MEMORANDUM

TO: MOBILITY COMMITTEE

FROM: REBECCA RUNKEL, PROJECT ENGINEER

SUBJECT: NOVI ROAD, 8 MILE RD TO 9 MILE RD SIDEWALK

DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2024

The topic of a sidewalk or pathway connection between Northville and Novi came up at the last Mobility Committee meeting on October 17, 2024. A Northville resident, Nancy Darga, had presented a potential Riverwalk connection to the Walkable Novi Committee on June 10, 2022 (2022 memo attached) connecting Northville's Mill Pond Trail to Novi's Rotary Park. Since then, other options have been explored. The topic will be on the next Mobility Committee agenda for discussion, with Nancy Darga in attendance to give an update. Related to the Northville – Novi connection is whether filling in the sidewalk gap on the west side of Novi Road between Galway Dr and Timber Ridge Estates is feasible.

The Road Commission of Oakland County (RCOC) is completing the design of a Novi Road Rehabilitation project between 8 Mile Rd and 9 Mile Rd. The project includes asphalt pavement rehabilitation with widening for a center left turn lane, reconstruction of the curve between 8 Mile Rd and Allen Rd, storm sewer reconstruction, and the addition of a high intensity activated crosswalk (HAWK) pedestrian crossing signal north of Galway Dr. The road work requires the RCOC to obtain 8 highway easements and 5 temporary easements from 13 property owners along the corridor. The project is receiving federal funding through the Oakland County Federal Aid Committee (FAC) and is approved and let through the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The remaining costs not covered by federal funding will be split between the RCOC, Novi, and the City of Northville via a tri-party agreement.

Aside from the HAWK crossing north of Galway Dr, the road project does not include construction of new sidewalk. The RCOC held a public meeting on October 23, 2024, where several requests were made to add a sidewalk connection from the City of Northville to the Guernsey Farms Dairy. The RCOC is in discussions with Northville about the addition of sidewalk between Galway Dr and Allen Dr. Galway Dr and Allen Dr both have sidewalk, so connecting the streets would provide pedestrians with a route between Novi and Northville, with the HAWK crossing providing access to Guernsey and the east side of Novi Rd. The total length of new sidewalk would be approximately 0.1 miles, all located within public right-of-way. If the connection gets added, that will leave an approximately 0.25-mile gap on the west side of Novi Rd between Galway Dr and Scenic Ln. A continuous 5-foot sidewalk exists on the east side of Novi Rd between 9 Mile Rd and 21300 Novi Rd (Guernsey Farms Dairy). A combination of 8-foot pathway and 5-foot sidewalk exists on the west side of Novi Rd from 9 Mile Rd to the south edge of Timber

Ridge Estates subdivision (approximately 0.2 miles). Limited right-of-way exists between Galway Dr and Scenic Ln. The RCOC determined that two permanent easements and five temporary construction easements would need to be obtained to fill in the gap.

City staff inquired with the RCOC about the feasibility of adding the sidewalk gap between Galway Dr and Scenic Ln to the road project. Because the project is federally funded, the RCOC must follow MDOT's requirements and timeline. To stay on schedule, RCOC is planning a May 2025 MDOT bid letting so that utility relocations and curve reconstruction between 8 Mile Rd and Allen Rd can take place in 2025. The remaining road widening, rehabilitation and storm sewer reconstruction would occur in spring/summer 2026. **At this point in design, it would not be possible to add the sidewalk gap to the RCOC project**, primarily due to the unpredictable length of time it would take to obtain the additional easements following MDOT's real estate requirements. The easements would need to be executed and approved by MDOT prior to final project submission (documents would need to be submitted to MDOT by the end of March/early April for a May bid letting).

RCOC provided City staff with a preliminary sketch of the sidewalk layout along with a rough estimate, attached. Should the City decide to pursue the easements and construct the sidewalk gap separately from the road project, the total cost estimate is as follows:

