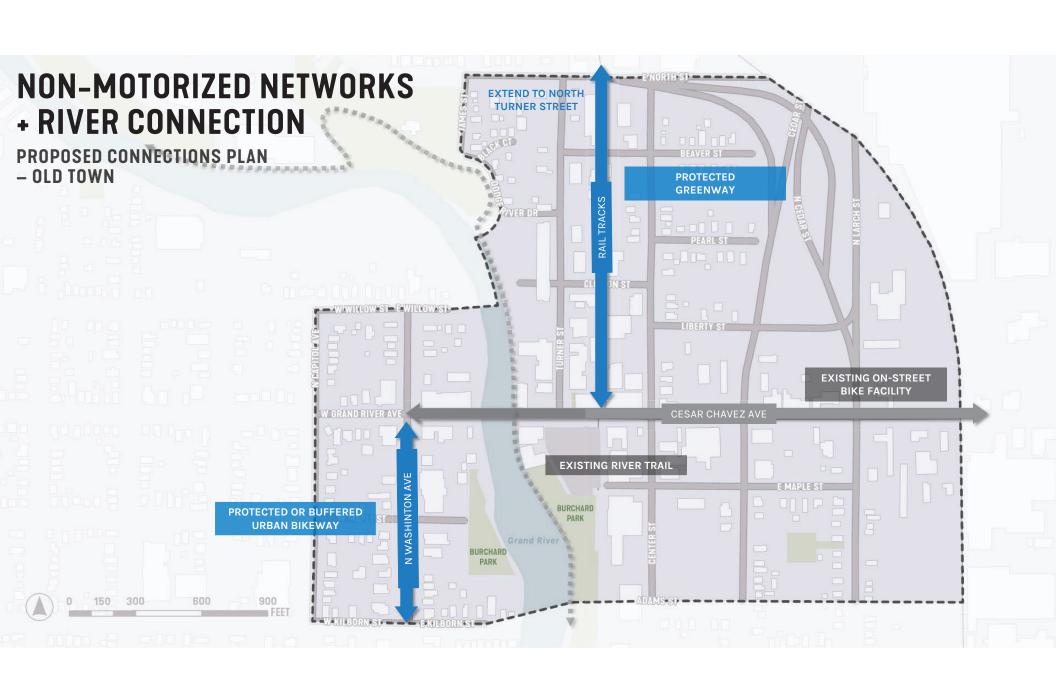
### **BEST PRACTICES RIVER CONNECTION**

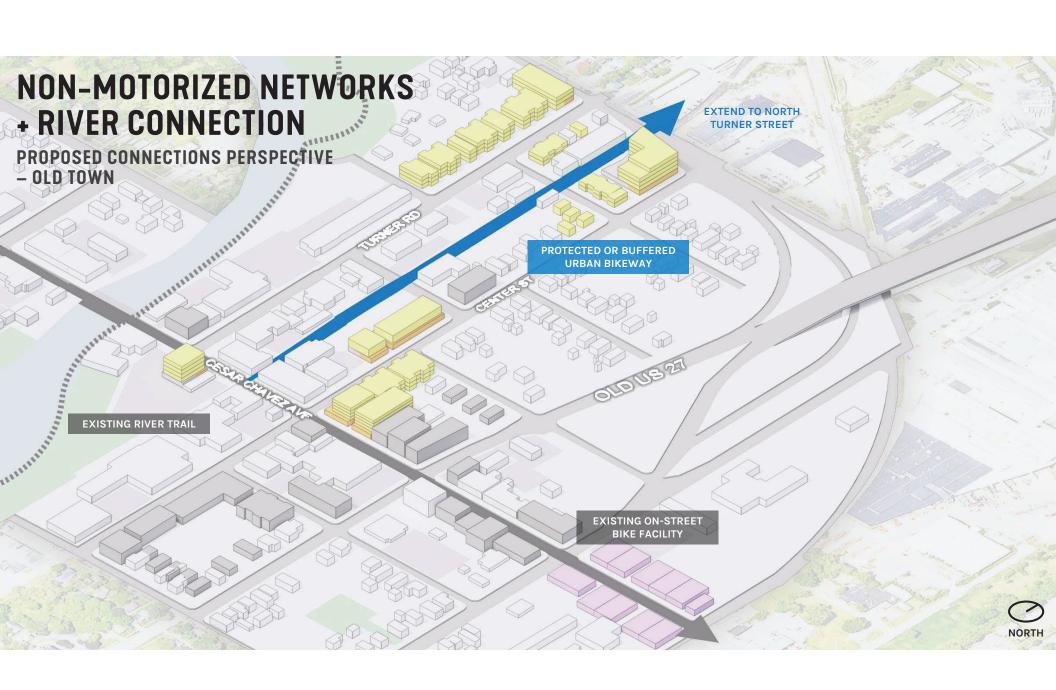
### HABITAT AND FLOOD PROTECTION

