

MEMORANDUM



TO: VICTOR CARDENAS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: JEFFREY HERCZEG, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
SUBJECT: BECK ROAD WIDENING UPDATE
DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2022

In 2018, consulting engineer AECOM prepared an update to the 2006 Beck Road Scoping Study, which looked at long-term improvement options for Beck Road from Eight Mile Road to Grand River Avenue. Long-term improvement options identified in the study update include a five-lane roadway option, a 20-foot median boulevard option, and a 25-foot median boulevard option. Traffic capacity and cost were comparable for each option, with the total cost of each improvement estimated around \$30 Million. Executing an Environmental Assessment was identified as the next step in the Beck Road widening project.

In late 2019, City Council awarded contract services to Hanka Advisor, LLC to assist in obtaining federal funding for the improvement and widening of Beck Road. Then in 2020, the Cities of Novi and Wixom created a Task Force on federal funding for the Beck Road corridor to work in tandem with an Environmental Assessment. Project information, community participation, proposed design pdf's and funding efforts can be found at www.becktothefuture.org

The Cities of Novi and Wixom initiated the required Environmental Assessment (EA) and Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) with AECOM in early 2020. The analysis encompasses the Beck Road corridor from Pontiac Trail to Eight Mile Road and includes the following:

1. Development of a purpose and need statement – scoping, document review, public involvement/public hearing, data collection, traffic analysis, current, and future land use analysis.
2. Development of alternatives – required as part of the Environmental Assessment.
3. Impact Assessment – air quality assessment, hazardous waste potential, wetland assessment, and noise analysis.
4. Cost Estimates
5. Preparation of an Environmental Assessment Document
6. Public Involvement
7. Preparation of a Finding of No Significant Impact document (FONSI)

The timeline of the EA was delayed by COVID and is currently at the Public Involvement stage (6). Two Public Input Meetings have been held (one remotely on May 26, 2021, and one in-person on February 1, 2022). Results from the 2021 survey are attached below

along with the project information presented at the February 1, 2022, Public Input Meeting. Survey data from the 2022 meeting, which had 77 attendees, will be collected on the website through the end of February. The final steps of the EA are a required Public Hearing, which is anticipated for summer 2022, and then the delivery of the draft EA and FONSI.

The communities of Novi and Wixom are actively pursuing funding through a variety of sources. Funding requests have been made to the discretionary federal grant program currently known as Restoring American Infrastructure with Equity (RAISE) as well as through congressional directed spending processes in both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. The project is also reflected in regional planning processes coordinated through the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

In 2021, \$4.797M was secured for the project as part of a community funding request from the Task Force submitted by Congresswoman Haley Stevens to The House Appropriations Committee. The funding is targeted for the Beck Road segment from 11 Mile Road to Grand River Avenue and has been pending federal action since November 2021. Currently, there is no other secured funding for the corridor.

Staff will continue to bring forward updates on the progression of the EA and funding efforts.

Beck Road Business Corridor Improvement Project

Public Engagement Summary

June 17, 2021

Public Meeting

The project partners hosted an initial public meeting on Wednesday, May 26th at 6pm virtually on Zoom, and about 25 people attended. At the meeting, information about the project context and description, Purpose and Need, and potential solutions was presented. Participants were then given the opportunity to ask questions or provide comments (summarized below). Afterwards, information about the project website, online survey, project schedule, and potential funding opportunities was presented.

Online Survey

An online survey was developed using Google Forms to solicit input on the Beck Road Business Corridor Improvement Project. The survey link was shared at the public meeting, on the project website, and via the project partners.

