

# Briefing on Public Safety and Emergency Management for Large/Special Events

Public Safety Committee  
February 24, 2026

# Growth in Grand Rapids

## More Events and Festivals

- Increasing number and scale of events and festivals
- New venues opening in 2026 and 2027
- Multiple venues operating simultaneously
- Increased regional and national visibility

## Implications

- Public safety complexity increases
- Mobility and access challenges
- Need for coordinated communication with venue operators, residents, businesses, and visitors

# Core Planning Areas

- Scheduling
- Safety (Access and Medical)
- Severe Weather
- Parking/Traffic

# Scheduling

- Strengthening protocols for venue operators and key city departments to receive information and communicate about planned and unplanned events
- Allow for resource coordination:
  - Traffic safety and route marking
  - Parking and travel planning
- Awareness for event planners
- Awareness for crowd management

# Safety and Severe Weather

## **Plans for safe conditions for crowds travelling to and from events**

- Includes coordination of access routes
- Emergency medical planning, and clear paths for first responders

## **Amphitheater Venue Planning**

- Operators will soon submit final Emergency Action Plan
- Queue and crowd management, rules for what can come into venue
- Protocols for monitoring and notification in the event severe weather is anticipated
- Developing SOPs for emergency action plans
- SOP to request extended performance hours as allowed under noise code

# Parking and Traffic



**Current protocols are well developed and coordinated for events at downtown venues, including public information, trip planning and traffic control**

## **Amphitheater Venue Planning Adds:**

- Lane and ramp closures on 131 and coordinating resources to ensure closure with each performance
- Mobile GR working on parking reservation platform, shuttles from other parking locations
- DGRI reviewing installed wayfinding signs for clarity on amphitheater location and ped routes to same
- Working directly with Amphitheater ticket vendors to provide a clear transportation and parking “Access Guide” to customers at the point of ticket purchase, reinforcing pre-arrival planning and setting expectations before visitors arrive downtown

## **Downtown**

- PD planning 20-24 officers first season
- Designated parking locations and areas for shared ride pick-up/drop-off and associated “marketing” of parking options
- A centralized downtown transportation webpage and communication campaign will serve as the authoritative source for comprehensive travel, parking, accessibility, and event-night access information
- Implementing venue-specific pedestrian wayfinding signage to clearly connect parking garages, shuttle drop-offs, and rideshare locations to event venues

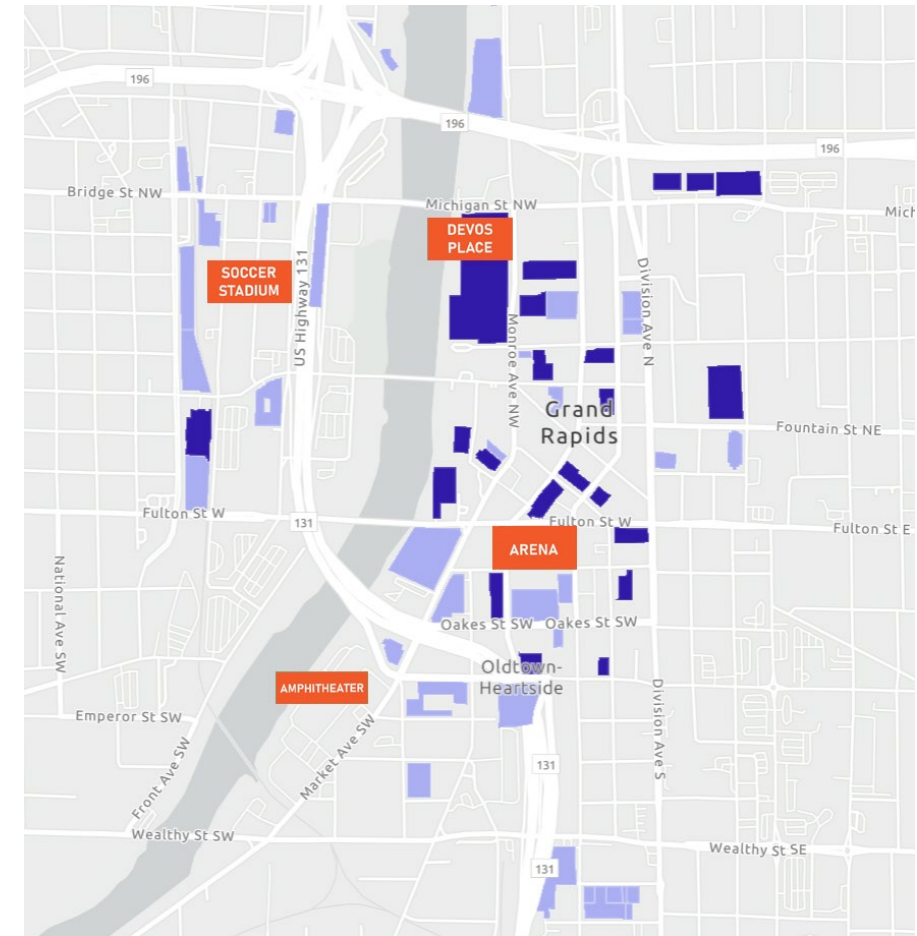
# Parking Support for Large/Special Events

## Publicly available parking capacity within 0.5 miles of Acrisure Amphitheater

- 7,860 off-street parking spaces
- 18 parking lots
- 12 parking ramps
- 1,003 on-street parking spaces

## Publicly available parking capacity within 1 mile of downtown core

- 17,777 off-street parking spaces
- 40 parking lots
- 23 parking ramps
- 2,553 on-street parking spaces



Publicly available ramp      Publicly available lot

# Transit Support for Large/Special Events

- Supported by the Rapid's regional transit system with frequent weekday and evening service
- Includes the DASH Downtown Circulator, a high-frequency loop service designed specifically for downtown access and short trips
- Multiple routes run on primary downtown corridors including Michigan, Fulton, Division, and Wealthy
- Served by 15+ fixed-route bus lines connecting downtown to neighborhoods, park-and-ride areas, and regional corridors

