

2024 Grand Avenue Reconstruction

Fairview Ave to Snelling Ave



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Grand Avenue Reconstruction



Project Extent:
From the intersection
with Snelling Ave to
Fairview Ave

Likely not to include full
Snelling Ave
intersection

MnDOT will reconstruct
southern pedestrian
crossing in 2024/2025
M&O project



Project Purpose and Need

- Need: Low ride quality is present throughout the project extent, high pedestrian activity with crossing needs at intersections, most notably mid-block crossings within the Macalester College campus.
- History:
 - Most recent work was a thin mill and overlay done in 2020 from Snelling to Macalester
 - Center median installed through Macalester campus mid 2000s
 - Metro Transit completed bus stop improvements and stop consolidation for Route 63 in 2020
- Project Data:
 - Project year: 2024
 - Full depth reconstruction (road surface, curb and gutters, street lighting replacement, reconstruction of sidewalks, underground utility replacement)
 - Budget: \$6,990,000 (including signal replacement at Fairview)
 - Length: ~2,600 feet (~0.5 miles)



Project Goals

- Improve safety along the corridor, with an emphasis on pedestrian crossing safety
- Upgrade and modernize ageing infrastructure
- Improve built environment to better serve Grand Avenue businesses
- Improve transit user experience
- Balance mode share to encourage non-automotive trips along and to the corridor
- Improve interaction/placemaking through Macalester College campus



Existing Conditions Overview

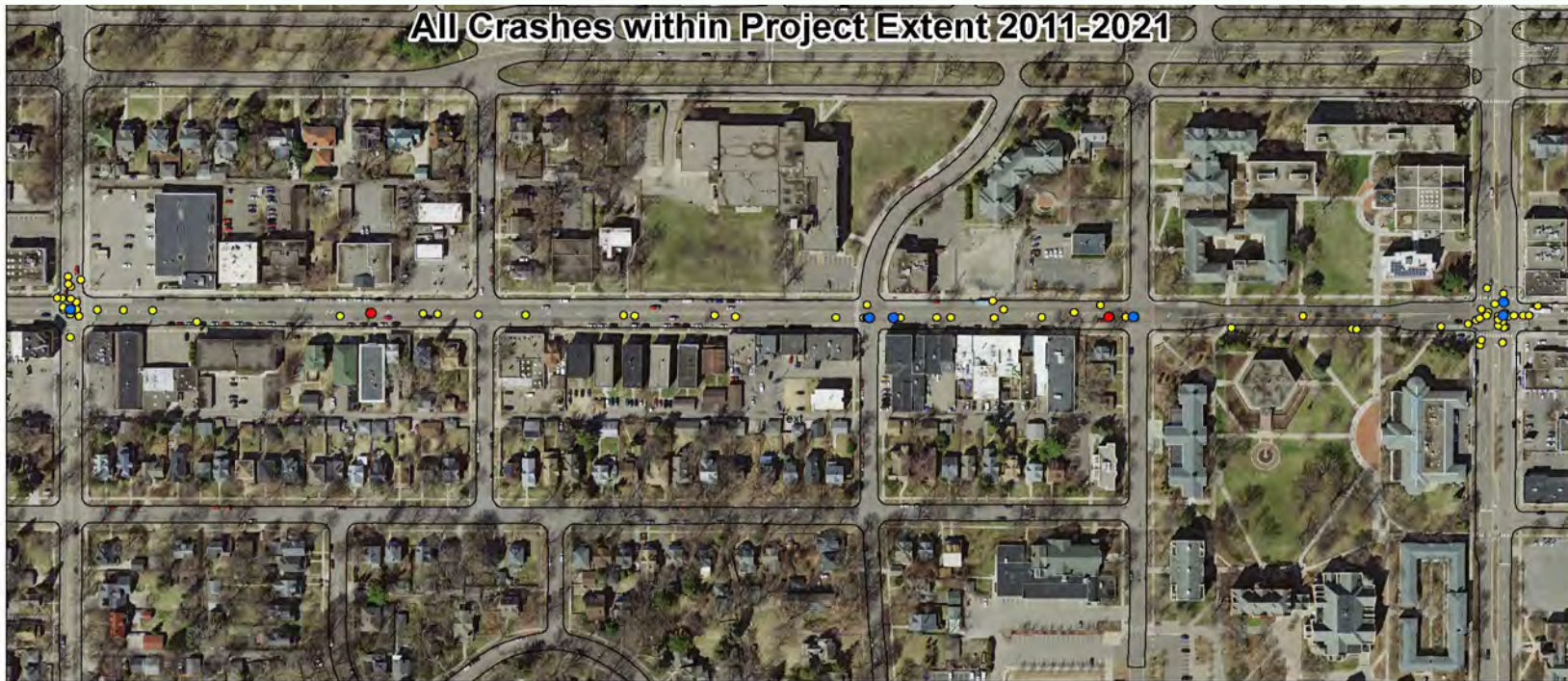


- Functional Classification: B-Minor Arterial (MSA Route)
- Route 63: high frequency bus route – 3 stops east and west bound
 - A-Line stops are located along the southern leg of the Grand and Snelling intersection
- Average Daily Traffic (AADT): 7,779 (2017)
- Pavement Condition (PCI): poor throughout the project extent (13 to 51 (out of 100))
- 25 MPH speed limit
- Considerable and aged underground utilities



Corridor Crash Data

All Crashes within Project Extent 2011-2021



Legend

Crash Locations

- Vehicle
- Pedestrian
- Bicycle

Total Crashes 2011-2021: 151
Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes: 7 Pedestrian/3 Bicycle
Fatal Crashes: 1 (pedestrian at Fairview Ave in 2015)
Injury Crashes: 4 (2 pedestrian)