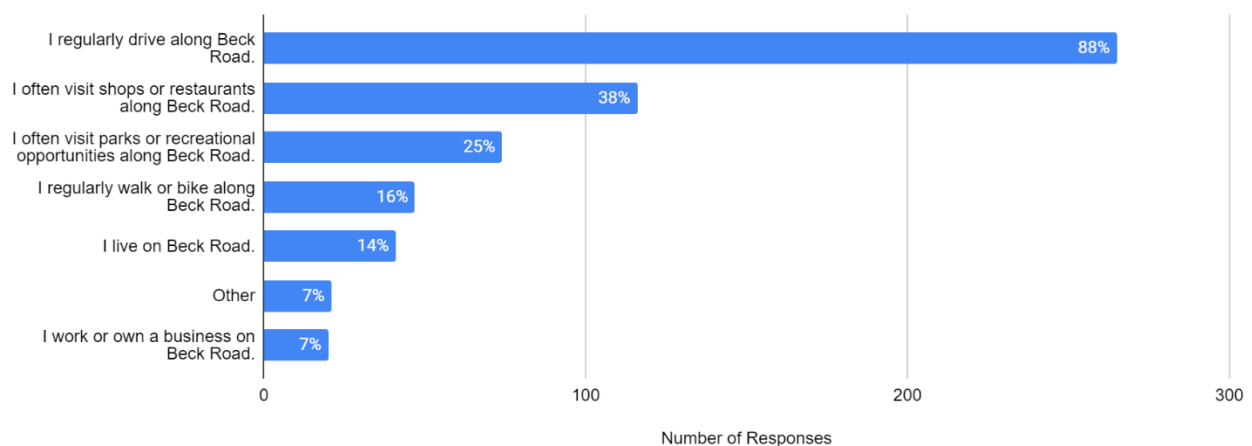
Questions

1. How do you use Beck Road?
2. Where do you live?
3. What are your concerns for Beck Road?
4. Please provide any comments you have on the concerns above.
5. How would you like to see Beck Road improved?

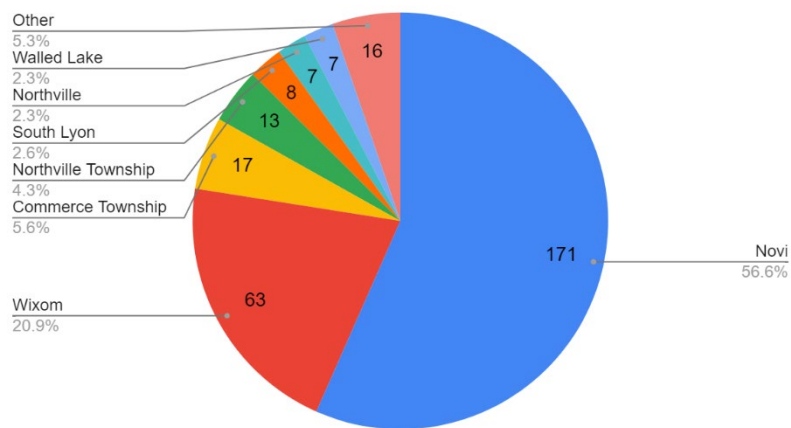
Results

There were 302 responses to the online survey which were collected from May 25th to June 16th.

