# Division & Ionia (I-196 to Mason) and I-196 Underpass Activation

## Concept Design Meeting
## September 25, 2024

# Agenda

- Introductions
- Division and Ionia Project Overview
- Guiding Documents and Principles
- Division & Ionia Concept Design
- I-196 Underpass Activation Project Overview
- Discussion

# Introductions

*Engineering Consultant*

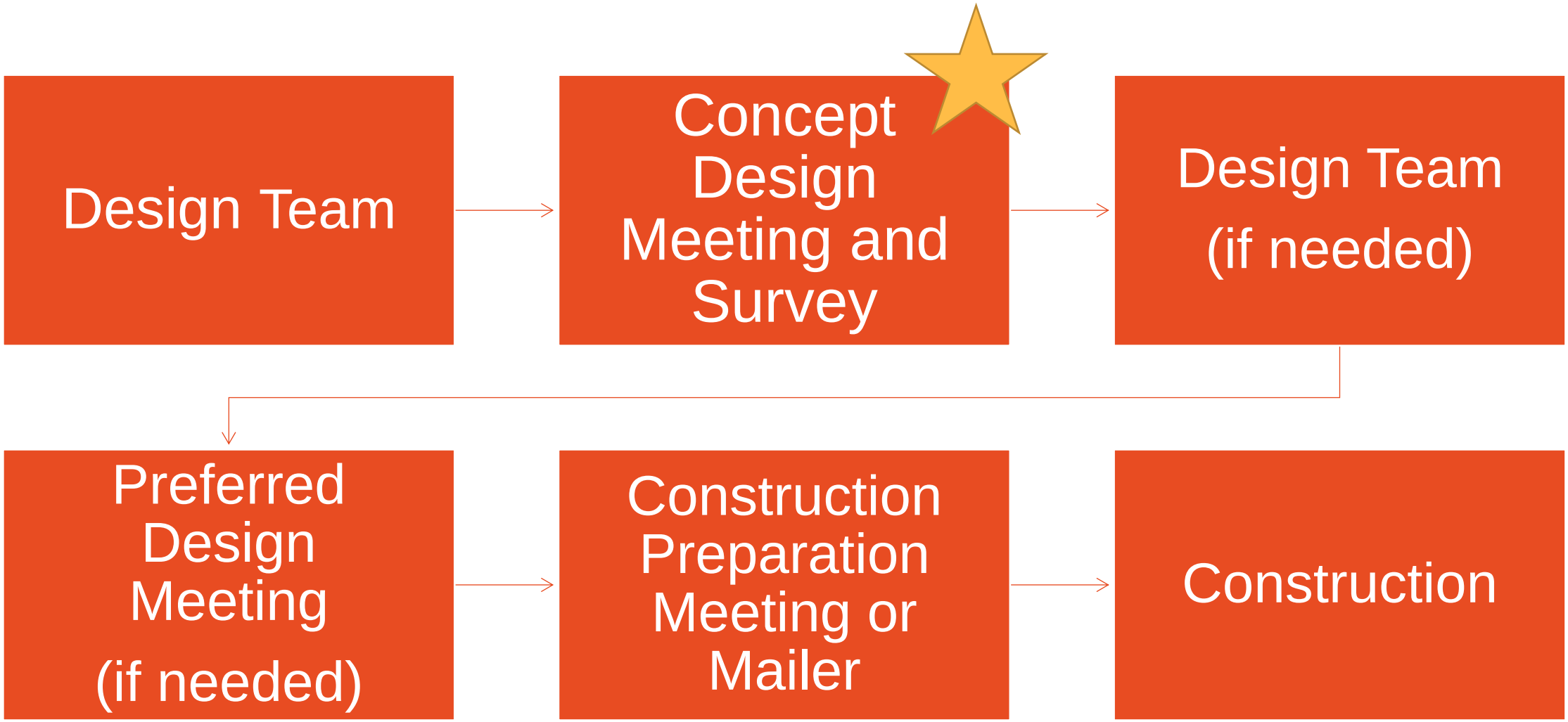
- Fishbeck – Joe Platte & Ashley Powers

*City Staff*

- Community Engagement – Sarah Itani and Juan Torres
- Engineering – Dan Siminski
- Mobile GR/Traffic Safety – Kristin Bennett
- DGRI – Mark Miller

