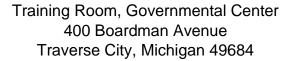
# Traverse City Downtown Development Authority Study Session

Friday, March 3, 2023 12:00 pm





The City of Traverse City does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in, its programs or activities. Penny Hill, Assistant City Manager, 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, Michigan 49684, phone 231-922-4440, TDD/TTY 231-922-4412, VRS 231-421-7008, has been designated to coordinate compliance with the non-discrimination requirements contained in Section 35.107 of the Department of Justice regulations. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided thereunder, are available from the ADA Coordinator.

If you are planning to attend and you have a disability requiring any special assistance at the meeting and/or if you have any concerns, please immediately notify the ADA Coordinator.

The City of Traverse City and Downtown Development Authority are committed to a dialog that is constructive, respectful and civil. We ask that all individuals interacting verbally or in writing with board members honor these values.

Downtown Development Authority: c/o Jean Derenzy, CEO (231) 922-2050 Web: www.dda.downtowntc.com 303 East State Street, Suite C Traverse City, MI 49684

## Welcome to the Traverse City Downtown Development Authority study session

### Agenda

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	В.	Lower Boardman/Ottaway Downtown Riverwalk Considerations  Lower Boardman/Ottaway Downtown Riverwalk Memo (Jean Derenzy) - PDF  Lower Boardman Potential Riverwalk Segments Working Costs - PDF  Civic Engagement Activity Summary Related to the Lower Boardman Riverwalk Project - PDF	21 - 26	
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4.	PUBLIC COMMENT			
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#### CITY COMMISSION

#### **GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

2022-2023



#### **HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS**

Increase opportunities for more diverse housing through public and private options.



#### **ACCESS & MOBILITY**

Invest in multi-modal mobility strategies and existing and future infrastructure so that individuals of all ages, abilities and income have a network of complete, barrier free, safe, year round access to our community's amenities and basic needs.



#### **CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH EACH OTHER AND NATURE**

Invest in facilities and amenities in order to create vibrant City spaces that connect all people to nature and to each other.



#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The City will foster economic development by adopting a growth mentality and by conserving and maintaining natural resources. It will work with partners to invest in and maintain amenities that support a wide variety of industries, build the workforce, and attract well-paying jobs with the region's future in mind.



#### WATER SYSTEMS

Proactively and consistently maintain, conserve, and manage water and water systems to reduce harm to the systems themselves as well as public health and safety.



#### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Address climate within all of our City priorities, goals, policies, and actions.



Downtown Development Authority 303 E. State Street Traverse City, MI 49684 jean@downtowntc.com 231-922-2050

#### Memorandum

To: DDA Board of Directors

From: Jean Derenzy, DDA CEO

Date: February 23, 2023

Subject: Study Session

#### West End Parking Structure and Downtown Parking

In December, the City Commission approved a land purchase & property swap with Socks Construction that provides a footprint for the west-end parking structure on the west end of downtown. This approval marks the culmination of efforts to aggregate land for a west-end parking structure that began in 2015. As a reminder, a west-end parking structure was first identified in 1997, and is listed in the TIF 97 Financing Plan. More recently, a west-end parking structure was identified as a capital project priority in the Moving Downtown Forward Plan.

As we have discussed in previous meetings, a west-end parking structure allows the DDA and City to: provide parking in an emerging part of downtown (and within a five-minute walk of a third of downtown); transition public surface parking lots throughout downtown into better and more valuable uses; create a more walkable and appealing pedestrian environment throughout downtown; and eliminate onerous costs for small local independent businesses. As a reminder, in 1973, the city adopted an ordinance to eliminate parking requirements for the downtown for many of the same reasons listed above.