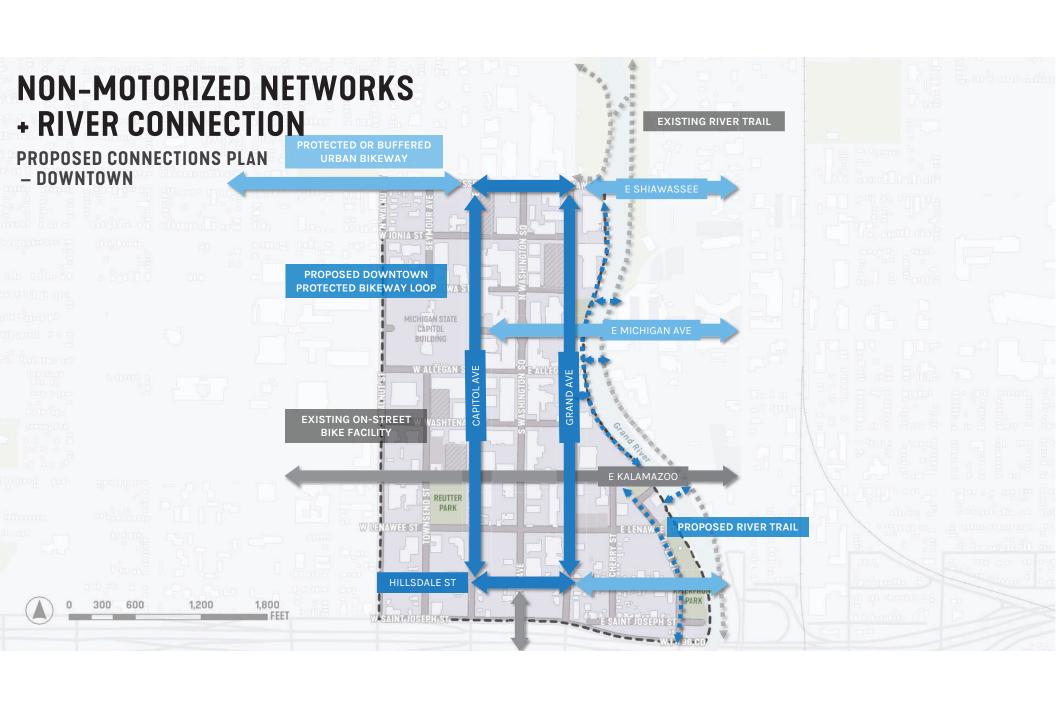


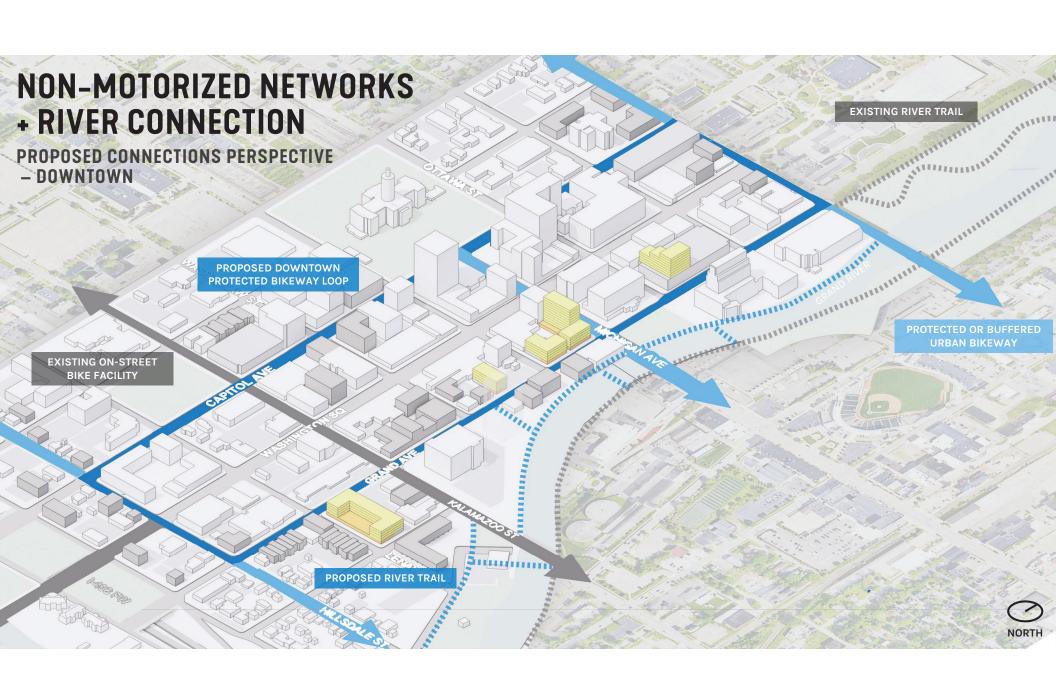
- Opportunities along the river to restore habitat
- Designating areas for flood control