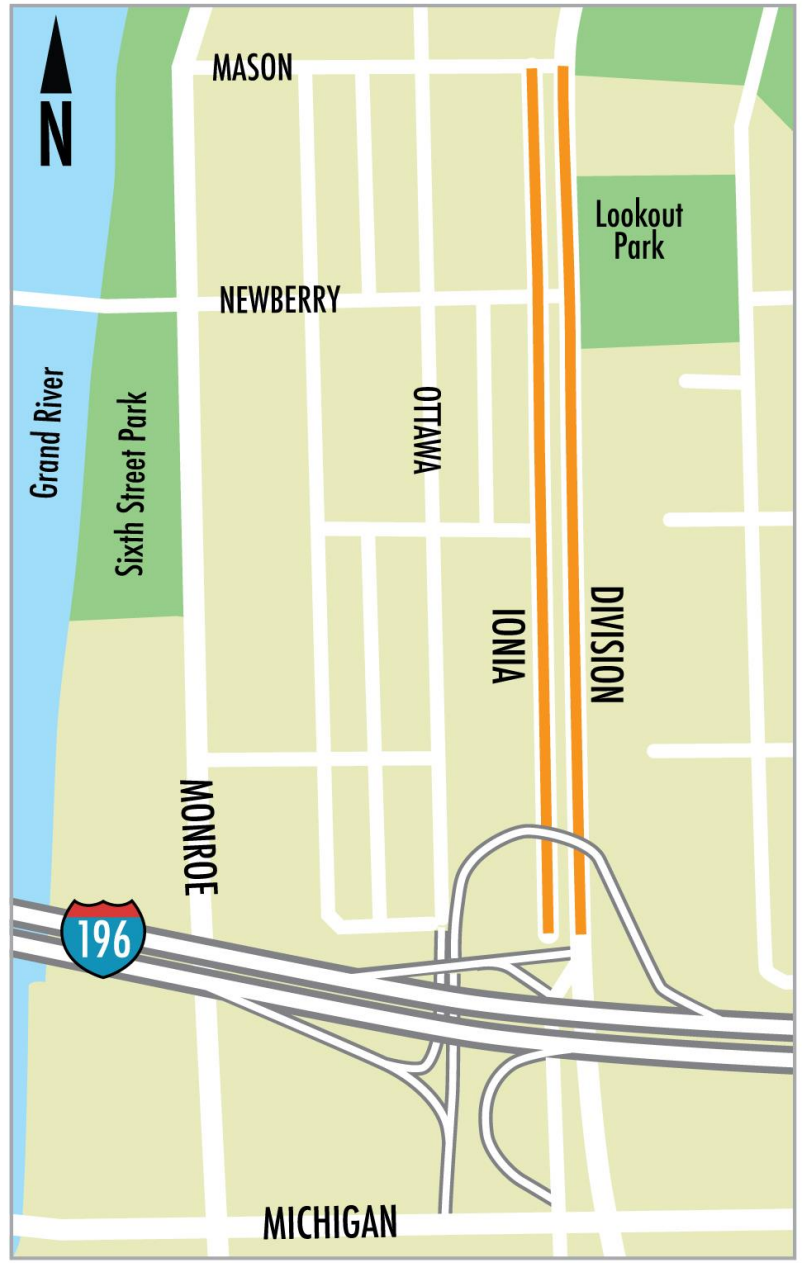
# Division & Ionia Project Overview

# Road Design and Construction Process



# Division and Ionia Project Details

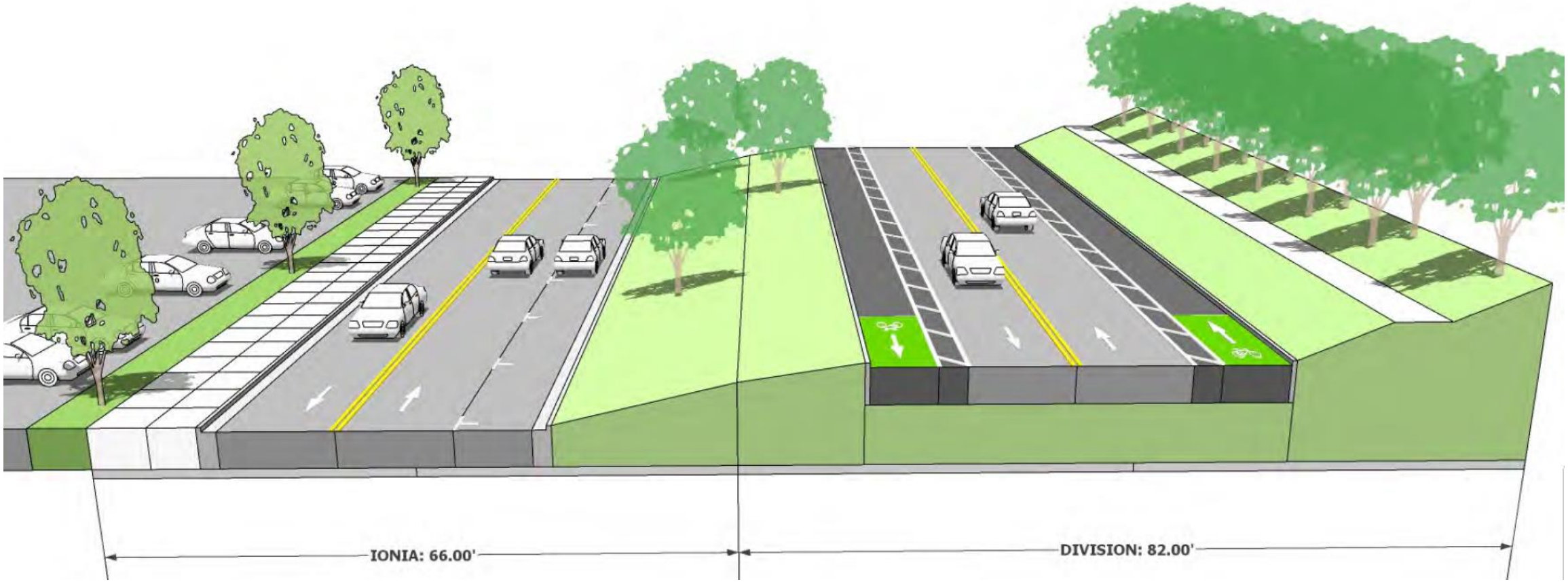
- Reconstruction project
  - Combine Division and Ionia into one street
  - Upgrades to the storm sewer system
  - Replace all driveway approaches
- New sidewalks and curb ramps to meet ADA standards
- New shared use path
- New decorative streetlights
- 2025 Construction



# Existing Conditions

## IONIA / DIVISION

EXISTING | LOOKING NORTH



# Existing Conditions

**Ionia**

- 66-foot public right of way
- 36–44-foot road width
  - Two travel lanes, one in each direction
  - On-street parking lane on east side
  - Sidewalk on west side
- Water main and sanitary sewer infrastructure

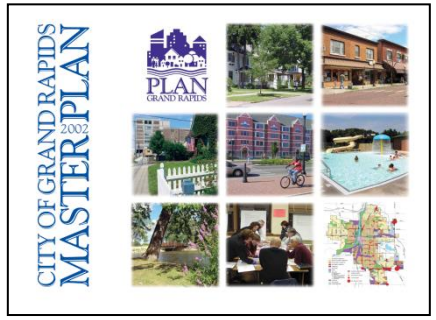
**Division**

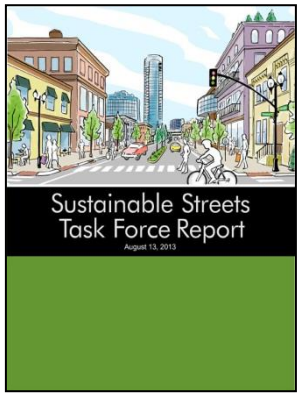
- 82-foot public right of way
- 44-50-foot road width
  - Two travel lanes, one in each direction
  - Buffered bicycle lanes on both sides of the street
  - Sidewalk on east side