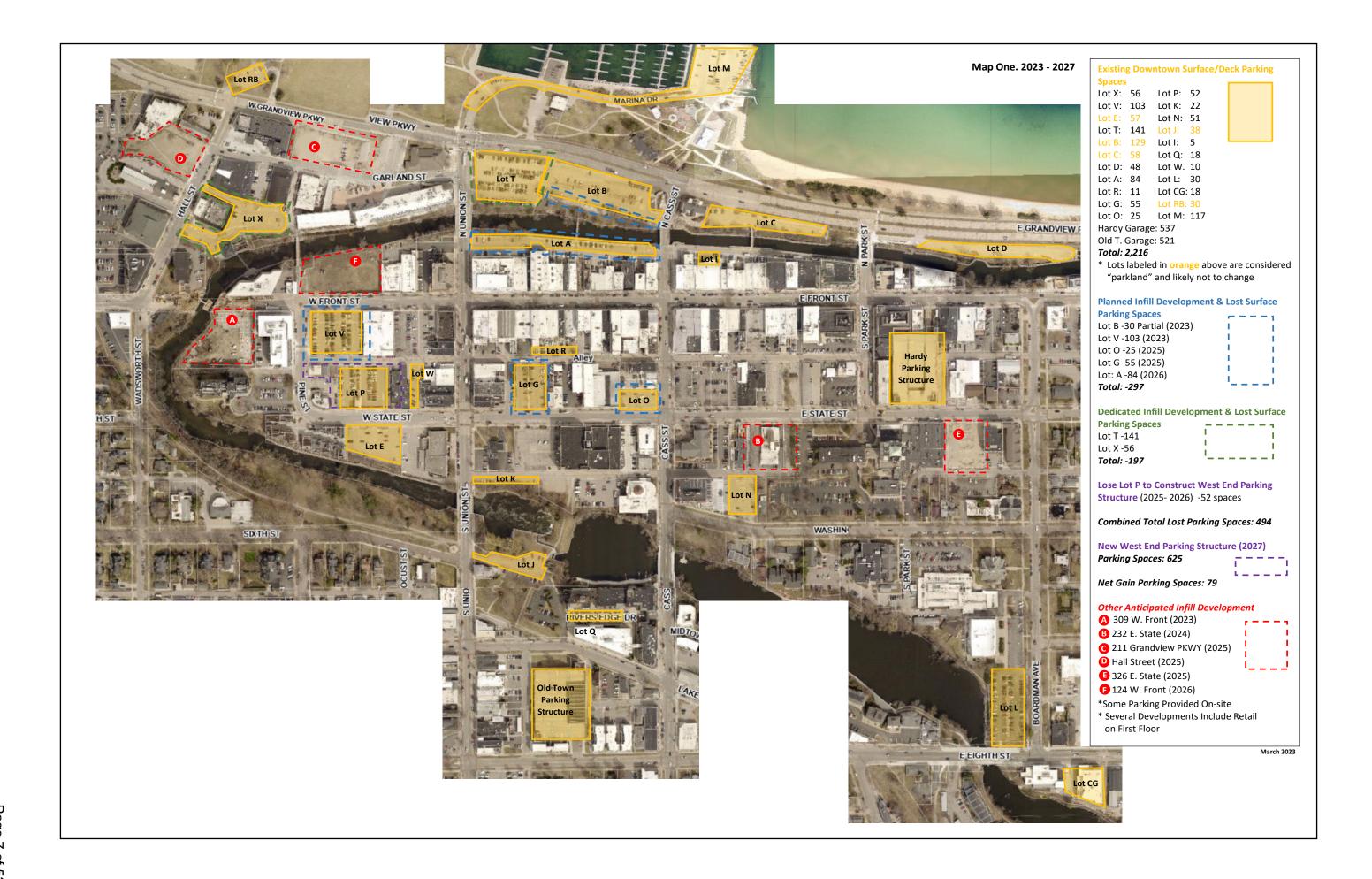
The timing of construction for a west-end parking structure will have implications for the pace at which public surface parking lots are repurposed (including other capital projects such as the Lower Boardman Riverwalk) as well as the availability of parking for downtown visitors, including current permit holders. It will be important that we continuously provide parking access to downtown businesses throughout this transition.

We have created a series of maps to illustrate the potential transition of surface parking lots over time as it relates to the proposed west-end parking structure. The first map illustrates the potential transition of downtown surface parking lots between 2023 and 2026 (as an aggregate). The next four maps illustrate the incremental transition of downtown surface parking lots between 2023 and 2026. The last two maps illustrate the