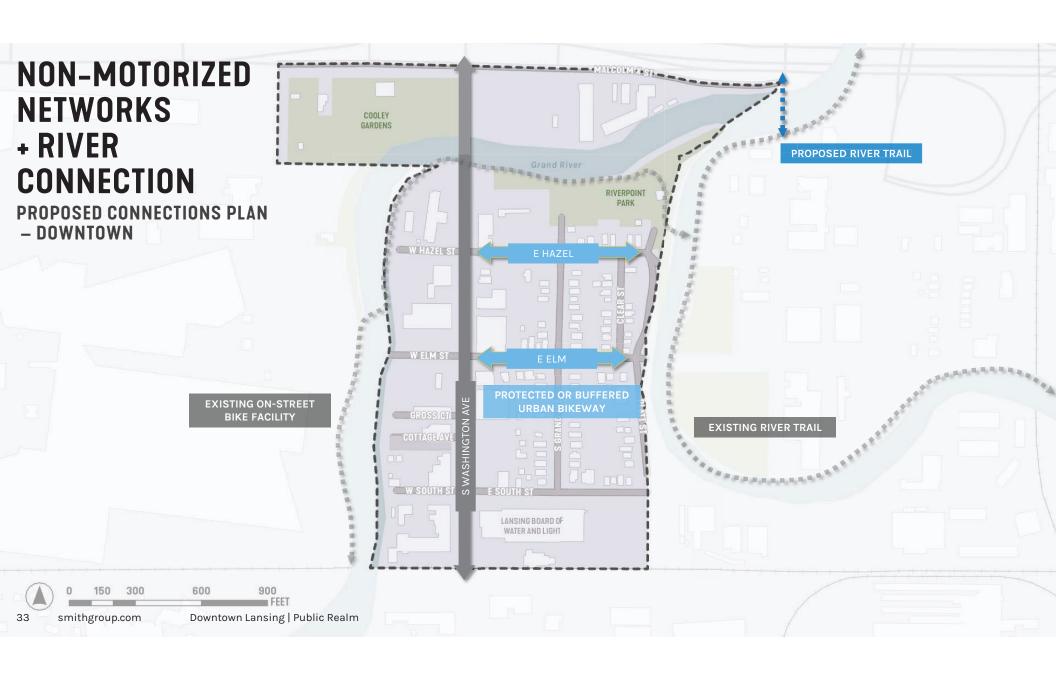


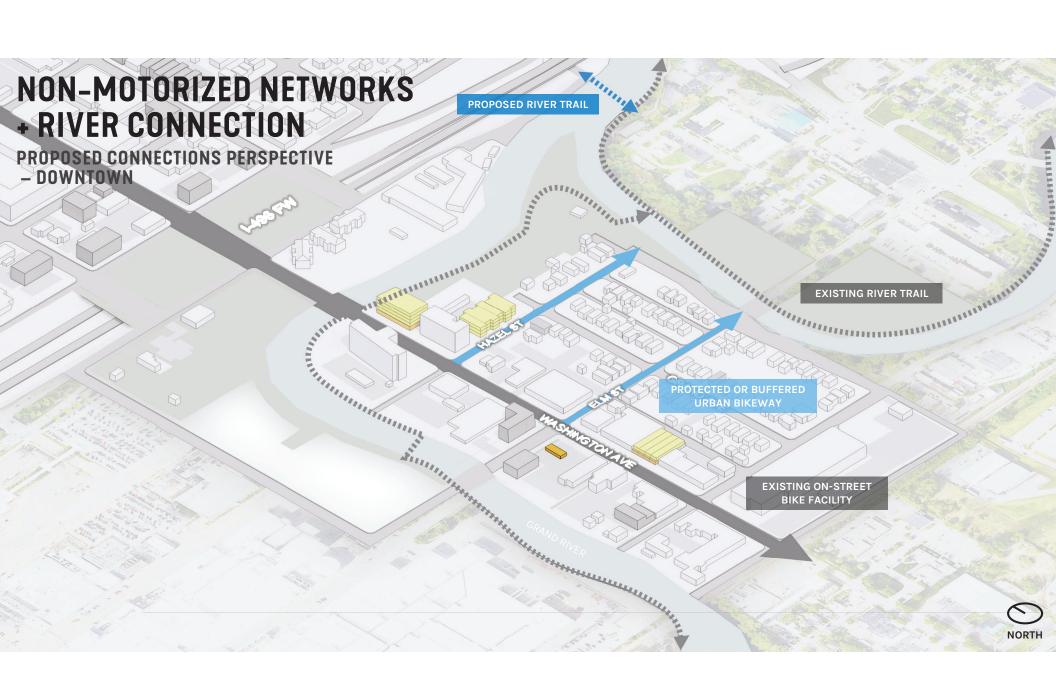












### **PRIORITIES**

Parks are a focal point for enhancing the downtown area in multiple ways. Firstly, investing in programming and activities within the park creates a vibrant and engaging space for residents and visitors. By offering a diverse range of events, such as concerts, art exhibitions, fitness classes, and cultural festivals, the park becomes a hub of community interaction and entertainment.

Secondly, the park is crucial in supporting the growing downtown population by providing open space amenities. With features like green spaces, walking trails, playgrounds, and recreational facilities, the park offers residents a place to relax, exercise, and connect with nature. Additionally, the park's appeal extends beyond the local community, attracting a regional audience for its diverse programming.

This not only enhances the park's reputation but also brings economic benefits to the city as visitors spend money on local businesses, hotels, and restaurants. In this way, the park becomes a catalyst for economic growth and creates additional income for the city, contributing to its overall development and prosperity.

### INVESTING IN DOWNTOWN LANSING'S PUBLIC REALM

# STREET PLACEMAKING

Enhancing underutilized

Building on and

Investing in

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NUN-MUTURIZED
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CONNECTION

- Building a Complete Streets network in
- Enhancing Connecting Corridors that link districts together
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### **GREEN WEB**

- Investing in programming and activities
- Supporting growing downtown population with open space amenities

## TACTICAL INTERVENTIONS

 Review of project priorities - from tactile to full installation interventions