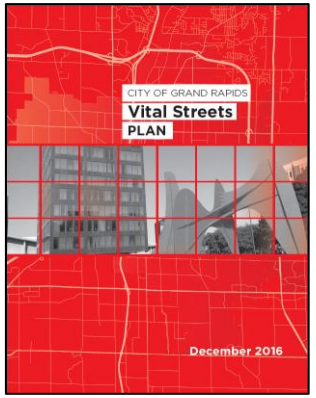
# Guiding Documents and Principles

# Guiding Documents

- 2000-2002 City Master Plan
- 2007-2010 Green Grand Rapids
- 2012-2013 Sustainable Streets Task Force Report
- 2015 Urban Tree Canopy Assessment
- 2015 GR Forward
- 2016 Vital Streets Plan
- 2019 Bicycle Action Plan







# Sustainable Streets Task Force Vision

City Streets and rights-of-way will be accessible, attractive, and safe, serving people of our community, contributing to the livability of our neighborhoods and business districts and increasing economic opportunity to individuals, businesses, and new development.

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

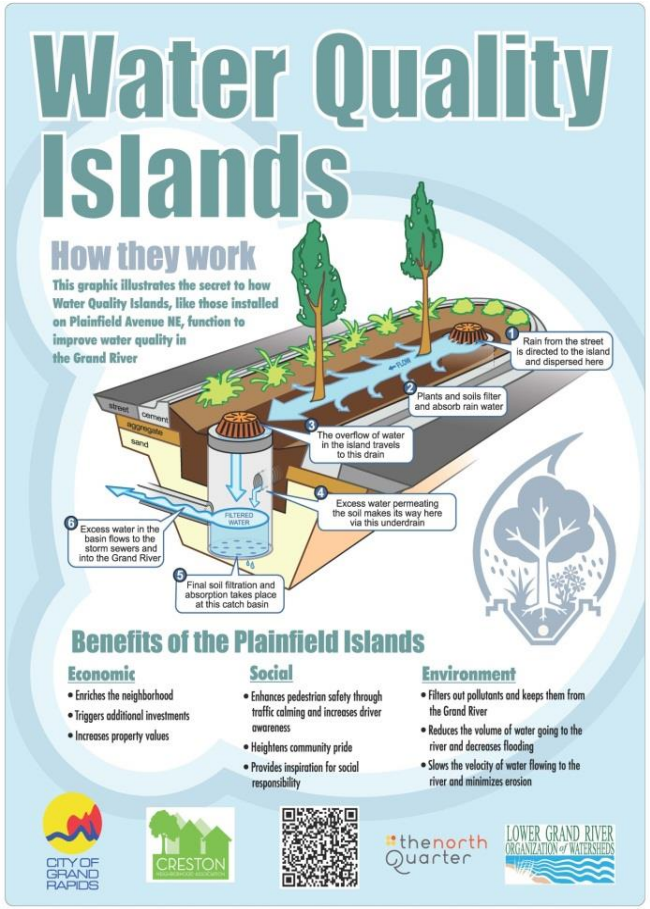
# Complete Streets

A system of streets…planned, designed, operated and maintained so all legal users may safely, comfortably and conveniently move along and across streets

~ PA 134 of 2010

# Vital Streets

Complete streets + green infrastructure



# All users include:

- People walking
- People driving
- People biking
- People of all abilities
- Trucks
- Buses

# Why all users?

**1/3**rd of the population does not drive

Aging population:

- **1 in 5** seniors do not drive (AARP)
- Most seniors outlive their ability to drive by **7 to 10** years (AARP)

Ability:

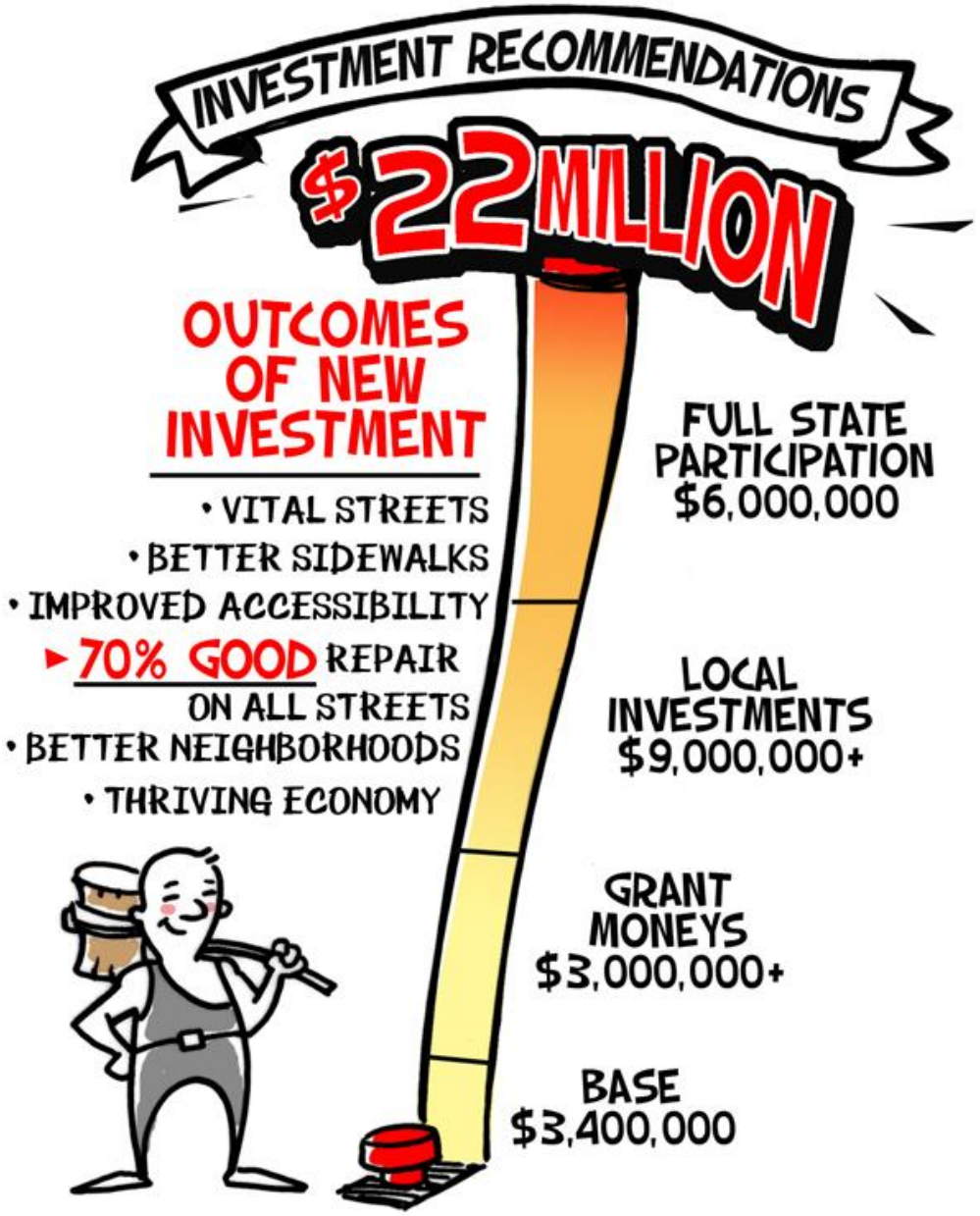
- **20%** of Americans have a disability that limits their daily activities (US Census)
- **Nearly half** of people 65 and older have a disability (US Census)