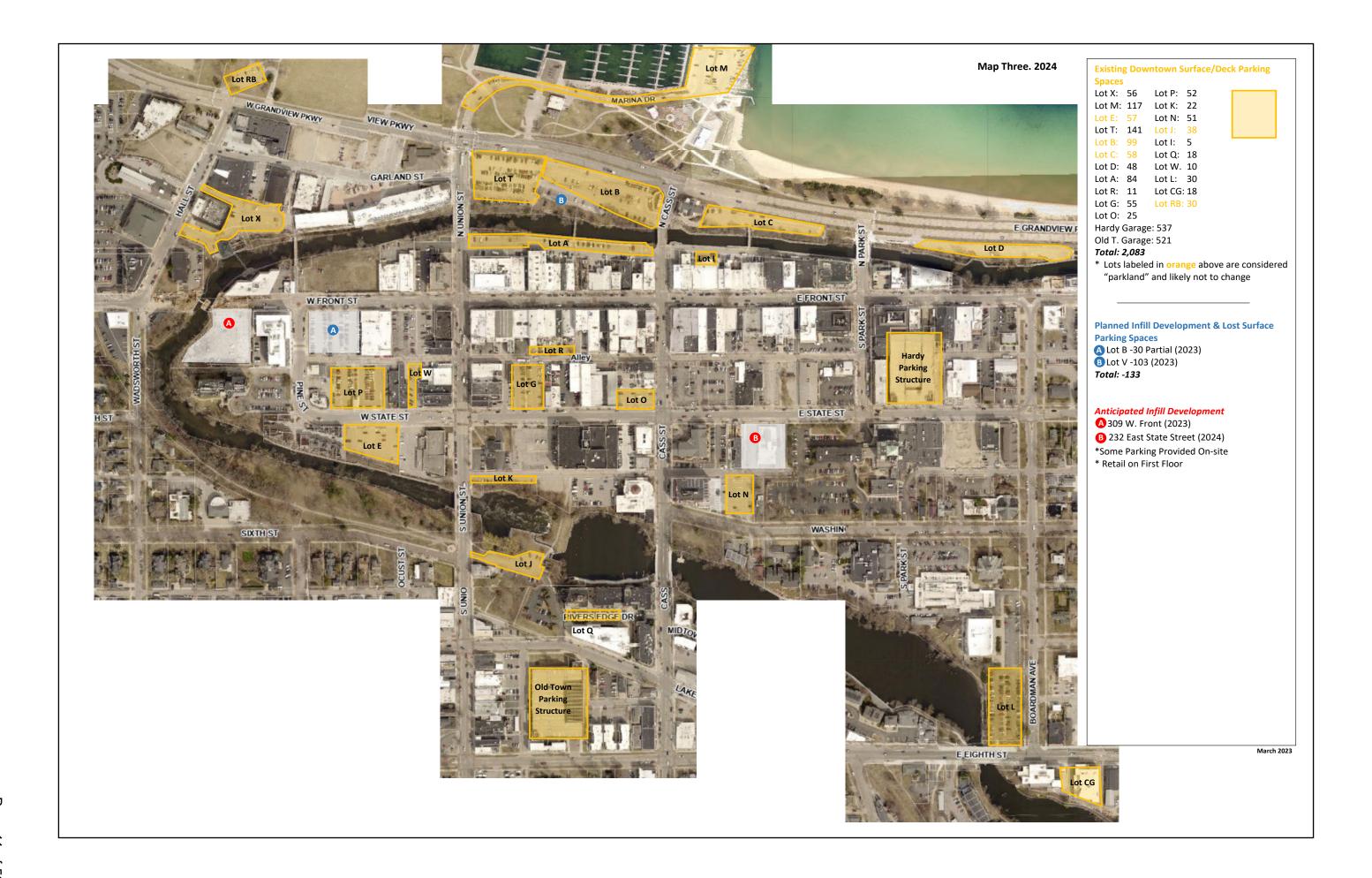
estimated "walktime" (and coverage for downtown) as it relates to the two existing parking structures and the proposed west-end parking structure.

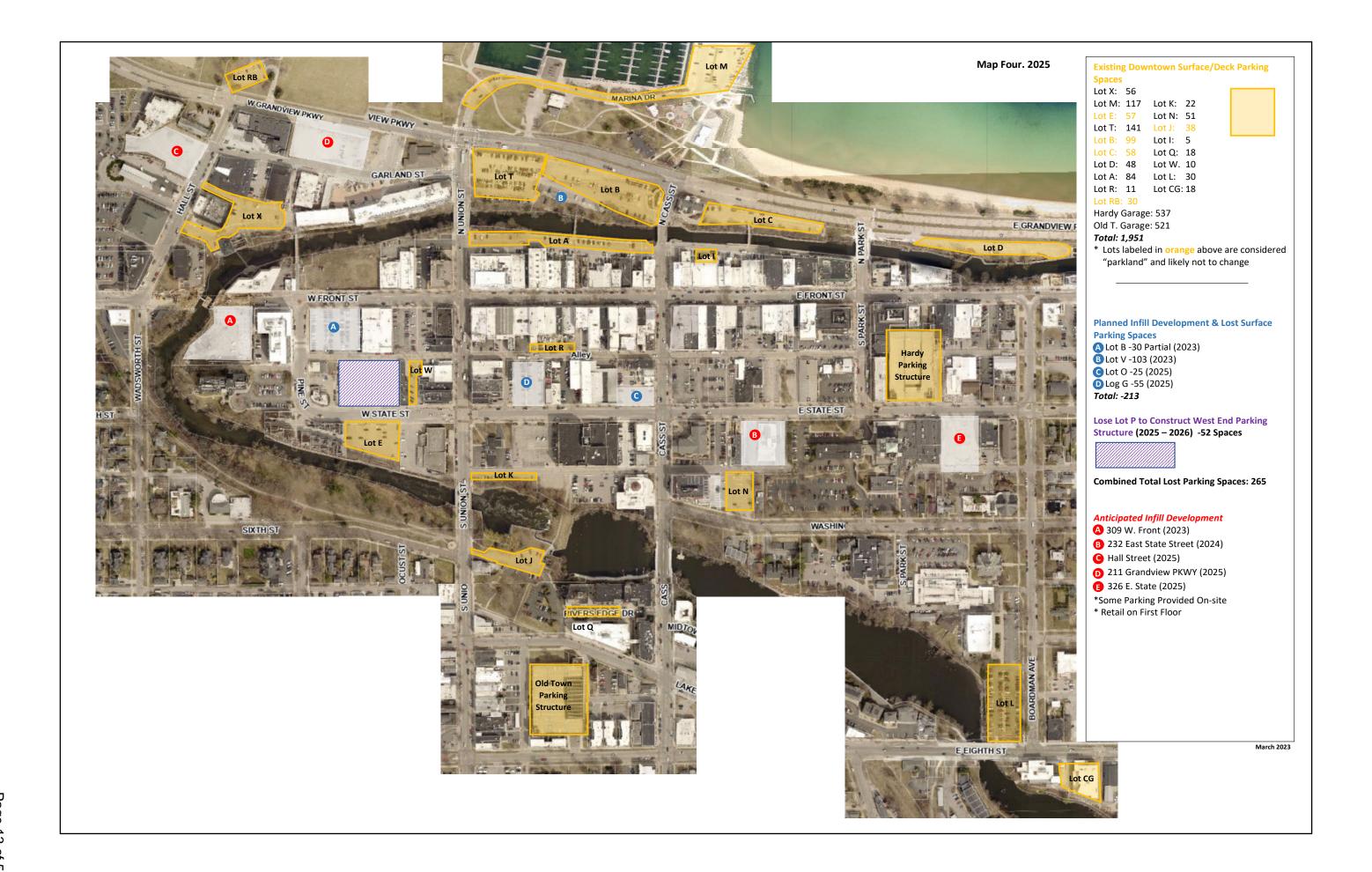
As you will see, there are a number of developments that are either planned or under construction throughout downtown over the next four years. Most of these new developments will include residential units on the top floors and commercial/retail space on the ground floor (and some parking, primarily for residential use). However, additional parking will be needed to support new (and existing) downtown employees and shoppers at the new retail spaces.

