

Division Design Initiative

DIVISION
Design Initiative

The Division Design Initiative is being guided by the City of Traverse City with assistance from the URS Corporation, LIAA (a local non-profit agency) and nationally renowned transportation and traffic-calming specialist Ian Lockwood. The City is facilitating a public planning process that encourages citizen participation and open dialogue.

Steering committee members consisting of residents from the Central, Kid's Creek and Slabtown neighborhoods, business owners, property owners with the Grand Traverse Common, including Munson Medical Center and representatives from TART, BATA, MDOT, the Grand Traverse County Road Commission and the City of Traverse City kicked off the workshop on March 15th. Extensive comments obtained through the listening session with the consultant team fell into four primary themes: safety; access; context; and quality. The alternative developed incorporates these themes.

Over 100 people attended the public meeting on March 17th where Ian Lockwood presented the following alternative and examples of other similar projects throughout the country. Feedback from the comment forms completed by the attendees was unanimously positive.

What are the next steps?

The consultant team will refine the alternatives and present these findings at a future Traverse City Commission Study Session.

In the meantime, comments are welcomed and can be submitted to Laura_Aylsworth@urscorp.com or by phone at 231.922.4300.



Steering committee discussion meeting

Benefits of Proposed Roundabouts:

- Can easily handle current and projected traffic demands (including peak traffic hours)
- Designed to allow traffic to move in a slow, but consistent speed
- Safer for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Reduces dangerous left-hand turns
- Reduces impervious surfaces
- Reduces noise and vibrations
- Can be incorporated with other traffic calming measures to reduce cut-through traffic in neighborhoods
- Reduces traffic accidents and pedestrian collisions
- Easy to understand and maneuver
- Can accommodate large tractor-trailers, school buses, emergency vehicles and even manufactured-home delivery trucks
- Can easily be plowed

Roundabout Facts:

There are over 2,000 roundabouts throughout the United States - in warm and cold climates and large and small cities. There are several roundabouts in Michigan, including one in Gaylord.

Roundabouts should not be confused with the city's existing traffic circles (e.g. Wellington & Webster). Roundabouts require vehicles to negotiate a sharper curve, making travel speeds in roundabouts slower than traffic circles.

Community Concerns:

- Using public parkland for proposed 8 1/2 Street
- Renovations encourage cut-through traffic at 11th Street
- Purchasing Gas Station on Front Street for roundabout
- General unfamiliarity (for drivers & pedestrians) with roundabouts



Griffin Path

A proposed non-motorized pathway that will connect Central Neighborhood and the Grand Traverse Commons.

8 1/2 Street

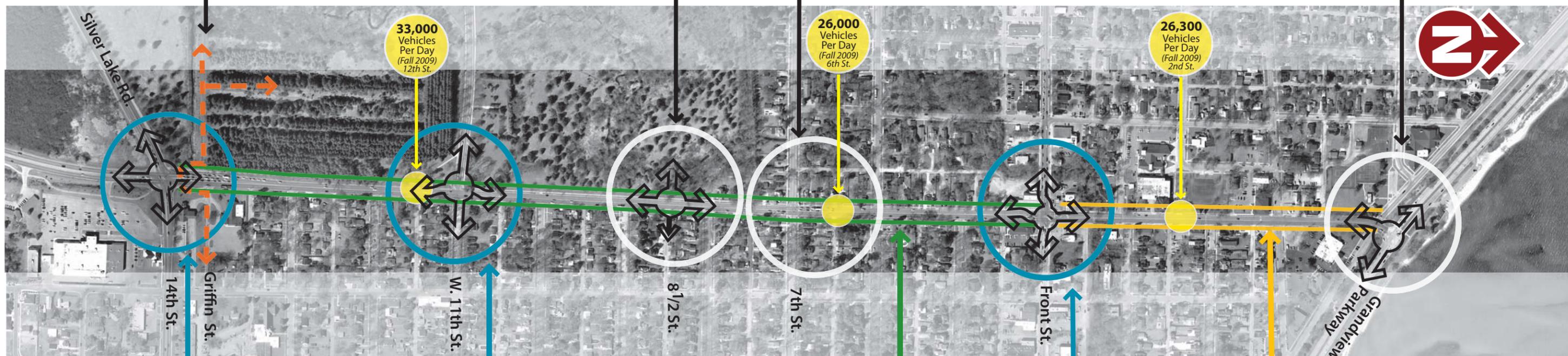
A proposed street that would provide access from Division Street to Elmwood Avenue. The roundabout would not provide vehicular traffic into and out of the Central Neighborhood. However, pedestrians and bicyclists would have access. If a street were to be constructed, initial discussions with stakeholders revealed a desire to make the street small, with park-like features that preserve the natural features of the area. The roundabout at 8 1/2 Street would be similar the roundabout at 11th Street.

7th Street

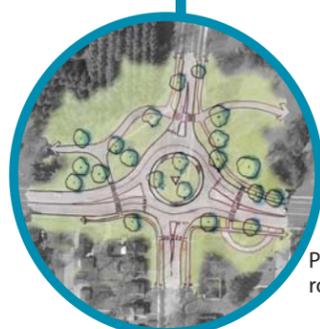
A roundabout was considered for 7th Street. However, the existing homes along the intersection would not provide enough space for the roundabout. The recommendation is to eliminate the traffic signal.

Grandview Parkway

A roundabout has been proposed. However, any design recommendation would need to be incorporated with other design recommendations for the entire stretch of Grandview Parkway.



Possible 14th St. /Silver Lake Rd. roundabout.



Possible W. 11th St. roundabout.



14th Street to Front Street: Landscaping combines grass between sidewalks and street.



Possible Front St. roundabout.



Front Street to Grandview Parkway: Landscaping is concrete extended to street with grating around trees.