# Why all users?

- Young people:
  - **1/4th** do not have a driver's license (U.S. PIRG)
  - Trips by bike ↑ **24%**, ↑ walking **16%**, ↑ transit **40%** (U.S. PIRG)
- Expense:
  - Average cost of owning and operating one automobile (2022): **$10,728/year** (AAA)
  - Average household transportation costs (Grand Rapids MSA, 2015): **$12,943/year** (H+T Index)

# Vital Streets Income Tax

- 70% good and fair goal
- Passed in 2014



# Urban Tree Canopy

- 40% urban tree canopy goal
- This area has less than 20% canopy

Value

- Environmental quality
- Public health
- Water quality
- Property value
- Aesthetics

**34%**
***Average (UTC) in Grand Rapids***

**$2.64 million***
***Annual Ecosystem Services***

**-0.7%**
***Percentage Point UTC Change from 2005-2014***

**7,032**
***Acres Possible Planting Area***

**1,640**
***Acres Increase Needed to Meet 40% UTC Goal***

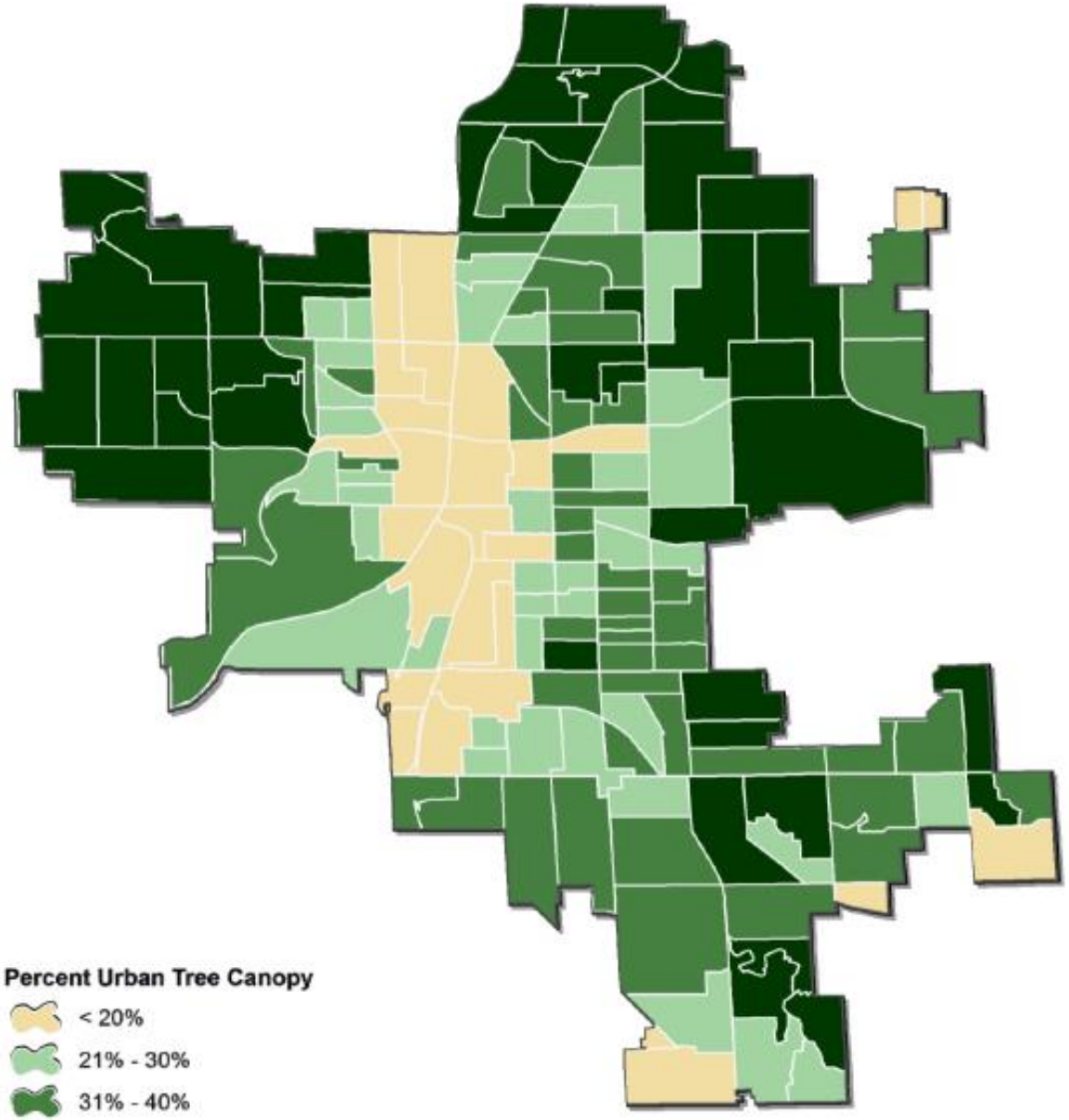


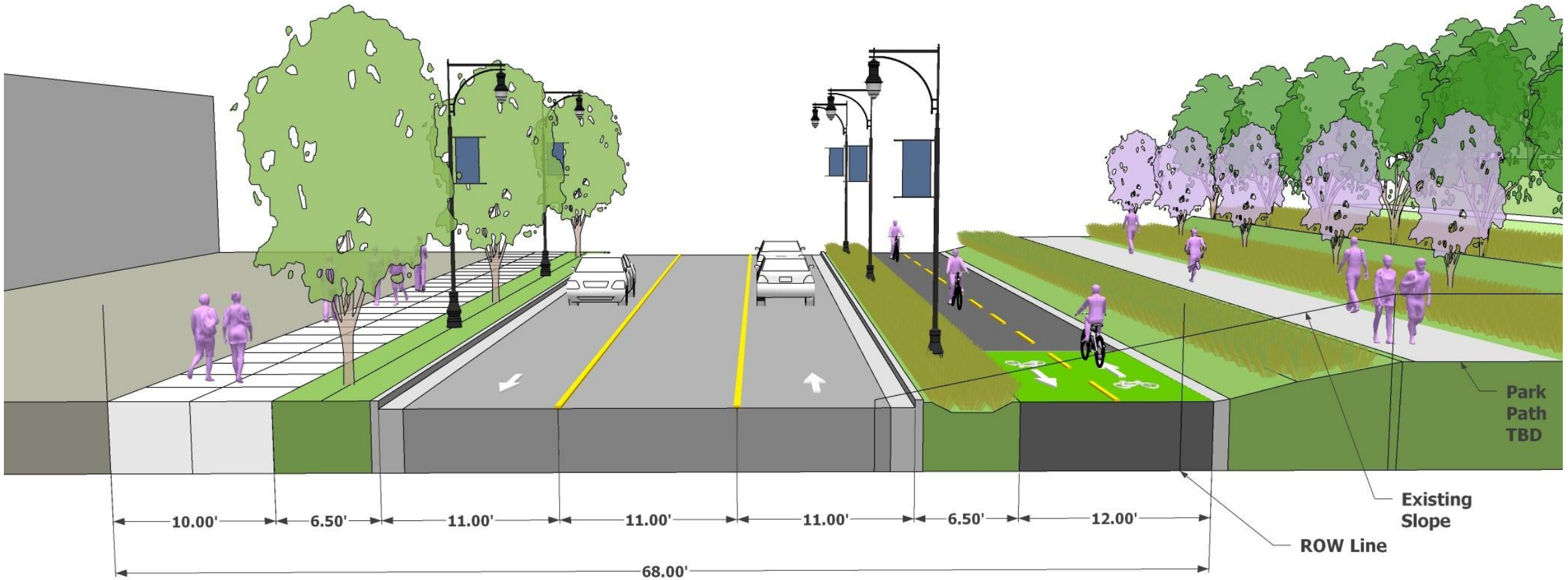

*Figure 12: Percent UTC by Census Block Group.*

# Concept Design

# Concept Design

- Combine Division and Ionia Avenue into one street. Division Avenue will be realigned into the Ionia right-of-way and eliminate Ionia Avenue.
  - The new street will have two 11-foot travel lanes and 11-foot center turning lane.
  - Medians will be installed in portions of the center turning lane.
- Install a 10-foot sidewalk on the west side of the new street and a 12-foot shared use path on the east side.
- Install new traffic signals at the new Division Avenue and Newberry Street intersection.
- Upgrade the storm sewer system.
- Install new decorative streetlights.
- Plant new street trees.