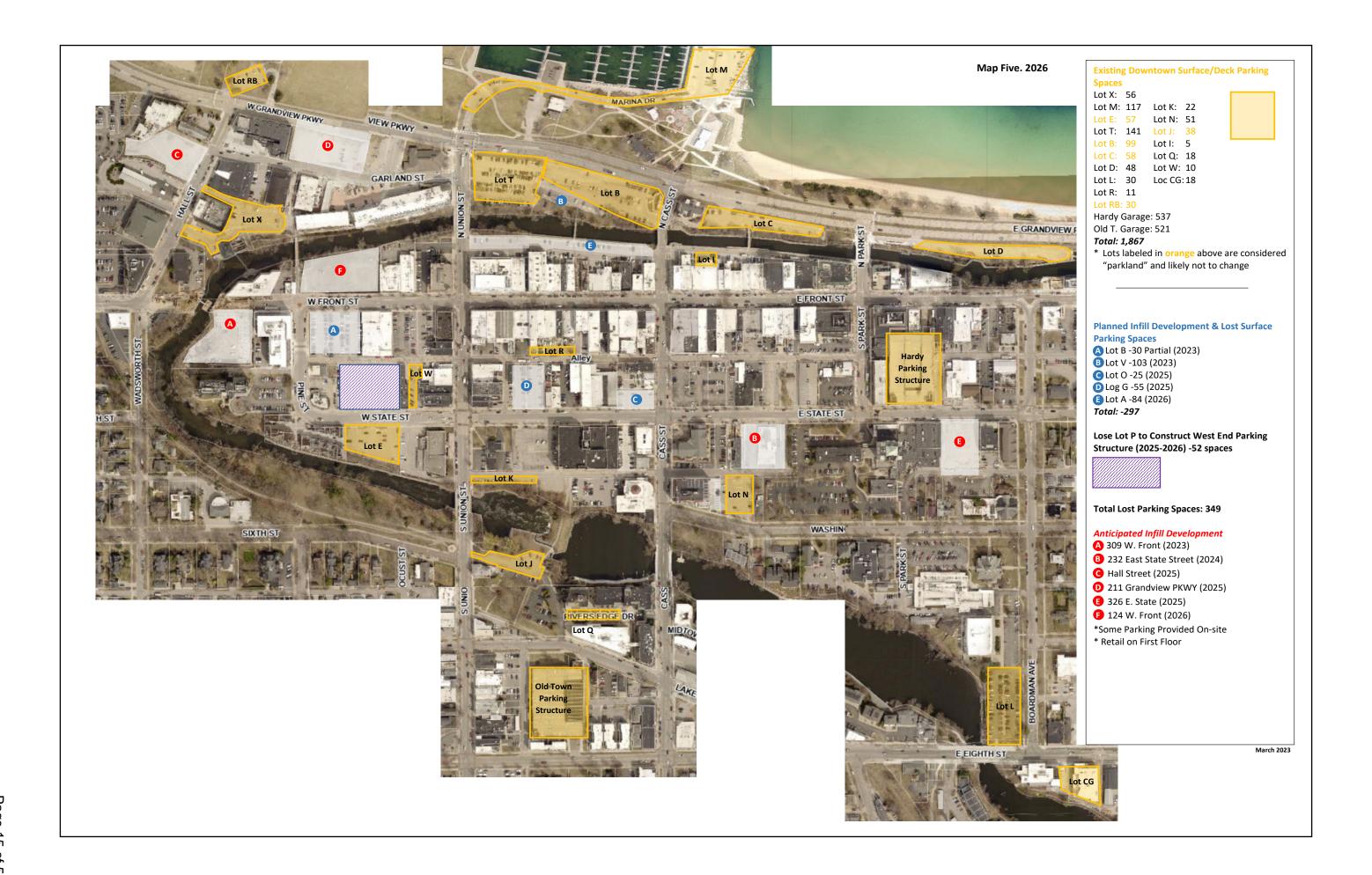
I look forward to discussing the timing of the potential transition of parking downtown over time - including the next steps toward implementation of the west end parking structure (i.e., design and engineering) - as it relates to our goals, objectives and priorities. Based on our discussion, I will bring formal action back to you at your March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Any request for design and engineering would then be presented to the City Commission for their consideration.

