



# Project Showcase: M-72/M-22 in Traverse City

Reconstructing the iconic M-22/M-72 (Grandview Parkway) with operational and multi-modal improvements along the West Grand Traverse Bay

FEBRUARY 4, 2026 | COUNTY ENGINEERS' WORKSHOP

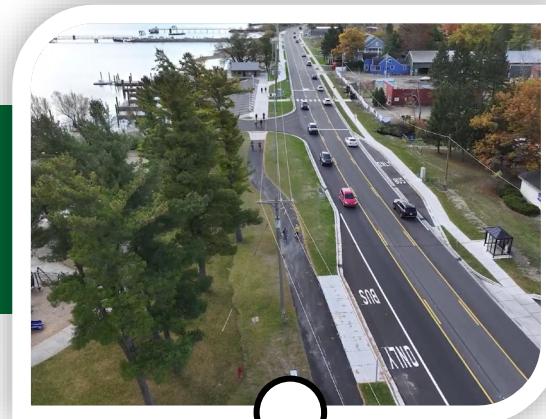


Photo Credit: MDOT Traverse City TSC



## Presenters

### Roles



**Dan Wagner, PE**

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TSC Manager  
MDOT  
Traverse City TSC



**Dakota Roberts, PE**

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Senior Project Engineer  
ROWE



## The Team

### Design Team



#### Owner

*Community Engagement  
Project Management  
Traffic and Safety  
Construction Engineering*

#### Prime Consultant

*Roadway  
Sanitary Sewer  
Box Culvert  
Landscaping  
Permanent Signing  
Pavement Marking  
Signals*

#### Sub-consultant

*Maintenance of Traffic  
Signals*

#### Sub-consultant

*Signals  
Lighting*



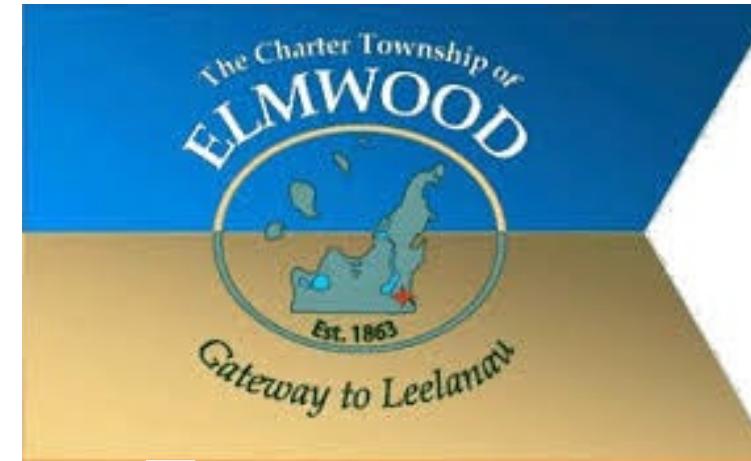
## Stakeholders

### PARTICIPATING STAKEHOLDERS

- Elmwood Township
- City of Traverse City
- Grand Traverse County
- Grand Traverse County Road Commission
- Leelanau County
- Leelanau County Road Commission
- Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS)
- Bay Area Transit Authority (BATA)
- Traverse Area Recreation Trails (TART)
- Discovery Center and Pier
- FreshWater Research & Innovation Center
- Slabtown Neighborhood Association
- Bingham Township
- Local Newspaper/Media Outlets