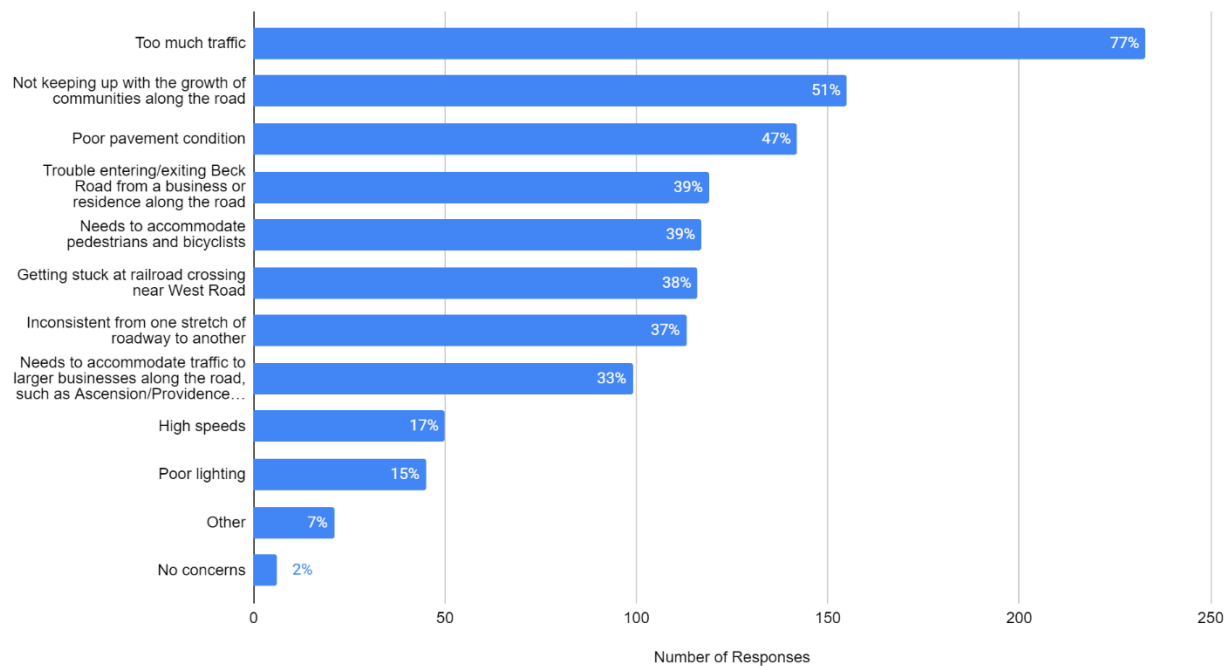
How do you use Beck Road? (Select all that apply.)



Where do you live?



What are your concerns for Beck Road? (Select all that apply.)



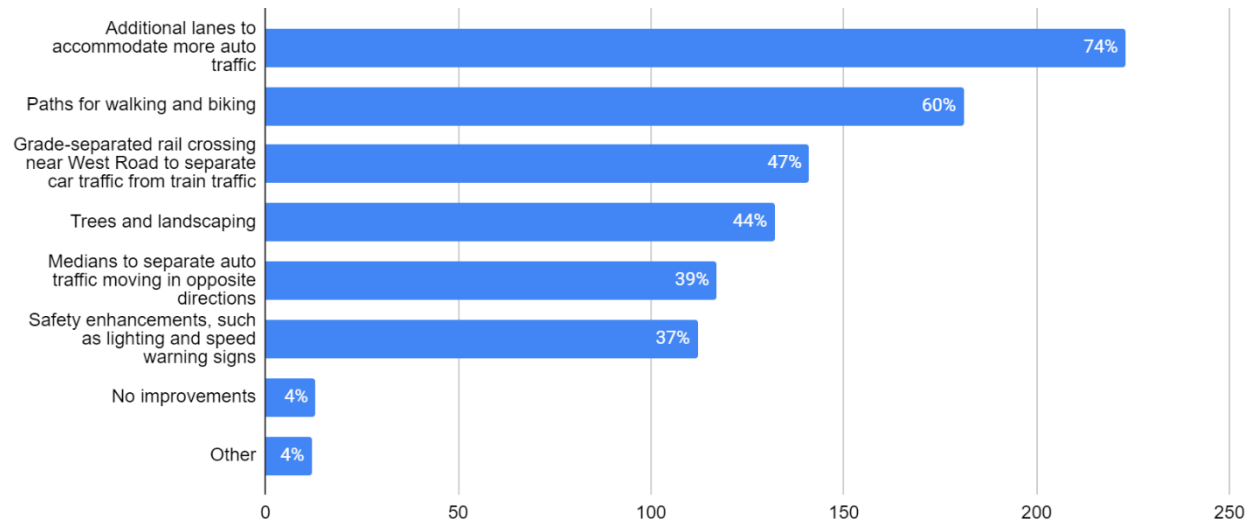
Respondents noted the following current issues:

- Noise
- Trains disrupting traffic flow (to the point that vehicles will turn around while waiting)
- New development putting pressures on roadway capacity (pointing to the need for limiting development to roadway capacity)
- Need for roadway capacity to be supplemented with alternate route options (such as Napier)
- Safety of people walking/biking
- Signal timing
- Visibility / line of sight (trees, hills, traffic, turning in/out)
- Sidewalk gaps
- Left turn lane from Beck Rd to 12 Mile Rd being used as a lane to get onto I-96 East

Respondents also noted the following issues anticipated if Beck Road were to be expanded:

- Increased traffic and speeds with more capacity
- Increased noise and hazards for people walking/biking with more traffic
- Encroachment into private property and natural areas
- Disruption of residential area and decreased property values
- Traffic management during construction

How would you like to see Beck Road improved? (Select all that apply.)



Other improvements suggested by respondents were:

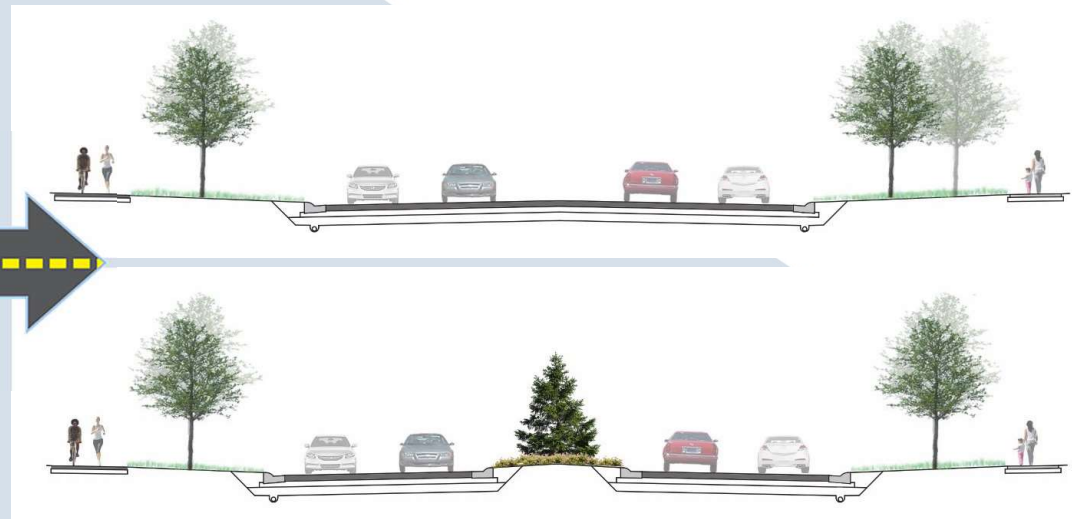
- Sound buffers
- Pavement maintenance
- Additional lanes only in certain parts of the corridor (such as between West Road and I-96)
- Roundabouts
- Smart traffic lights
- Blind spot reduction
- Addressing environmental issues
- Center turn lanes
- Stop light at Beck Rd & White Pines Dr

What is the Beck Road Business Corridor Improvement Project?