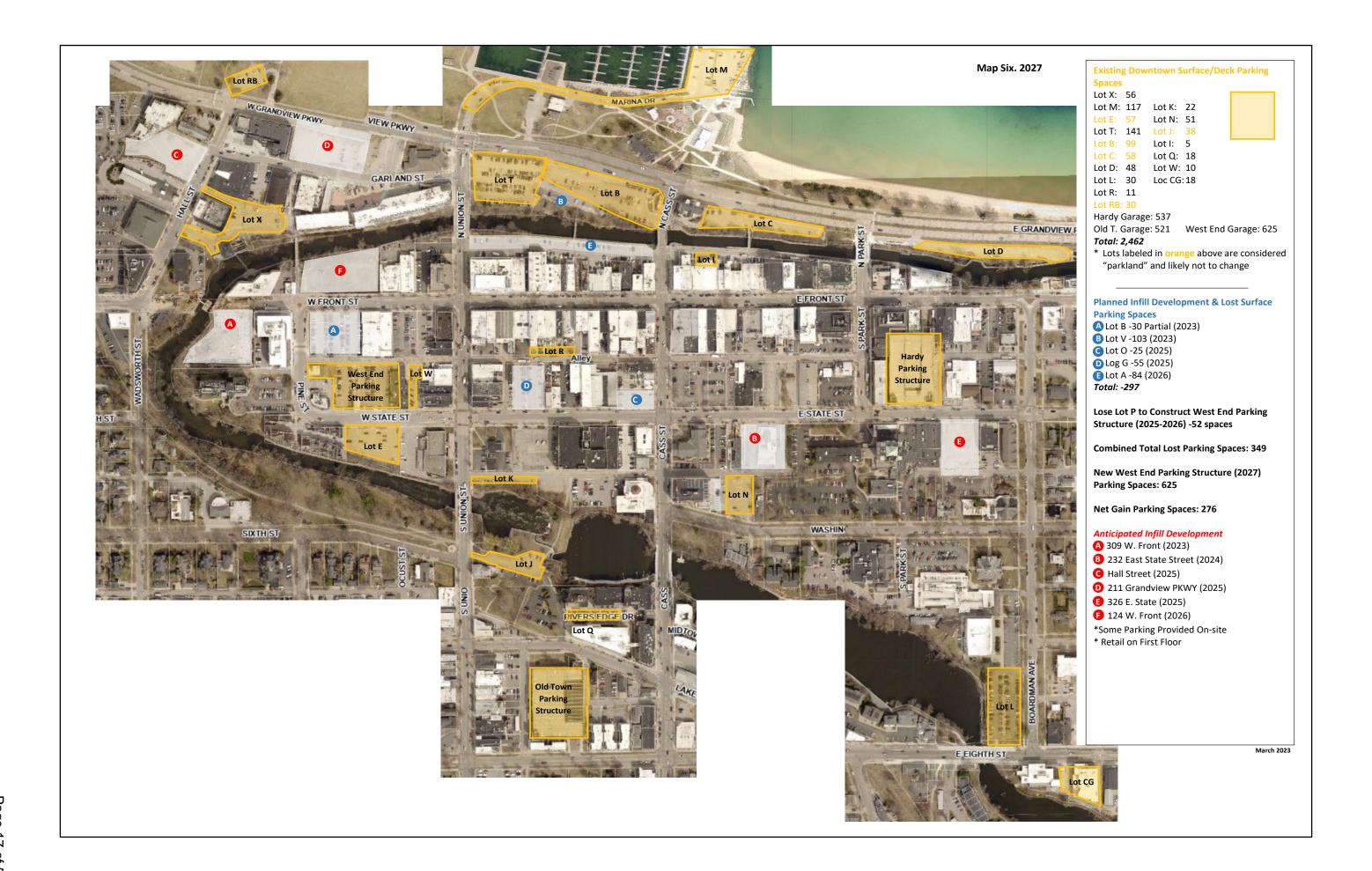


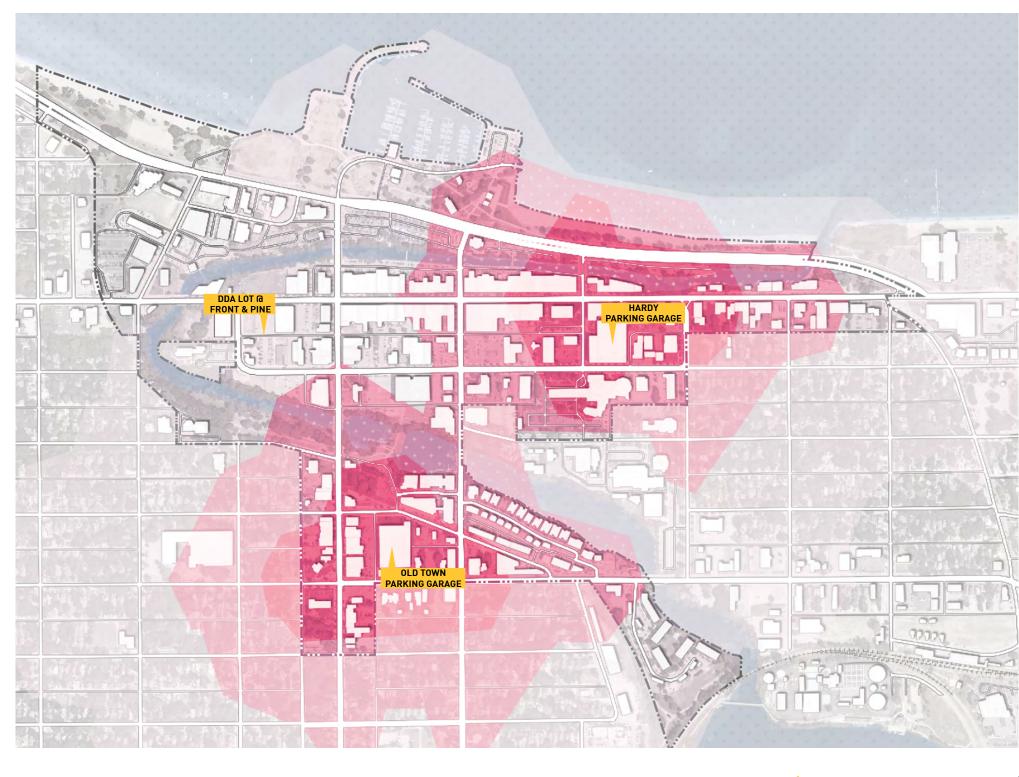












+ + + + + + 1/8 mile walking time (2.5 minutes)



1/4 mile walking time (5 minutes)



**1/2 mile walking time** (10 minutes)



**(10)** 

EXISTING WALKTIME MAP

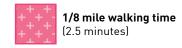


**TRAVERSE CITY DDA**PARKING RAMP STUDY

10 MAR 2020 2 0 1 9 0 7 1 2

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1/4 mile walking time (5 minutes)



**1/2 mile walking time** (10 minutes)



(10)

WALKTIME MAP

**TRAVERSE CITY DDA**PARKING RAMP STUDY

10 MAR 2020 2 0 1 9 0 7 1 2

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Downtown Development Authority 303 E. State Street Traverse City, MI 49684 jean@downtowntc.com 231-922-2050

#### Memorandum

To: DDA Board of Directors

From: Jean Derenzy, DDA CEO

Date: February 23, 2023

Subject: Study Session

#### Lower Boardman/Ottaway Downtown Riverwalk

Last January, the DDA entered into a contract with Inform Studio and their team of urban designers, placemaking and mobility experts, architects, engineers and community engagement specialists to develop a conceptual design for a downtown riverwalk along the Boardman/Ottawa River between Union Street and Park Street.

As you recall, a downtown riverwalk along this stretch of the river was one of the top priorities listed in the *Unified Plan* for the Lower Boardman River and is part of the community's long-held desire to "turn and embrace" the river. In addition, the riverwalk was identified as a capital project priority in the recently completed *Moving Downtown Forward* Plan.

In November, following an 11-month planning and design process that included extensive public engagement, the DDA Board approved a conceptual design for the downtown riverwalk. Note: I have attached a summary of all the public engagement activities related to the Unified Plan and Conceptual Design. The conceptual design addresses several components, including mobility, public infrastructure (lighting, furniture, public restrooms, dumpsters, etc.), ecology, the built environment and water access, programming and placemaking (activation – 12 month a year), recreation and activities, and maintenance.