Freshwater Research  
& Innovation Center



CITY OF  
**TRAVERSE CITY**

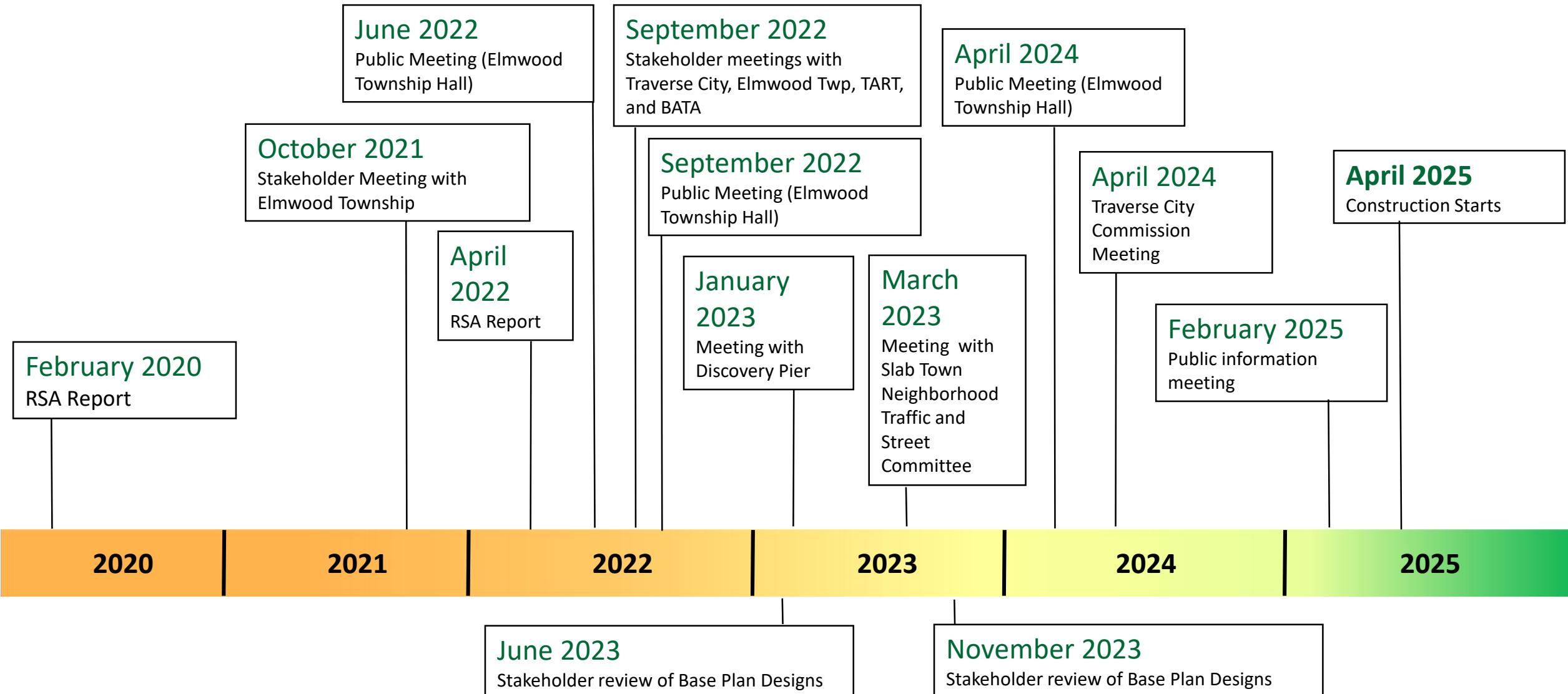
**DISCOVERY PIER**  
EXPLORE. LEARN. CONNECT.