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### **GREEN WEB**

### REFERENCE MATERIALS AND EXISTING CONDITIONS















#### **BEST PRACTICES**

#### **MAJOR PARK**



- Create a park with a regional draw through its amenities and programming
- Programming and amenities are run by the city or operational firm
- Job creation and support for the surrounding economy

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD PARK**



- Build parks that best suit their surrounding communities through their amenities and programming
- Programming and amenities may be managed in part by the community
- Foster community connections and ownership

#### **ALLEYS AND POCKET PARKS**



- Create small spaces and parks in smaller spaces throughout the city utilizing public-private partnerships
- Generate visual interest

#### **BEST PRACTICES**

#### **URBAN FOREST**



- Grow habitat and biodiversity within the city
- Mitigates urban heat island effect
- Improves stormwater management

#### **RAIN GARDENS**



- Filters out pollutants in runoff
- Creates habitat and biodiversity within the city
- Recharges groundwater

#### **VEGETABLE AND FLOWER GARDENS**



- Filters out pollutants in runoff
- Creates habitat and biodiversity within the city
- Creates opportunity to engage community members

#### **BEST PRACTICES**

### **EQUIPMENT RENTAL**



- Provides programming
- Encourages a range of activates

#### PLANNING FOR EVENTS



- Provides large scale programming with a regional draw
- Generates incomes
- Creates jobs

#### PROGRAMMING AND PERFORMANCE



- Supports the arts
- Provides performance spaces for the community
- Encourages a range of activates

#### **BEST PRACTICES**

#### **PLAYGROUNDS**



- Provides activity and programing for children
- Opportunity to do something unique and artist
- Creating spaces for adults to relax or engage