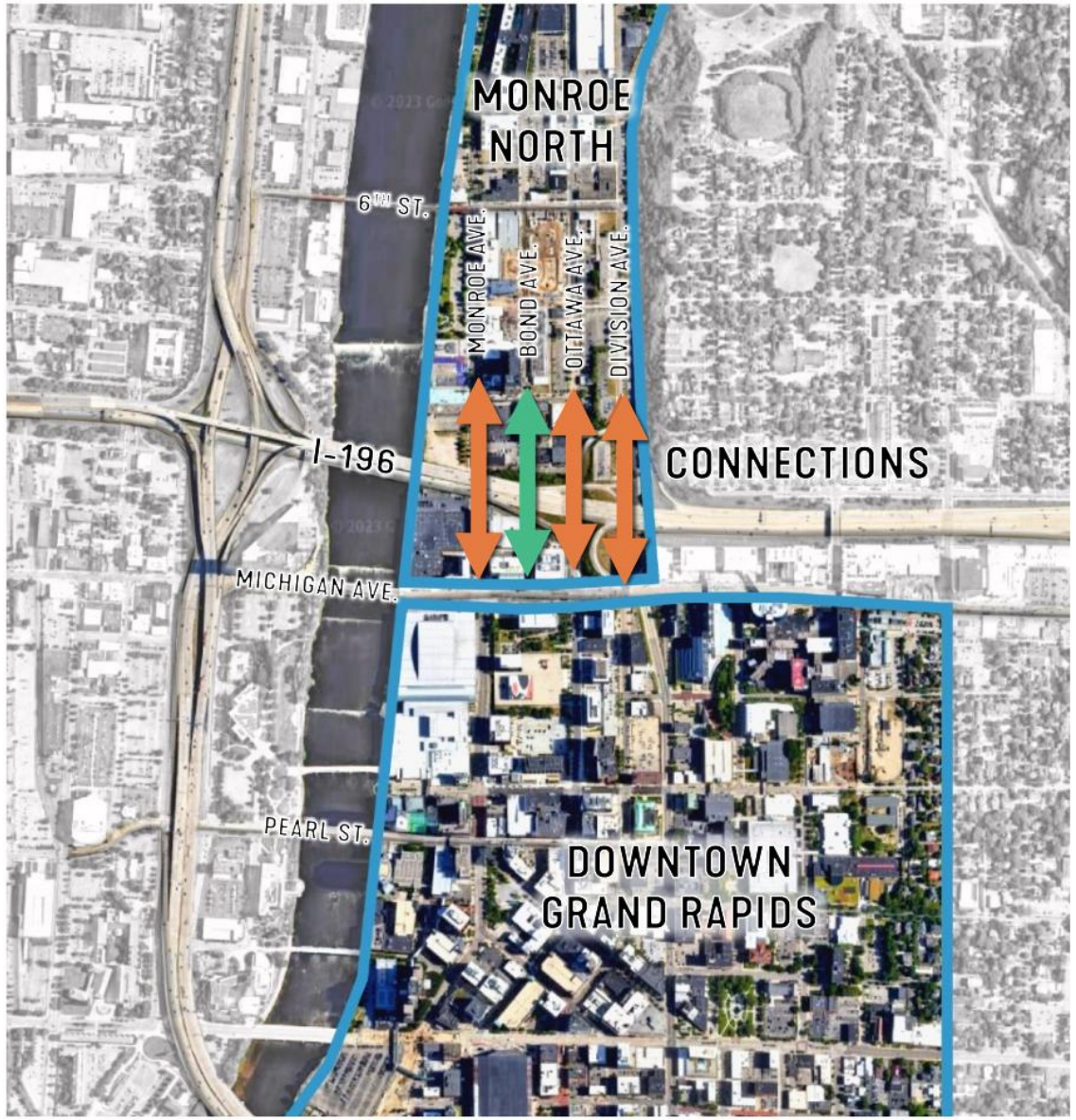
# Concept Design



# I-196 Underpass Activation Project Overview

# I-196 Underpass Activation

- Transform an abandoned railroad connection under I-196 into a pedestrian and bicycle connection
  - Connect the Monroe North neighborhood to Downtown.
  - Provide space for public art, including sculptures, murals, color-changing lighting, and sound.
- Install lighting and gates at entries for overnight closure

