



## REQUEST FOR GRAND RAPIDS EDA ACTION

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**AGENDA DATE:** February 9, 2023

**STATEMENT OF ISSUE:** Consider authorizing a letter of support for the City's application to the Corridors of Commerce program for TH 2 and TH 169 intersection improvements.

**PREPARED BY:** Rob Mattei, Executive Director

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The Corridors of Commerce (COC) program was created in 2013 when the Minnesota Legislature passed Minnesota Statue 161.088. The goal of the COC program was to focus additional transportation investments in state highway projects that directly and indirectly foster economic growth for the State through the provisioning of construction jobs, enabling of goods to be transported through a commerce friendly network of corridors, and providing additional mobility to its citizens.

In 2019 MNDOT investigated concerns raised over traffic and pedestrian phasing as well as left turn lane utilization at the TH2/TH169 intersection, as part of a traffic signal optimization project. As everyone who travels through Grand Rapids knows, this intersection experiences significant congestion and delays particularly during afternoon peak times. This investigation resulting in the preparation of the attached MNDOT study, which will serve as supportive documentation for a City \$1,000,000 request to the COC program being led by Matt Wegwerth, City Engineer/Public Works Director.

As the attached study indicates, the objective of the project was to develop alternatives that improve the overall efficiency of the intersection and improve the efficiency of pedestrian signal phasing and safety of pedestrian crosswalks. These objects are very consistent with the preliminary recommendation of the updated Downtown Plan.

Not one of the options shown in the study is the proposed or preferred solution at this time, rather it is likely to be an amalgamation of two or more.

A letter of support from the local economic development organization would be helpful to the City's application.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**REQUIRED ACTION:**

Pass a motion authorizing the issuance of the attached letter of support.