**BATA** •  
Bay Area Transportation Authority



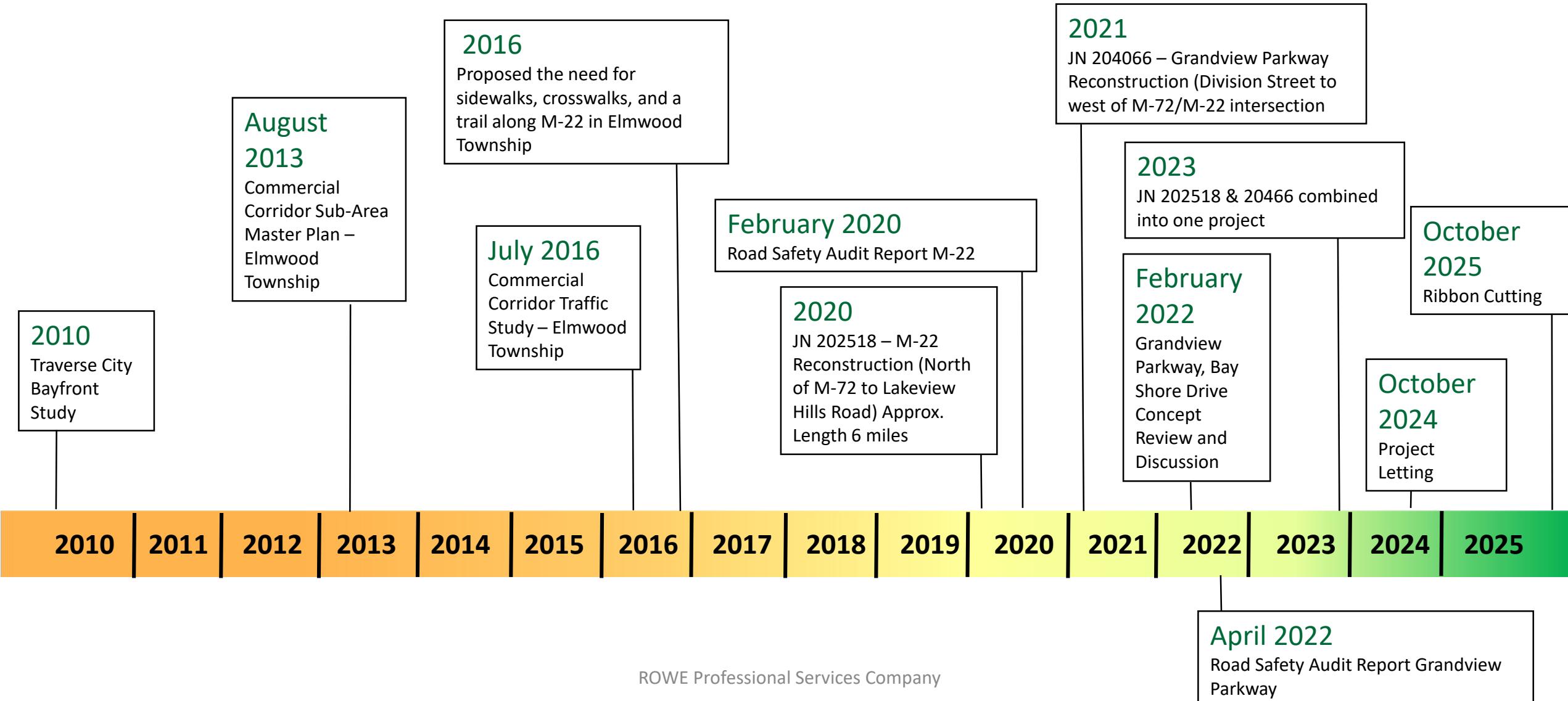


# Stakeholder & Public Outreach Efforts





# Project Evolution





# Overview of Project

- Project Limits
  - o Cedar Creek (North of Cherry Bend Road) to 500 feet west of Division Street
- Length
  - o Approximately 2.2 miles
- Project Cost: \$25.9 Million
  - o Funded with State/Federal (80/20)
  - o Tap Grant (Elmwood Township as joint applicant)
  - o US Department of Transportation Rural Surface Transportation Grant (\$14.4 Million)
- Improved all modes of transportation
  - o Pavement reconstruction
  - o Stormwater quality improvements
  - o Safety and operational improvements
  - o Non-motorized paths and ADA upgrades





## Project at Risk



- **Budget Shortfall**
  - **Initial Funding**
    - \$14.6 million
  - **Base Eng. Plans** – March 2023
    - \$18.4 million
  - **Final Eng. Estimate**
    - \$22.4 million
- **Funding**
  - **Rural Grant Awarded** – Dec. 2023
  - **TAP Grant Awarded** – Aug. 2024
  - **Letting** – Oct. 4th, 2024
- **Critical Right-of-Way**
  - **M-22/M-72 Intersection**

Photo Credit: The Express Tribune



## Design Challenges



### Things to keep in mind:

- **Right-of-Way**
- **Grand Traverse Bay**
- **Utilities – Significant relocations**
- **Maintenance of traffic**
- **Hazardous groundwater**
- **Flat existing grades**
- **Community concerns**
- **Significant multi-modal uses**

Photo Credit: MDOT Traverse City TSC



## M-22/M-72 Intersection – Existing Configuration



Photo Credit: Google Maps

- **Road Safety Audits (RSA)**
  - Feb. 2020 – M-22 RSA
  - Feb. 2022 – Grandview Parkway Concept Review and Discussion
  - April 2022 – Grandview Parkway RSA
- **High Traffic volumes**
  - Tourism
  - Special Events
- **Bay Street Connection**
  - Community input
    - Maintain Access
    - Reduce M-72 bypass traffic



## Initial Concepts





## IT CAN'T BE BUILT - Runaround



- **Maintain one-lane 2-way traffic**
  - **Detour was not an option**
    - Local Impacts
    - Project Cost
    - User Cost
- **Storm Sewer**
  - 7' deep – 30" Storm Sewer
  - 10' deep – 63"X98" Storm Sewer
  - Hydrodynamic Separator

Photo Credit: ROWE Professional Services Co.