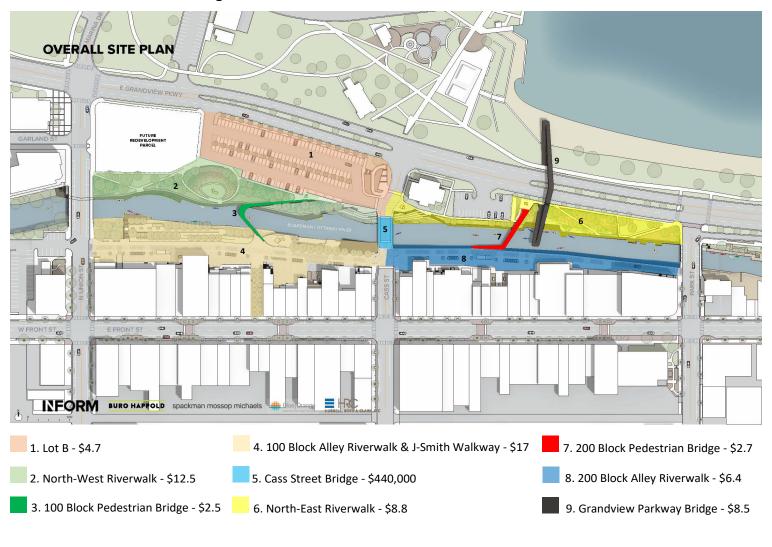
Upon the completion of the conceptual design, we worked with Inform Studio and Dharam Consulting (their construction cost and risk consultant) to develop basic construction <u>estimates</u> for the overall project as well as nine (9) "segments" of the project (see attached).

It is important to note that when looking at these "segments", Lot B is already scheduled to be rebuilt and repaved in 2023, including pulling back some parking from the riverbank, new stormwater management elements and new tree canopy. Many of these elements will be recommended that the DDA incur as costs. Lot B will be presented for your consideration at your March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Given the location and potential scope of the conceptual design, the riverwalk has the potential to be a truly transformational project for downtown. Given the potential costs associated with a project of this significance, we will want to consider all potential applications for implementation and funding. The potential phasing of implementation for the riverwalk needs to be discussed as well as the need for design and engineering services. Design and engineering services will provide a more accurate cost for construction as well as other project expenses (e.g., permitting, preconstruction services, etc.). Given the scope of the conceptual design, the board may want to consider requesting design and engineering services for the entire project or specific sections. Based on our discussion, I will bring formal action back to you at your March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Any request for design and engineering would then be presented to the City Commission for their consideration.

I look forward to discussing the timing of the riverwalk project, including preferred phases of implementation and design and engineering as it relates to our goals, objectives, priorities and budget.

#### **Lower Boardman Riverwalk Segments – Estimated Costs**



#### Civic Engagement Activities Related to the Lower Boardman Riverwalk Project

#### **Lower Boardman River Unified Plan**

Lead Consultant: SmithGroup Project Timeframe: 2019 - 2021

The planning process for the Unified Plan featured extensive public engagement opportunities.

The first round of public engagement occurred in the summer of 2019, which served as the kick-off to the entire project. These activities included:

- One (1) large community workshop under the tent along the river, in which over 100 people actively participated
- Eleven (11) pop-up meetings at various public venues throughout the city
- Four (4) focus group/stakeholder meetings, in which nearly 100 people participated (each meeting was open to the public)

This round of engagement was supported by an online survey, scavenger-hunt, press releases, social media posts, a postcard invitation, DDA website, and direct emails from our large email distribution list.

The second round of public engagement occurred in 2021. These activities included:

- One (1) large community day-long workshop at the Opera House
- Ten (10) pop-up meetings at various public venues throughout the city
- Four (4) focus group/stakeholder meetings, in which nearly 100 people participated (each meeting
  was open to the public)

This round of engagement was also supported by an online survey, press releases, social media posts, DDA website and direct emails from our large email distribution list

A third round of public engagement featured one (1) additional public meeting at the Governmental Center to focus on priorities for projects/funding.

Unified Leadership Team Meetings (which began in 2018) were conducted throughout the duration of the project, both in person and on-line (during the pandemic), in total we had:

- (32) Leadership Team Meetings
- (9) Riparian Subcommittee (of the Leadership Team) meetings

All meetings were public and noticed through the city's meeting identification system. Meeting notice was also provided through direct emails through our large email distribution list.

We also provided in-person project updates to the following city commissions (on three occasions) throughout the planning process:

- Planning Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- City Commission

We also presented once to the Grand Traverse Tribe of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

The DDA Board created a Lower Boardman Unified Plan Board Liaison, who provided a verbal update to the entire DDA Board at each board meeting (supplemented with a monthly memo dedicated to the project). These meetings were open to the public and can be reviewed on-line.

One of the top projects and priorities listed the Unified Plan is public space improvements (e.g., riverwalk and pedestrian plaza) along the alley/river of the 100 and 200 blocks of Front Street.

#### **Unified Plan Adopted**

DDA: Dec. 2021

Planning Commission: Jan. 2022

Parks and Recreation Commission: Feb. 2022

City Commission: Feb. 2022

\*Each of these meetings was open to the public and can viewed on-line

#### **Lower Boardman Riverwalk Conceptual Design Process**

Lead Consultant: INFORM Project Timeframe:

The conceptual design process also featured extensive public engagement opportunities.

The first round of engagement occurred in June of 2022, which served as the public kick-off of the project. This featured two days of stakeholder meetings at the Park Place Hotel, with downtown business owners, downtown property owners, stakeholder organizations and city staff.

