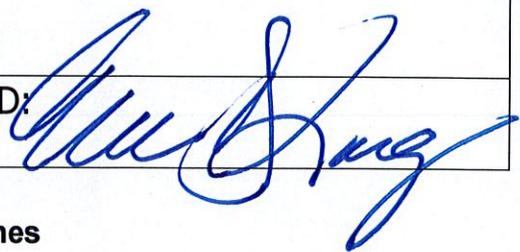




CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

NUMBER: 18-03	DATE: September 28, 2018
REVISIONS:	
ISSUED BY: City Manager	SIGNED: 

SUBJECT: Vital Streets Plan and Design Guidelines

PURPOSE: Quality streets and effective transportation networks are critical to the health, safety, enjoyment and economic strength of the Grand Rapids community and preservation of the Grand River watershed. Grand Rapids defines Vital Streets as “complete streets with green infrastructure.” In 2014, City voters approved Vital Streets funding and made a bold commitment to improving the quality of City streets and providing equitable access and mobility for all people.

The Vital Streets Oversight Commission (VSOC), appointed by the City Commission, was established after the May 2014 public vote to extend an income tax request in support of improving city streets and sidewalks. The role of the VSOC is to make recommendations to the City Manager and City Commission on the expenditure of revenue from the income tax continuation, report to the City Commission on achievement of Vital Street and Sidewalk outcomes and advise on asset management strategies. The annual capital budget for proposed expenditures of the revenue from the income tax continuation shall be reviewed by the Vital Streets Oversight Commission and approved by the City Commission prior to any spending.

The Vital Streets Plan is intended to ensure the wise investment of public resources that advances the Vital Streets Vision:

“The network of city streets and rights-of-way will be accessible, attractive, multimodal and safe; serving all people of our community, contributing to the livability of our neighborhoods and business districts, protecting the quality of our river, and increasing economic opportunity to individuals, businesses, and new development.

Infrastructure assets will be maintained and well-managed, using a multi-faceted funding and educational strategy, and innovative approaches to preserve our investment.”

The VSOC commissioned the development of the Vital Streets Plan and Design Guidelines. The Vital Streets Plan, a transportation master plan, is intended to provide a transparent, predictable and coordinated strategy to realize the Vision for Vital Streets that reflects the values and principles of our community and includes measures of success to insure accountability and encourage innovative design solutions.

The Vital Streets Design Guidelines provide detailed information on street design considerations to assist street designers, members of the public, and City officials with ensuring the City's streets meet Grand Rapids goals.

POLICY:

1. The Vital Streets Plan
<https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/files/assets/public/departments/engineering/files/grvs-street-plan-2017.pdf>, approved by the City Commission on December 13, 2016 (Commission Proceeding Number 86342), is the City's transportation master plan. The plan, and approved amendments, is intended to provide a transparent, predictable and coordinated strategy to realize the Vision for Vital Streets that reflects the values and principles of our community and includes measures of success to insure accountability and encourage innovative design solutions.
2. The Vital Streets Design Guidelines
<https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/files/assets/public/departments/engineering/files/grvs-design-guide-2017.pdf>, as accepted by the Vital Streets Oversight Commission on December 18, 2017, and as may be updated from time to time are hereby adopted as a design reference manual to be used by the City's Design Team as established by Administrative Policy 18-03, City staff, assist street designers, members of the public, and City officials in project development to ensure that City's streets meet Grand Rapids Vital Streets goals.
3. The Vital Streets Design Guidelines are to be used by Design Team, the Vital Streets Oversight Commission and the Mobility Commission in the design and implementation of multi-modal investments in the community.