## Final Design Elements - Roundabout



- Adjacent property impacts
- Bay Street connection
- Grand Traverse Bay impacts
- Pedestrian safety
  - HAWK Signals
    - Pedestrian refuge island
- Unique Considerations
  - Cherry trucks
  - Large boats & yachts

Photo Credit: MDOT Traverse City TSC



## Modeling



Photo Credit: ROWE Professional Services Co.

### Things to keep in mind:

- **Tight ROW**
  - **Grand Traverse Bay**
- **Tom's Market parking lot**
- **Profile changes**
  - **Flat grades**
  - **Tying into roundabout**
- **Shared use path through driveways**



## Shared Use Path

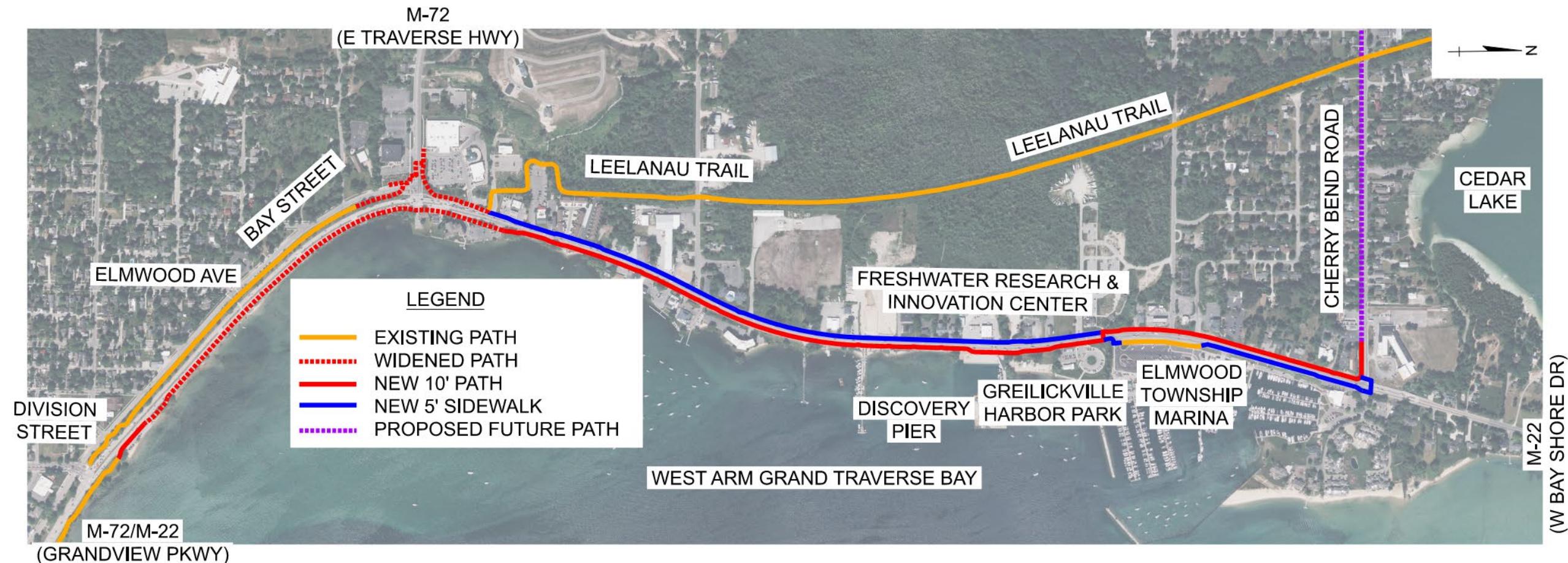


Photo Credit: ROWE Professional Services Co.