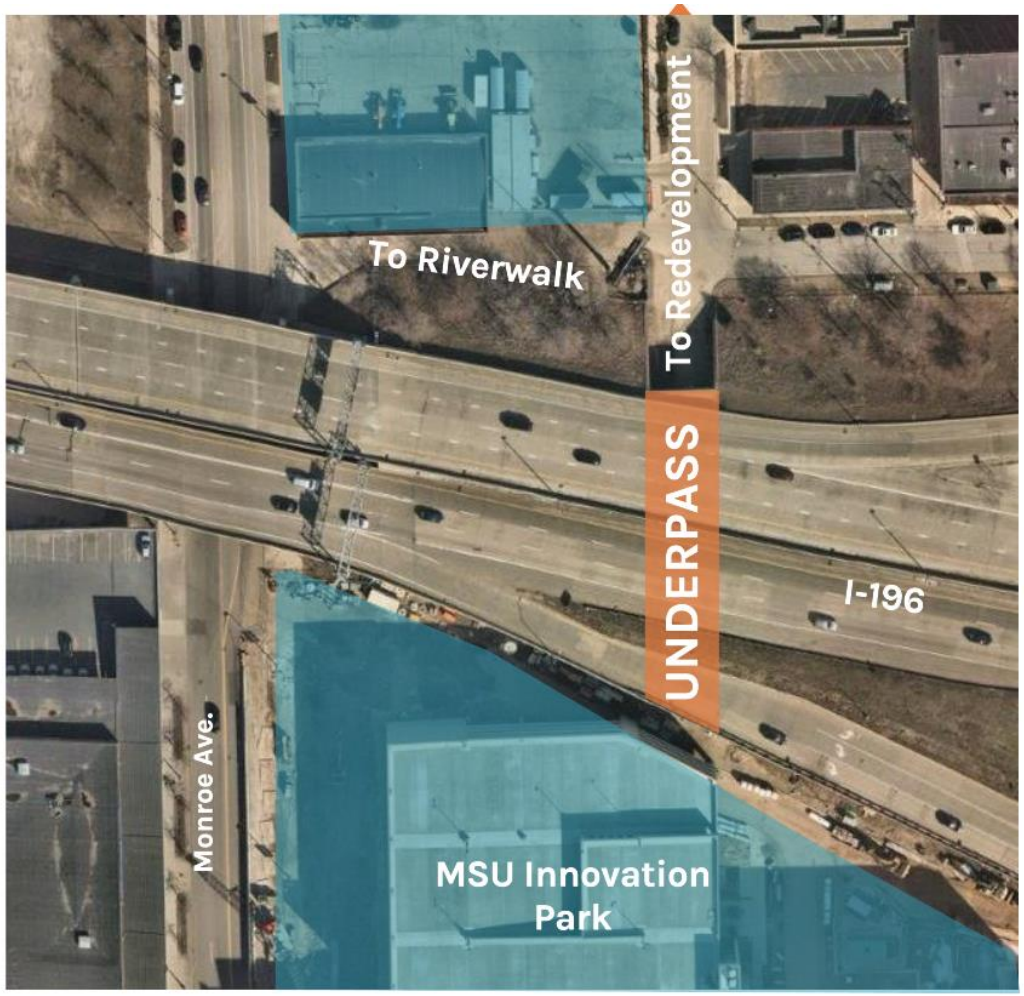



Proposed Underpass Connection

Existing Sidewalk Connection

# I-196 Underpass Activation

From a rail loading platform to a pedestrian and bicycle connection



# NORTH ENTRY

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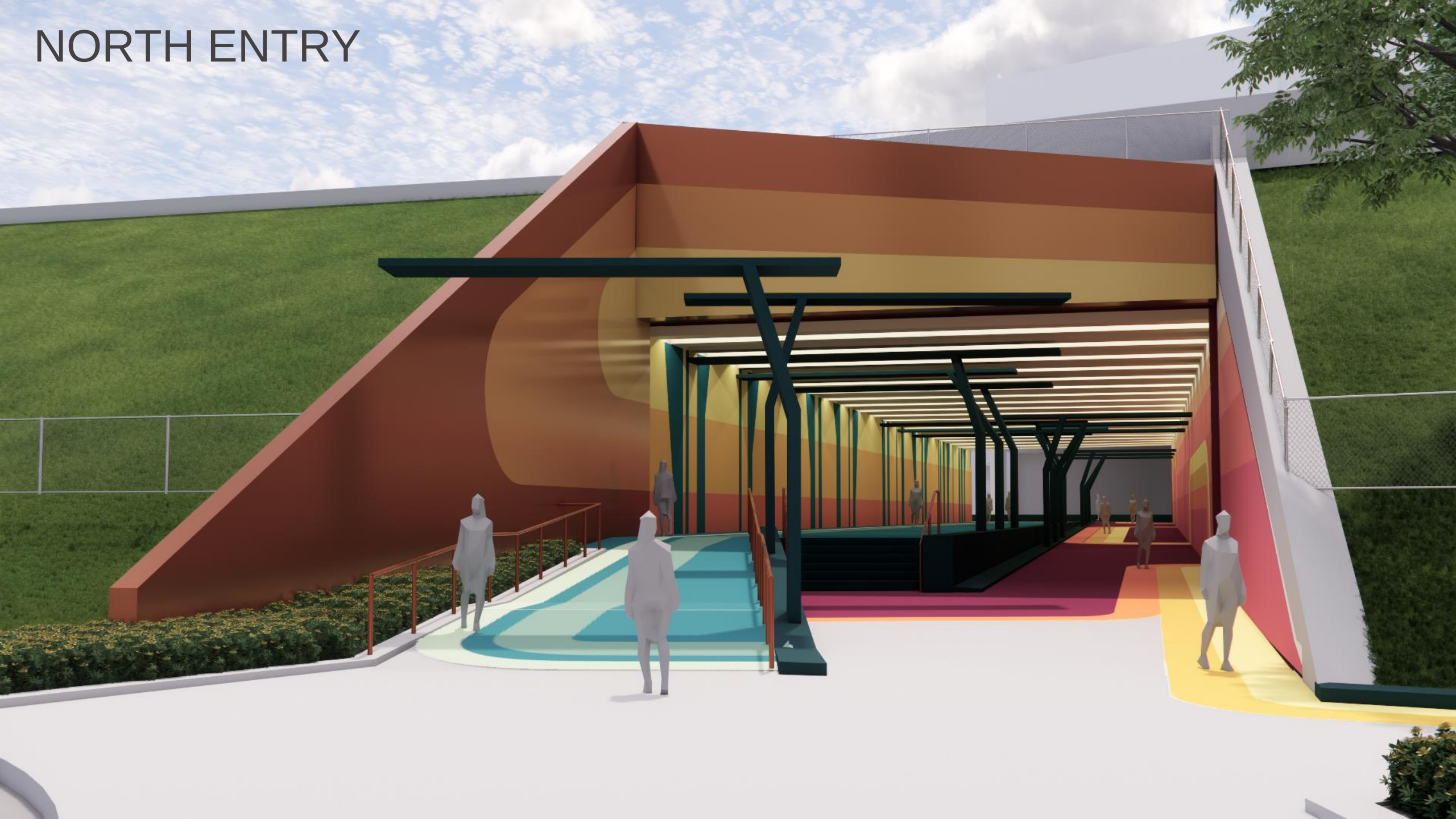