The second round of engagement occurred in July of 2022, with a large community open house in the alley along the river. Over 150 people participated in this event. This event provided the public an opportunity to provide input on their vision for the riverwalk.

The third round of engagement occurred in September of 2022, with a second large community open house in the alley along the river. This event provided the public an opportunity to provide feedback on preferences related to the three different design options ("takes") for the riverwalk. Images of the three "takes" were placed in the window of the arcade building along with a link to a virtual survey where people could provide additional input.

Each of these engagement activities was supported by press releases, social media posts, the DDA website and direct emails from our large email distribution list.

DDA staff provided verbal and written updates to the DDA Board at each board meeting (which are open to the public and can be reviewed on-line).

#### **Conceptual Design Adopted**

The conceptual design was approved by the DDA Board at their November 2022 meeting.

\*This meeting was open to the public and can viewed on-line



Downtown Development Authority 303 E. State Street Traverse City, MI 49684 jean@downtowntc.com 231-922-2050

#### Memorándum

To: Downtown Development Authority Board

From: Jean Derenzy, DDA CEO

Date: February 26, 2023

Subject: Mobility Action Plan Update

As you recall, Chris Zull from Progressive AE attended our January board meeting to discuss the Mobility Action Plan, including the results of the first round of public engagement and potential themes for a localized version of complete streets. A second public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at the City Opera House to discuss the results of the network analysis (maps) and a conceptual network map. I have attached the maps, including the conceptual network map for your review. These maps will be presented and discussed at a joint city commission/planning commission meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>, but I wanted to be sure you had an opportunity to review the draft maps.

As a reminder, information on the Mobility Action Plan can be found on their project websites:

Mobility Action Plan: https://tcmobility-pae.hub.arcgis.com/

## **Bicyclist** Level of **Traffic Stress**



**Shared Lanes** 

Bike Lanes

Intersections

Trails

**Separated Bike Lanes** 



Level of Traffic Stress

**Low Traffic** < 20 mph



Medium/High Traffic < 25 mph, 2-3 Lanes



Medium/High Traffic **Protected** 



Trail



Low/High Traffic Separated Bike Lane





**Low Traffic** 30 mph



Low/Medium Traffic 30 mph, 2-3 Lanes



Low/Medium Traffic **Short Right Turn Lane** 



**Shared Use Path** (Low Ped Volume)





**Low Traffic** 35 mph



Medium/High Traffic 35 mph, 3-4 Lanes



Medium/High Traffic Long Right Turn Lane



**Shared Use Path** (High Ped Volume)





Low/Medium Traffic > 35 mph



Medium/High Traffic > 4 Lanes



Medium/High Traffic Bike Lane Drop



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## NACTO Designing for All Ages and Abilities

_	Farget Motor Vehicle			All Auts & Abilities
vernicie opeed	/olume (ADT)	Motor Vehicle Lanes	Key Operational Considerations	All Ages & Abilities Bicycle Facility
Any		$\Delta n V$	Any of the following: high curbside activity, frequent buses, motor vehicle congestion, or turning conflicts <sup>‡</sup>	Protected Bicycle Lane
< 10 mph Le	ess relevant	No centerline, or single lane one-way	Pedestrians share the roadway	Shared Street
≤ 20 mph ≤	1 000 0 000		< 50 motor vehicles per hour in the peak direction at peak hour	Bicycle Boulevard
≤	≤ 500 − 1,500		peak floui	
≤	£ 1,500 – 3,000	Single lane each direction, or single lane one-way	Low curbside activity, or low congestion pressure	Conventional or Buffered Bicycle Lane, or Protected Bicycle Lane
≤ 25 mph ≤				Buffered or Protected Bicycle Lane
G	Greater than 6,000			Protected Bicycle Lane
A	Any	Multiple lanes per direction		
	≤ 6,000	Single lane each direction	Low curbside activity, or low congestion pressure	Protected Bicycle Lane, or Reduce Speed
Greater than 26 ≤ mph <sup>†</sup>		Multiple lanes per direction		Protected Bicycle Lane, or Reduce to Single Lane & Reduce Speed
G	Greater than 6,000	Any	Any	Protected Bicycle Lane

## NOTES:

\*While posted or 85th percentile motor vehicle speed are commonly used design speed targets, 95th percentile speed captures high-end speeding, which causes greater stress to bicyclists and more frequent passing events. Setting target speed based on this threshold results in a higher level of bicycling comfort for the full range of riders.

† Setting 25 mph as a motor vehicle speed threshold for providing protected bikeways is consistent with many cities' traffic safety and Vision Zero policies. However, some cities use a 30-mph posted speed as a threshold for protected bikeways, consistent with providing Level of Traffic Stress level 2 (LTS 2) that can effectively reduce stress and accommodate more types of riders.

<sup>‡</sup> Operational factors that lead to bikeway conflicts are reasons to provide protected bike lanes regardless of motor vehicle speed and volume.

Source: https://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/designing-ages-abilities-new/choosing-ages-abilities-bicycle-facility/