## Non-Motorized

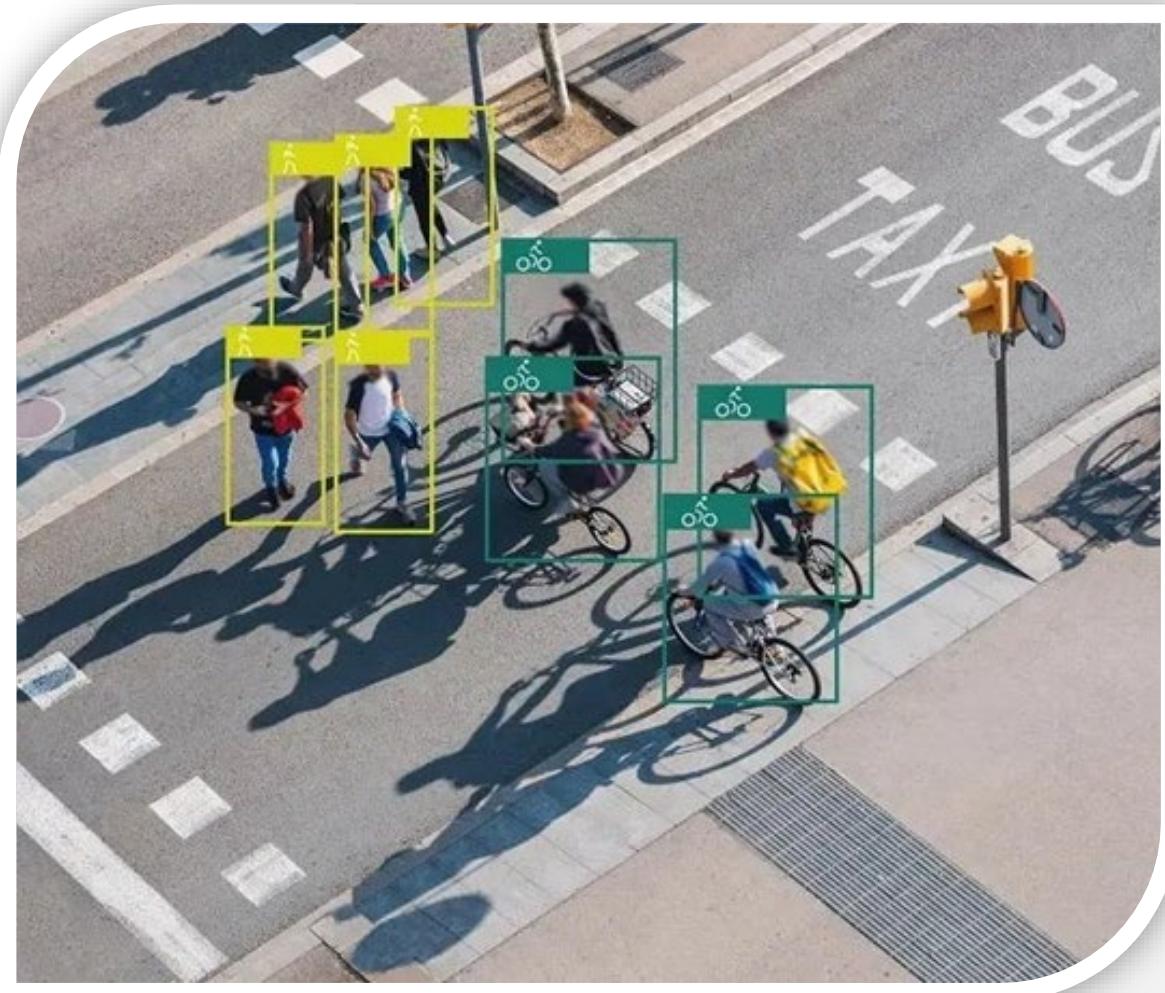


- **Pedestrian Safety**
  - **5 HAWK signals**
    - Strategic placement
  - **6 Mid-block crossings**
    - **2 Pedestrian islands**
    - Potential future RRFBs
- **BATA Bus loading zones**
  - **Bus Shelter**
- **Benches**
- **Bike racks**
- **Trash receptacles**