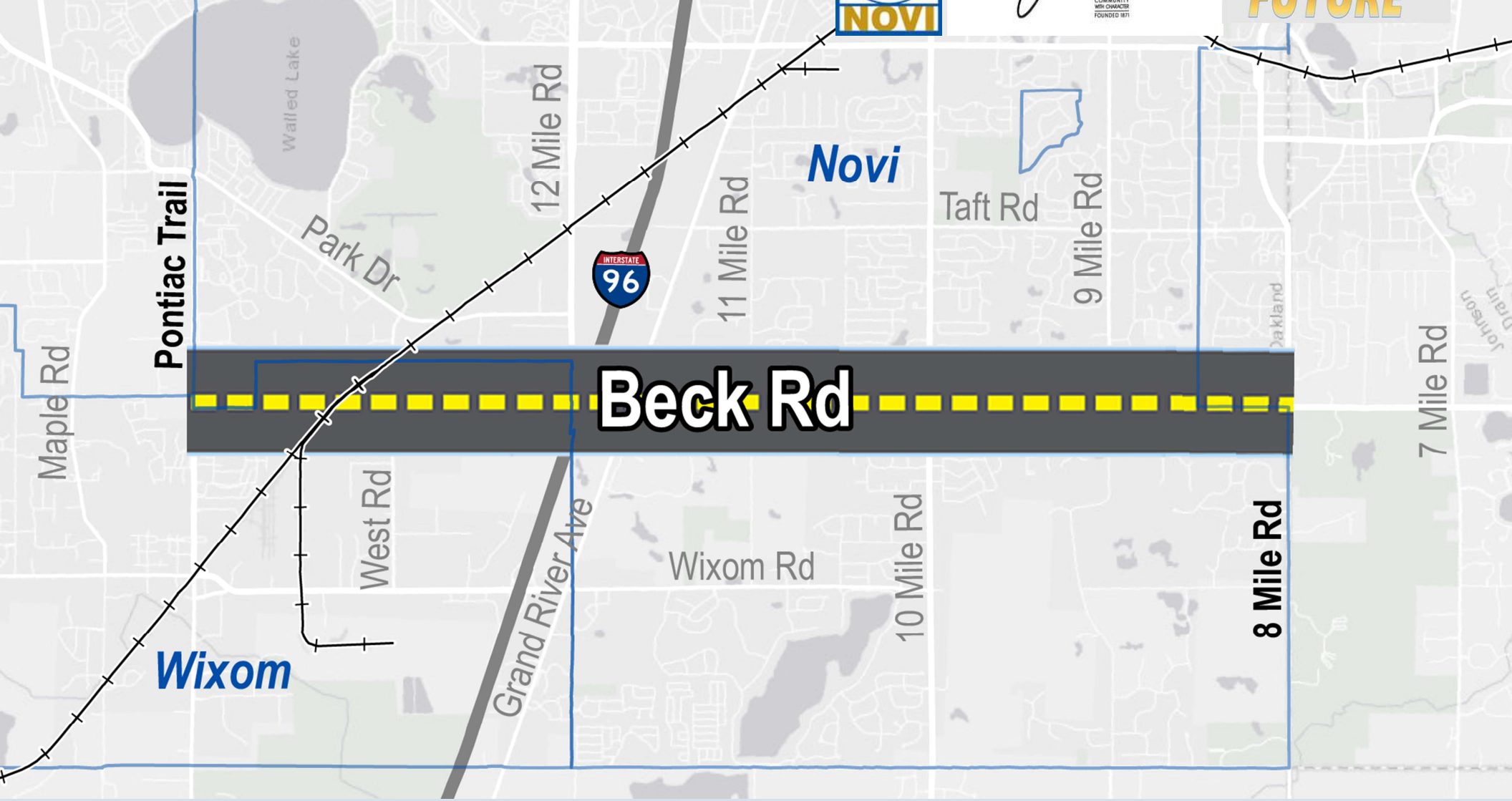


The project is a roadway redesign considering:

- **Five lanes, medians (boulevard design), and roundabouts** to address traffic concerns
- **A bridge over the railroad tracks** near West Road
- **Walking and biking paths** on both sides of the road



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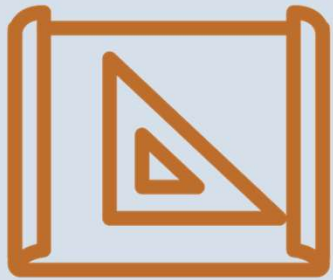


What is the project schedule?



Summer 2021

Conceptual
Design and
Evaluation of
Impacts



Winter 2022

Public Meeting #2



Summer 2022

Public Hearing



2023+

Project Funding
and Construction



**WE
ARE
HERE**



Where can I learn more? How can I provide input?

Visit the project website:

becktothefuture.org



Take the survey:

<https://forms.gle/VrunvkjAHeuNSu816>



Join us at the [Public Hearing](#) in the summer!

(Information to be provided on the project website.)