# SOUTH ENTRANCE

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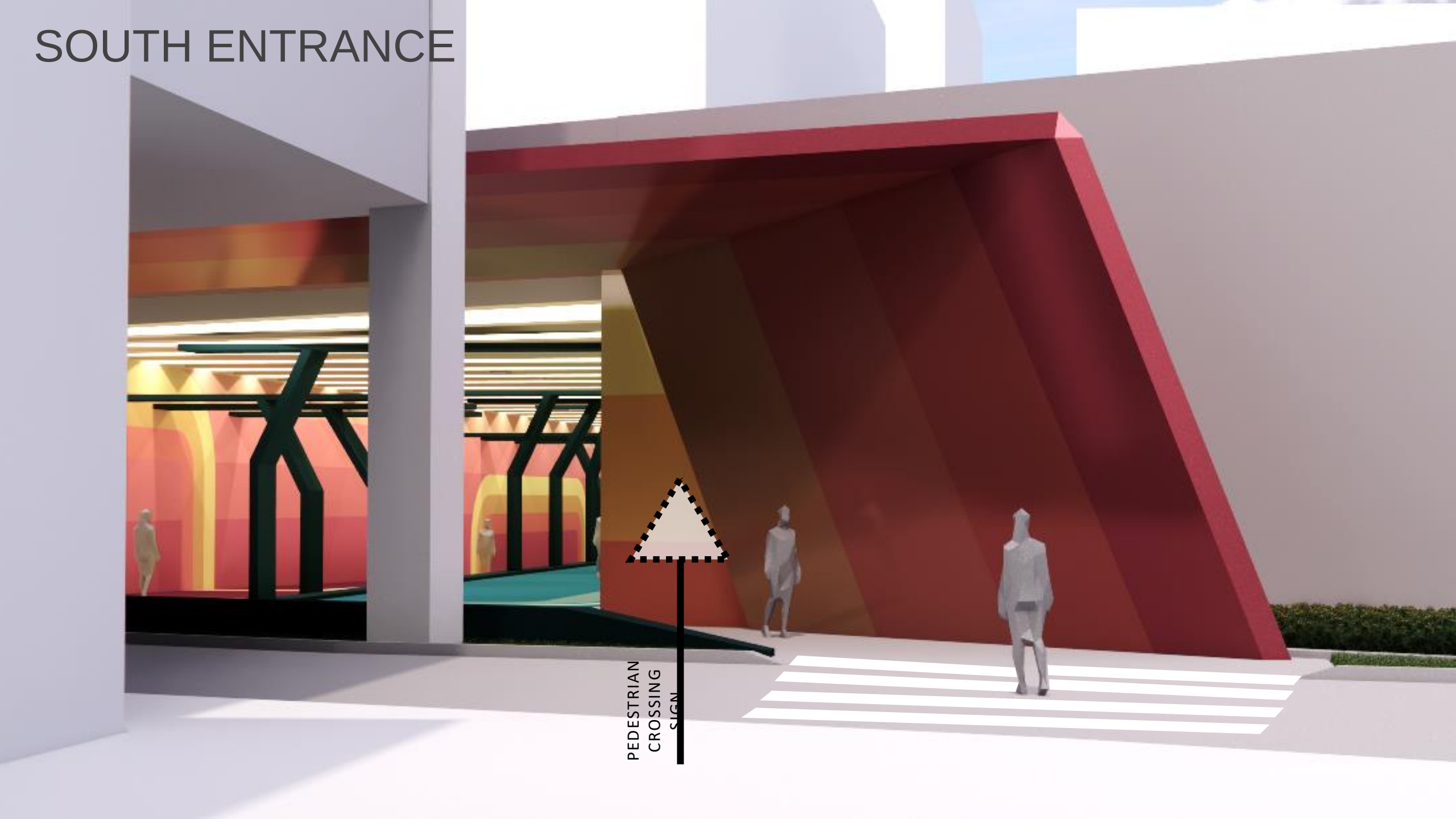
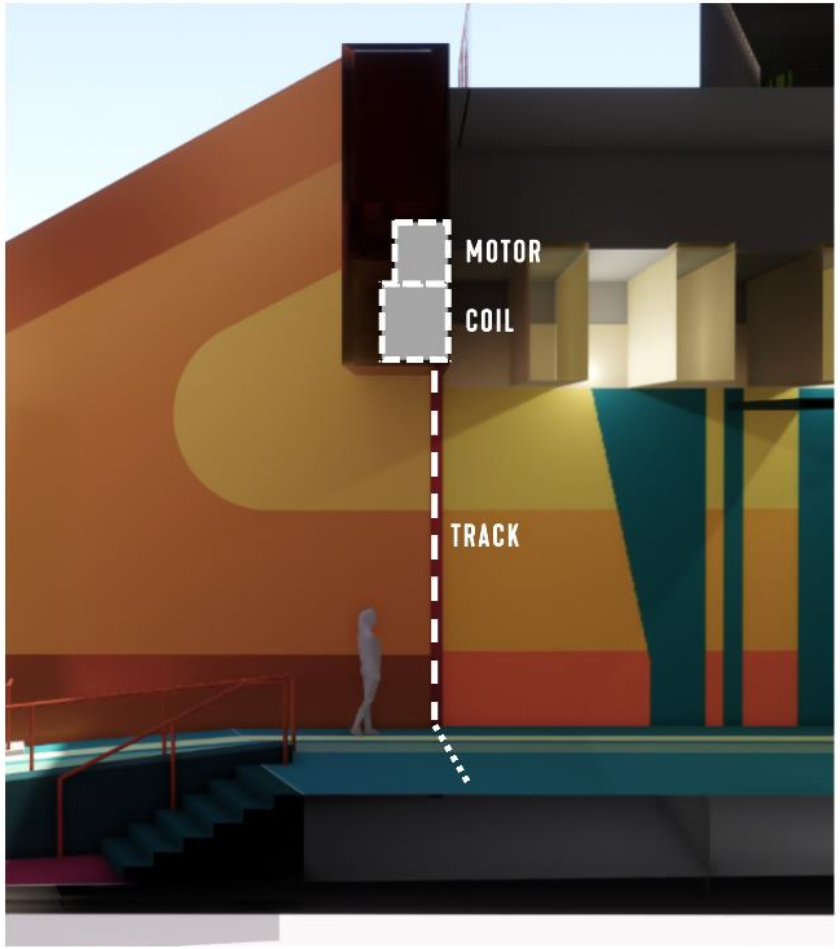
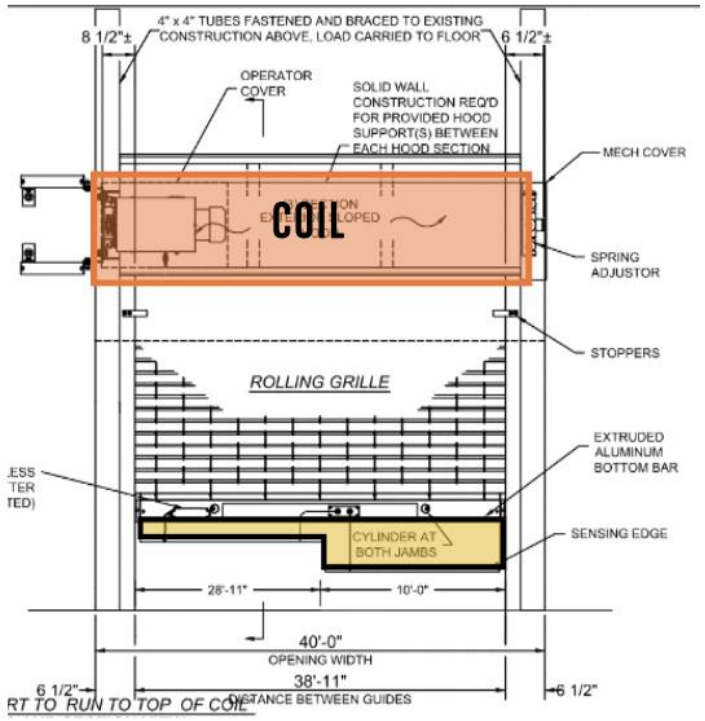


# SECURITY GRILLE

## CORNELL COOKSON ESG12 VISIONAIRE GRILLE WITH CLOSURE PLATE




SECTION




ELEVATION

# Discussion

# Contact Information

- Road construction website: grandrapidsmi.gov/roadconstruction
- City phone number: 311 or 456-3000
- Email: communityengagement@grcity.us
- Gr.publicinput.com and search for *Division* or *Ionia*