#### **WILDLIFE WATCHING**



- Opportunity to relax and view wildlife
- Creates habitat and biodiversity within the city
- Recharges groundwater

#### **FLEX SPACE**



- Provides and space for flexible activity and programming
- Creates space for people to relax

#### **BEST PRACTICES**

#### **OUTDOOR DINING**



- Designates places where community members can cook and relax
- Provides shelter spaces for the community to rent and enjoy meals with a larger group
- Opportunity for public private partnership within a park to create a dining option

#### **DIFFERENT TYPES OF SEATING**



- Generate visual interest with different types of seating
- Providing seating for a range of users to meet their preferences of needs

#### **DIFFERENT PATHWAY TYPES**



- Generate visual interest
- Allows for different park uses

#### **BEST PRACTICES**

#### **PET AMENITIES**



- Creates a safe space for pets
- Provides a social experience for community members and their pets

#### **SMALL URBAN PLAZA**



- Provides places of visual and physical relief within the urban core
- Generates visual interest
- Opportunity to provide seating for support street activities such as food trucks

#### **PUBLIC AMENITIES**



- Address human needs, thereby expanding the amount of time people can spend in public spaces
- Increase public space hygiene
- Expand to include digital infrastructure



#### FRAMEWORK - OLD TOWN

#### **BURCHARD PARK**



- Activate the park space next to the fish ladder
- Use programming and performances to bring life to the park
- Create a small urban plaza within the park, with stronger amenities.
- Install playgrounds and play elements in the park area
- Renovate the fish ladder for performances

#### **DURANT PARK**



- Improve the park by maintaining trees to enhance views into the park
- Implement pedestrian bump-outs to create safer and more accessible pathways within the park
- Install seating areas to provide comfortable resting spots for park visitors



#### FRAMEWORK - DOWNTOWN

#### **ADADO PARK**



- Allocate investment toward park improvements
- Implement the previous plan developed for the park

#### **WENTWORTH PARK**



- Create a gateway feel to the river, making it visually appealing and inviting
- Establish directional access points to the river through updated paths and wayfinding
- Set up a mobility hub within the park, providing amenities such as bike parking and tools for cyclists
- Perform tree maintenance by limbing up trees, improving aesthetics and visibility

#### **CHERRY HILL PARK**



- Create a neighborhood gaming area within the park
- Install courts of various sizes and scales to accommodate different activities
- Provide space for pick-up games, allowing spontaneous play among park visitors



#### FRAMEWORK - REO TOWN

#### **SCOTT PARK**



- Conduct a thorough clean-up of the park to prepare for future nearby investments
- Consider incorporating native plants, wildlifefriendly features, and environmentally conscious design principles into the park's development

#### **ELM PARK**



 Perform tree and landscape maintenance by limbing up trees, improving aesthetics and visibility

### **PRIORITIES**

During the review of project priorities, the various interventions that could enhance the community's urban environment were carefully assessed. These priorities encompassed various options, from demonstrations and pilot projects and have been selected for their high feasibility and impact.

Cost-efficient solutions that could be implemented within budgetary constraints were also considered. As a result, several types of interventions are highly recommended for implementation. These include establishing protected bikeways, installing wayfinding systems, curb extensions, and pilot projects in parks.

More permanent interventions recommended include full park installations and the river trail system. These interventions collectively aim to enhance the livability and vibrancy of the community, making it a more sustainable and enjoyable place for residents and visitors alike.

#### INVESTING IN DOWNTOWN LANSING'S PUBLIC REALM

- Building on and
- Enhancing underutilized
- Investing in
- Building a Complete Streets network in
- Enhancing Connecting Corridors that link
- Connecting downtown physically
- Investing in
- Supporting growing with open space



 Review of project priorities - from tactile to full installation interventions

## **CONTINUUM OF TACTICAL INTERVENTIONS**

#### SPECTRUM OF CHANGE

#### **DEMONSTRATIONS**

- Lowest cost, fast
- Easy materials
- Most flexible
- Raise awareness
- Time-limited
- Usually no data collection

E.g, cones, barricades, traffic control signs, planters

#### **PILOT PROJECTS**

- Low cost, fast
- Easy to install
- Typically linked to evaluation
- Remains in place long enough to affect behavior patterns

E.g, paint, cones, semi-attached bollards, quick curb, planters, traffic control signs

# COST-EFFICIENT SOLUTIONS

- Low to modest cost
- Semi-permanent, more durable
- Allows for adjustment and fine-tuning
- intended to remain in place unless infeasible-long term