Photo Credit: MDOT Traverse City TSC



# Pedestrian counters



- 8 Multimodal counters installed
  - M-72 HAWK Signal
  - M-22 Leelanau Trail Crossing
  - Cherry Bend Road
  - Division Street
- Counts pedestrian & bicyclists (directional)
- One of MDOT's first pilot installation
- Supports seasonal and long-term active transportation data

Photo Credit: Eco-Counter



## Stormwater Management

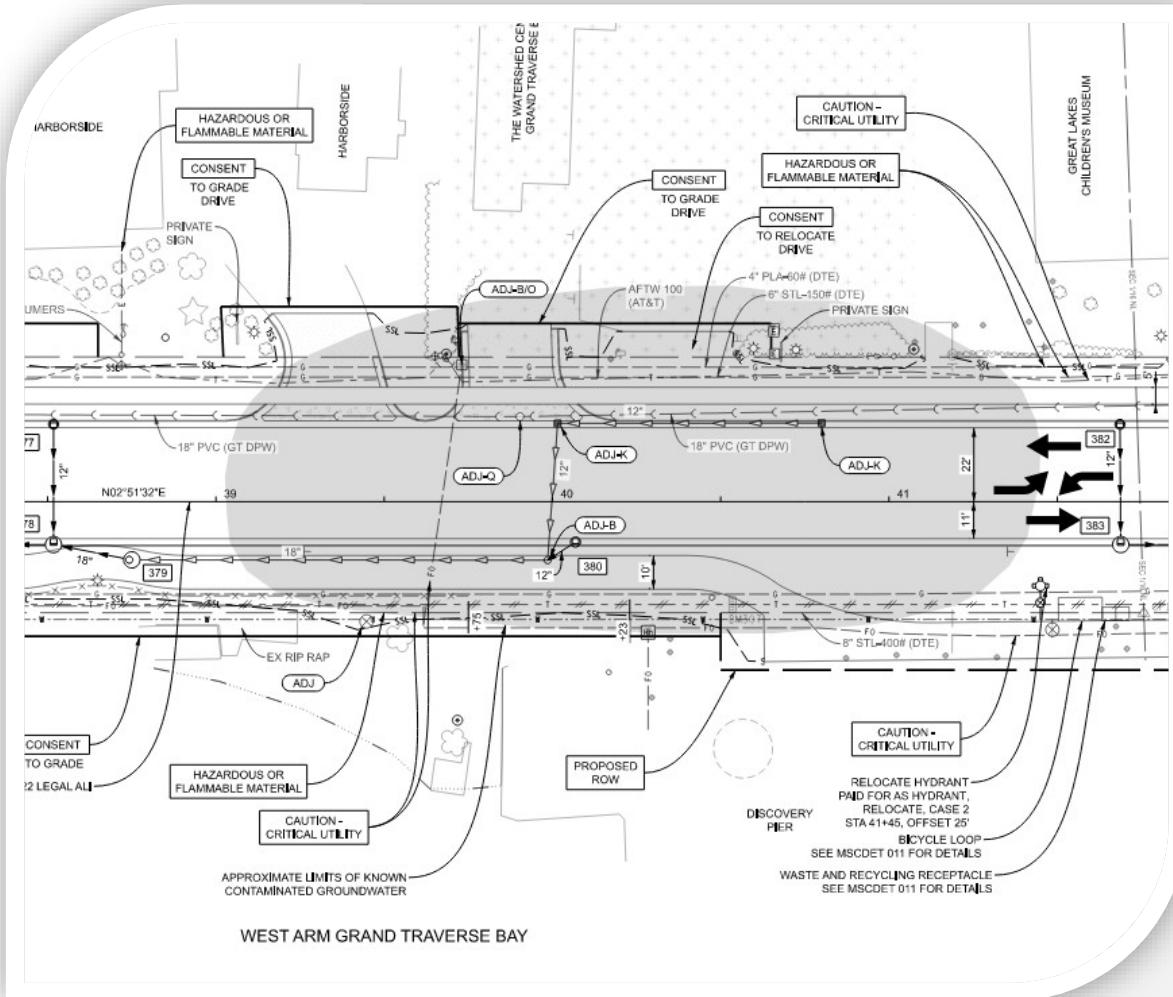


- **3 Culvert Crossings**
  - Box Culvert
- **10 Outlets to Grand Traverse Bay**
- **Permitting**
  - EGLE
  - Army Corp of Engineers
- **Separated Storm sewer systems**
  - Traverse City and MDOT
  - Private property and MDOT
- **Coordination with the Drain Commission**

Photo Credit: ROWE Professional Services Co.