0 150 300 600
Feet



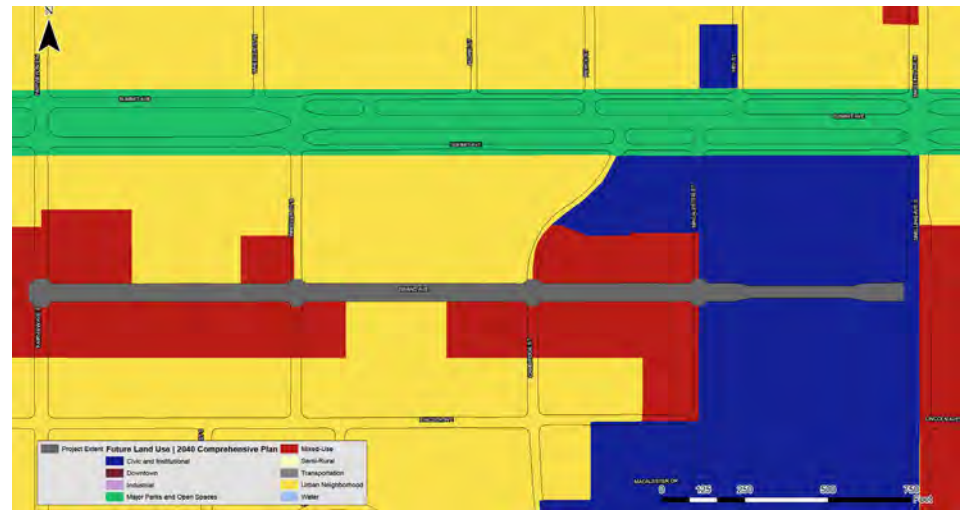


Planning – Adjacent Land Use

Existing



Planned





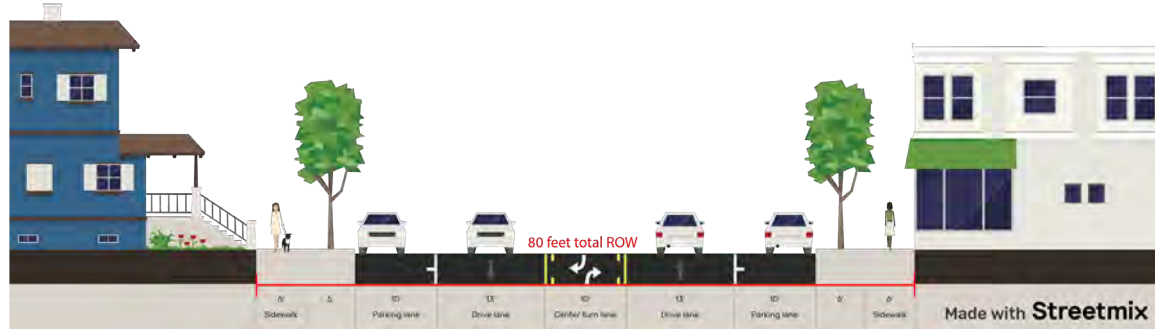
Existing Cross Sections

Two distinct sections

From Fairview Ave to Macalester Ave – 3-lane street with parking on both sides

- Dedicated left turn lane
- Multiple curb cuts primarily on north side
- Marked crossing at Ramsey Middle School
- Multiple businesses which utilize ROW for seating, product display, unloading, etc.
- Total ROW 80 feet
- Curb-to-curb 56 feet

Grand Avenue - Fairview to Macalester



Grand Avenue - Macalester College



From Macalester Ave to Snelling Ave – 2-lane street with left turning facilities at intersections

- Cuts through Macalester College – residence halls to north. Lecture halls, administration and athletic facilities to the south
- Landscaped median (installed by College request)
- 3 mid-block unimproved crossings
- 14-foot through lanes
- Total ROW 80 feet
- Curb-to-curb 36 feet



Design Questions - Pedestrian Improvements



Cambridge Street Crossing

- Adjacent to Ramsey Middle School
- Marked and signed crossing
- Temporary bumpouts (paint and bollards)
- Installed in 2013 following study and report by PW
- Cambridge St identified bicycle boulevard



Macalester Campus mid-block crossings

- ADA compatibility issues
- Not marked
- Vehicles not legally obligated to yield to pedestrians
- Raised + Landscaped median
- Median installed at behest of Macalester College



Project Timeline

- Construction is slated for 2024
- Looking to begin community outreach and engagement starting in 2022
 - On site engagement
 - Late April Macalester College campus
 - Late May Grand Avenue businesses
 - 3 neighborhood open meetings mid-year (final look of neighborhood meetings still be formulated)
 - 1: Initial feedback on current conditions and issues (late may)
 - 2: Present and evaluate alternatives (fall 2022)
 - 3: Present preferred concept (winter 2022/23)
 - Stakeholder conversations throughout
 - Area businesses
 - Macalester College
 - Metro Transit
 - Macalester-Groveland District Council
 - Ramsey Middle School
- Have preferred concept plan by end of 2022/early 2023 for City Council review



Discussion

- Known issues/concerns along this segment of Grand Avenue to consider as we move forward?
 - Identified issues
 - Pedestrian crossing facilities
 - Pedestrian traffic currently unknown – will be performing pedestrian counts in April
 - Grand ID'd corridor in Roadway Safety Plan
 - Corridor that should be looked at for enhanced safety considerations
 - Business loading and Right-of-Way use
 - Ramsey Middle School circulation
 - Route 63 accommodation
 - Any other issues known which should be evaluated?
 - Any needs or expectations moving forward?



Contact Information

Project webpage: www.stpaul.gov/grandavenue

- Interactive webmap and survey found on project webpage

Project contact information:

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