#### **FULL INSTALLATION**

- Full project costs and scope
- Permanently installed improvements
   (flexibility per design)

E.g, paint, installed bollards, or anchored curbing, planter boxes, platforms, custom signage



 OPEN STREETS AND PLACEMAKING EVENTS

### **PILOT PROJECTS**

• ENTRY POP UP + PARK PROGRAMMING

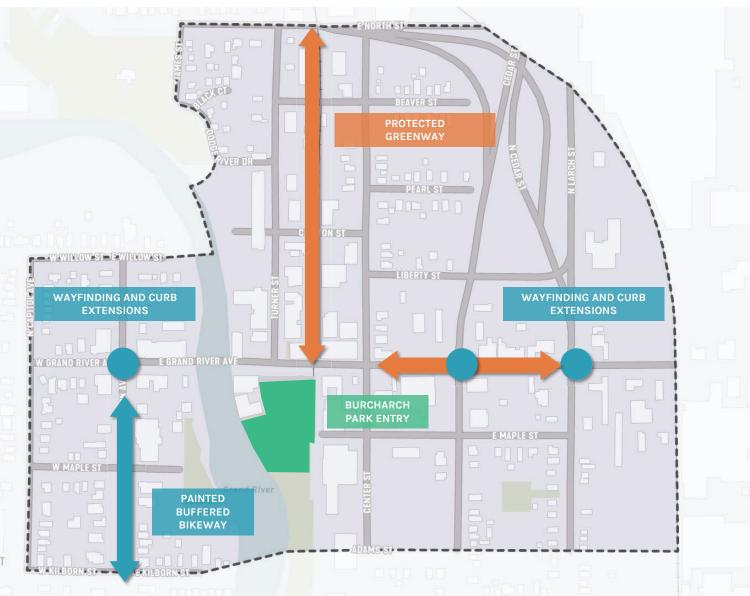
# COST-EFFICIENT SOLUTIONS

- WAYFINDING
- CURB EXTENSIONS
- PAINTED BUFFERED BIKEWAY

#### **FULL INSTALLATION**

 PRIORITY PROTECTED GREENWAY





## DEMONSTRATIONS

 OPEN STREETS AND PLACEMAKING EVENTS

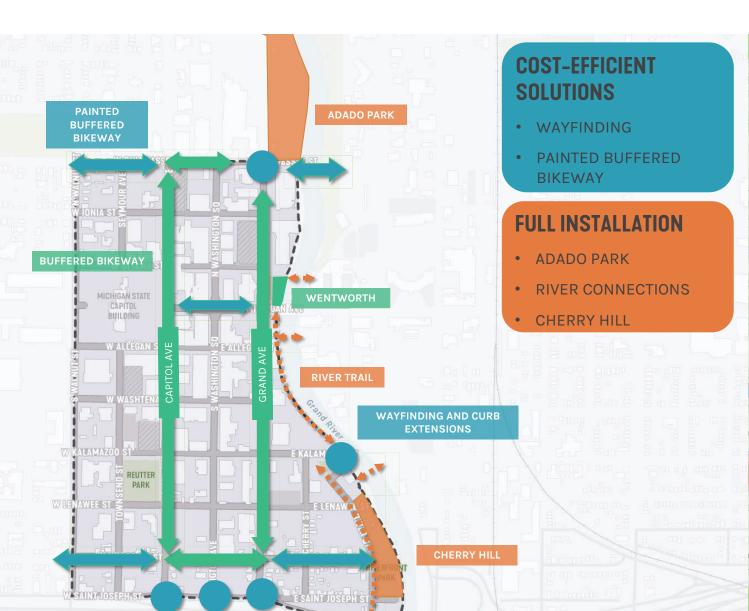
#### **PILOT PROJECTS**

- BUFFEREND BIKEWAY PREFERENCE PILOT
- WENTWORTH
   PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE
   HUB

300 600

1,200

1,800





• OPEN STREETS AND PLACEMAKING EVENTS

COOLEY GARDENS

W HAZEL ST

W ELM ST

GROSS CT

COTTAGE AVE

WAYFINDING

PAINTED

BUFFERED BIKEWAY

LANSING BOARD OF

WAYFINDING AND CURB

# COST-EFFICIENT SOLUTIONS

- WAYFINDING
- CURB EXTENSIONS
- PAINTED BIKEWAY

### **FULL INSTALLATION**

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• RIVER TRAIL



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