## Contaminated Groundwater

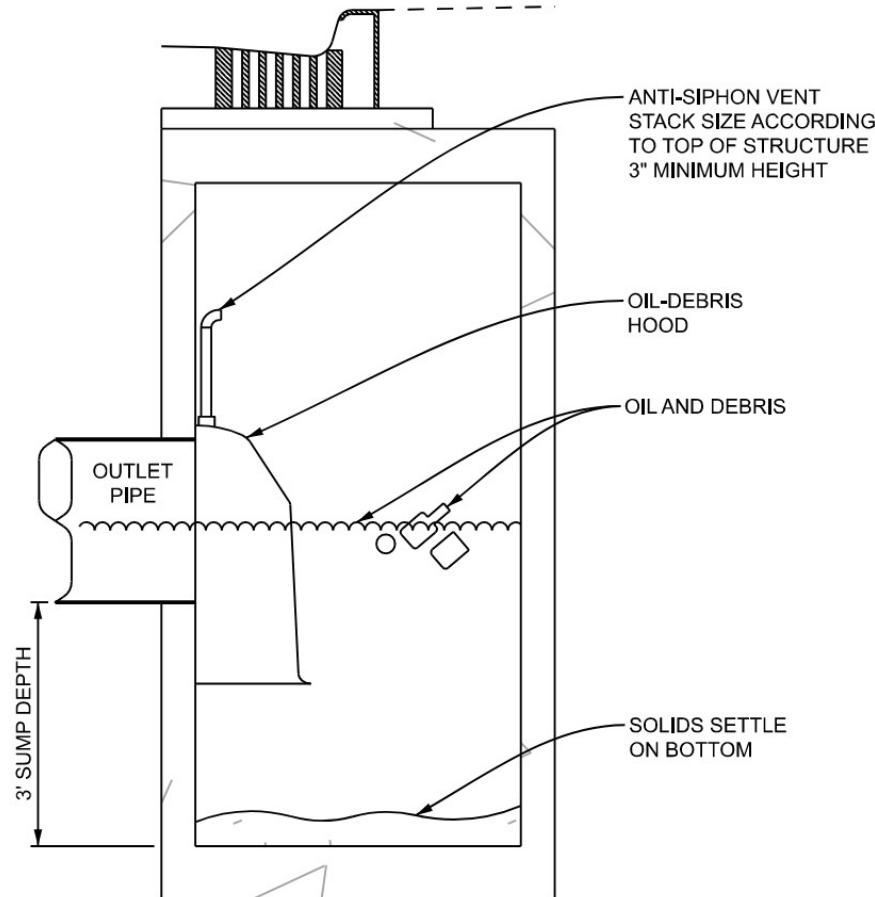


- **4 Contaminated Groundwater Sites**
  - Limited earth excavation
  - Retained existing drainage
- **Minimized risk & reduced cost by adjusting design to minimize impacts**
  - Profile adjustment
  - Modified storm sewer

Photo Credit: ROWE Professional Services Co.



## Water Quality



- **Hydrodynamic Separator**
  - **M-22/M-72 Roundabout**
  - **Existing M-72 Hydrodynamic Separator**
- **18 Traverse City Outlet covers**

Photo Credit: ROWE Professional Services Co.



