

Downtown Development Authority of City of Madison Heights

Memorandum

Date: May 28, 2024

To: Downtown Development Authority Board Members

From: Giles Tucker, Community Development Director

Subject: Training & Event Opportunities- 9 Mile Streetscape Walking Tour Oak Park

On May 17th I attended the 9 Mile Redesign Project Walking Tour in Oak Park. The Oak Park Nine Mile Redesign Project promotes access to parks, multi-modal transportation, sustainability, safe transportation for all and economic vitality. This multi-faceted project, which began in 2014 and was officially completed in Spring of 2024, has increased the quality of life for Oak Park residents, businesses, and those throughout Southeast Michigan looking to experience a fun and unique park and business setting.

The tour included:

- Nine Mile Connector Park
- Nine Mile Linear Park and public art
- Sherman Pocket Park
- Seneca Pocket Park
- Improved Street Design: protected bike lanes, enhanced pedestrian crossings, back-in angle commercial parking, and streetscape amenities.

One takeaway that I took from the walking tour was that funding for this mile long project had multiple layers and took many years. Funding sources included:

- Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant for bike lanes and the multi-use path
- EGLE Water preservation grant for rain gardens and bioswales
- Public Spaces, Community Places/ Patronicity Crowdfunding Grant was used for public art installations along the corridor.

In addition to learning about the funding sources that were involved with the project, I also learned about the extensive public outreach and engagement that was done to complete the project in its phases. I was able to make connections with Oak Park staff who are willing to send me resident surveys and other public engagement materials they used to serve as references to the process and documents we plan to create for our own streetscape public engagement activities.