## Continual Coordination



- **Phase 1 – Grandview Parkway Reconstruction**
- **Freshwater Research & Innovation Center**
- **Discovery Pier**
- **Elmwood Township Marina**
- **Apache Trout Grill**
- **Cherry Bend Road path extension**

Photo Credit: FreshWater Research & Innovation Center



# Construction Challenges



## Things to keep in mind:

- Phase Line
- Multiple Stages
- Temporary Widening
- Utilities
- Commercial Access
- Pedestrian Access
- Island Construction
- Tourism/Unfamiliar corridor users

Photo by Team Elmer's ©



## Building a Roundabout



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Video by Team Elmer's ©



## Lessons Learned

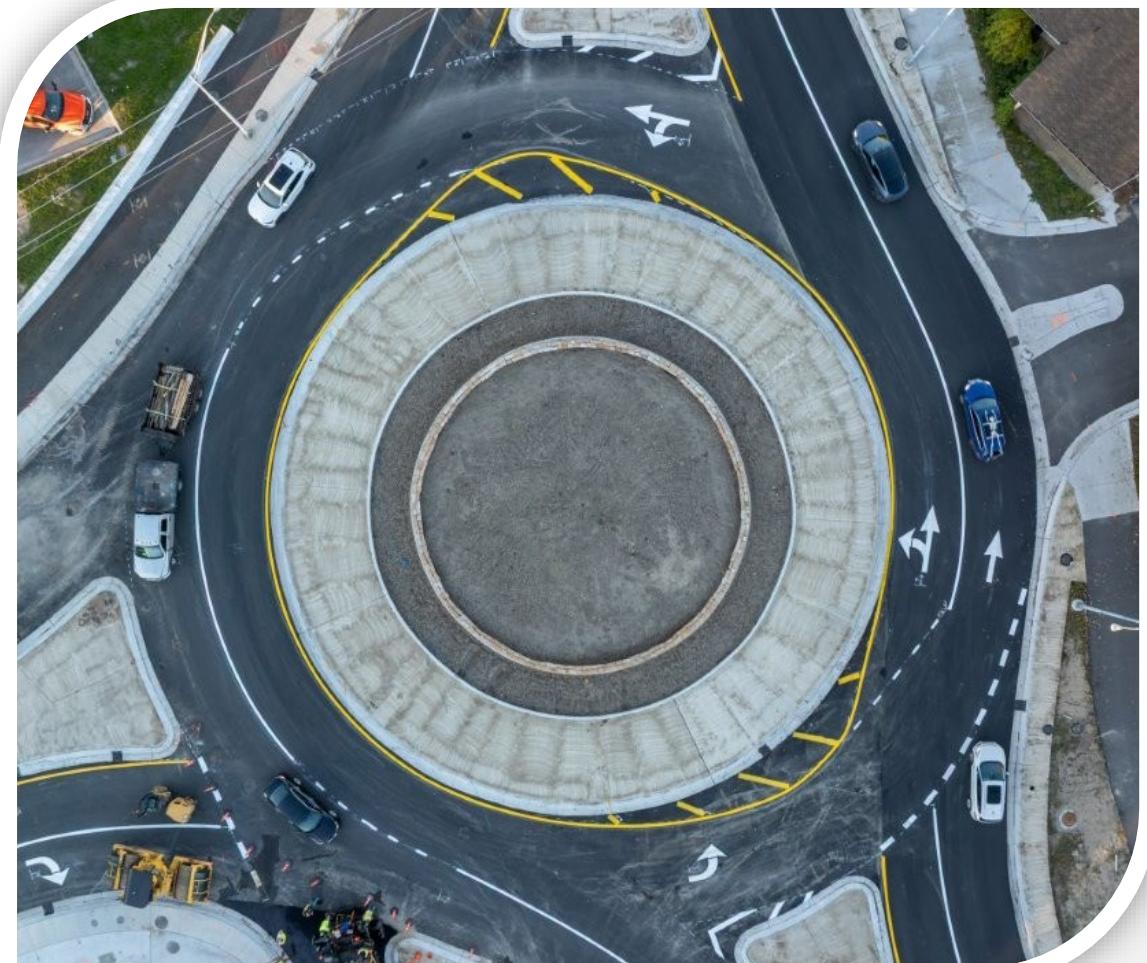


Photo by Team Elmer's ©

- **Coordination is KEY**
- **Conservative Real Estate needs**
- **More in-depth utility research during design**
- **Constructability review**
  - **Temporary pedestrian path**
  - **Transverse storm sewer crossings**
  - **Runaround**



## Benefits



- **Transformed the gateway to the Leelanau Peninsula and Traverse City**
- **Multimodal Corridor**
- **Safety Improvements**
- **Quality of Life**

Photo by Team Elmer's ©



## Public Impact



Video Credit: MDOT Traverse City TSC

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# QUESTIONS