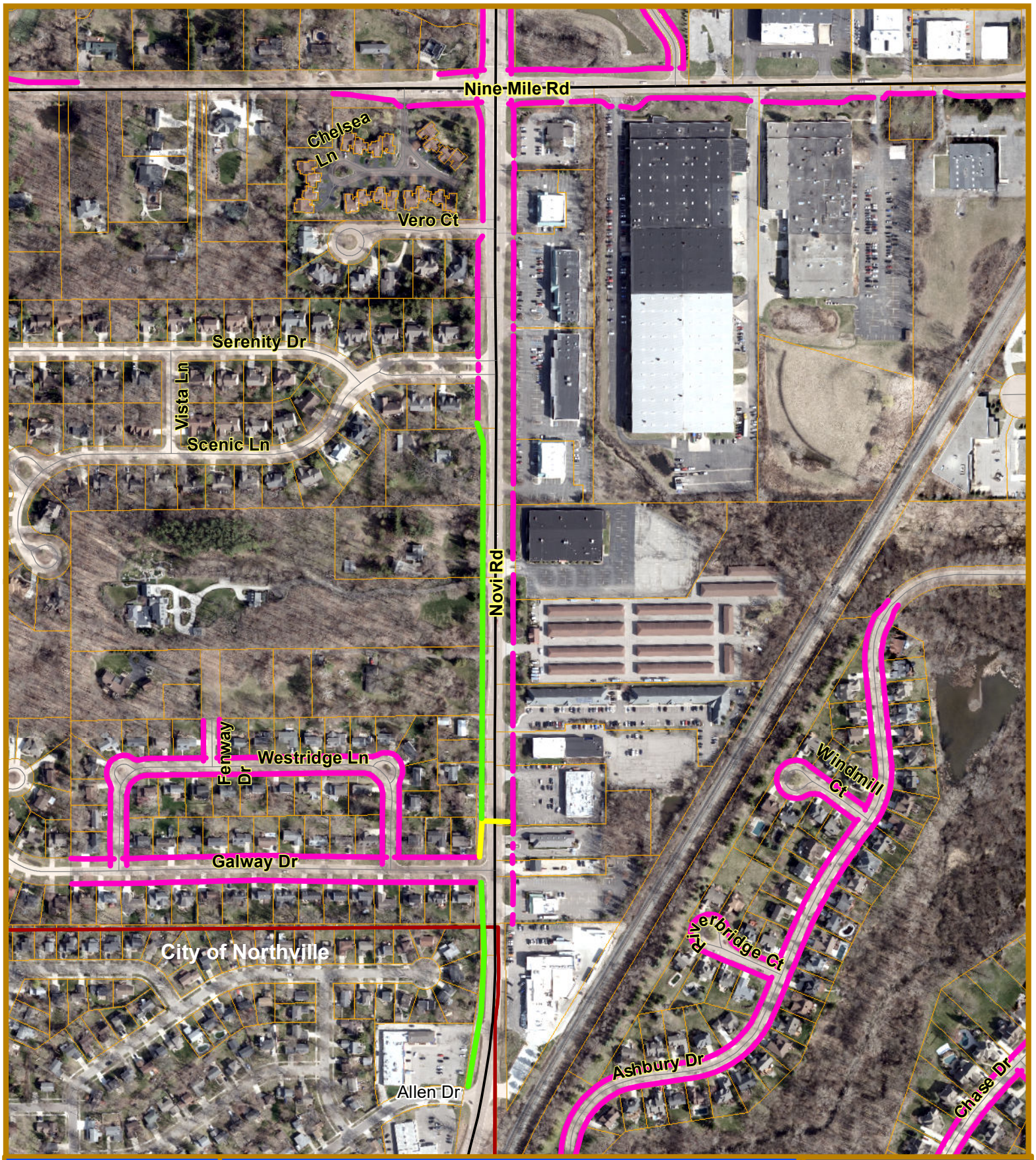
Design	$18,000
Easements	$30,000
Tree/Landscaping Replacement	$20,000
Construction Administration	$24,000
Construction	$140,000
TOTAL	**$232,000***

*Cost based on RCOC unit prices for the road project and likely would be higher as a standalone project/or packaged bid with other City programs.

RCOC estimates that 92 trees would need to be removed for this segment of sidewalk. All the homes in this segment that face Novi Rd have trees providing screening from the road, as shown below. Although the City could offer tree/landscaping replacement, residents opposed may be unwilling to grant needed easements, which could create additional delays, legal fees, and easement costs.

West side of Novi Road, just north of Galway (August 2024)

Staff is seeking the Mobility Committee's feedback on whether to fill in this sidewalk gap at this time. Should the Committee wish to proceed with construction, staff would obtain a design proposal from one of its consultants and prepare an agenda item for City Council's consideration.



Map Author: Runkel
Date: 11/8/2024

MAP INTERPRETATION NOTICE

Map information depicted is not intended to replace or substitute for any official or primary source. This map was intended to meet National Map Accuracy Standards and use the most recent, accurate sources available to the people of the City of Novi. Boundary measurements and area calculations are approximate and should not be construed as survey measurements performed by a licensed Michigan Surveyor as defined in Michigan Public Act 132 of 1970 as amended. Please contact the City GIS Manager to confirm source and accuracy information related to this map.

Novi Road, 8 to 9 Mile Rd

Non-Motorized Facilities

- Existing Sidewalk or Pathway
- New Sidewalk for HAWK Crossing
- Sidewalk Gaps in Consideration
- Municipal Boundary

City of Novi
Engineering Division
Department of Public Works
26300 Lee BeGole Drive
Novi, MI 48375
cityofnovi.org

0 85 170 340 510
Feet
1 inch = 402 feet

Preliminary Sidewalk Detail Estimate - Detail Cost Estimate

Project ID: 57291 - Novi Road - 8 Mile to 9 Mile (Sidewalk Galway Dr to Scenic Driveway)

Line Num	Ref. ID	Description	Units	Quantity	Price	Ext. Amount
0005	1100001	Mobilization (=<10% of Total)	LS	1.00	12,529.16	12,529.16
0010	2050016	Excavation, Earth	Cyd	167.74	25.00	4,193.53
0015	2010001	Clearing Modified RCOC	Syd	849.67	7.00	5,947.69
0020	2020004	Tree, Rem, 6 inch to 18 inch	Ea	92.00	250.00	23,000.00
0025	2020008	Stump, Rem, 6 inch to 18 inch	Ea	4.00	300.00	1,200.00
0030	3027011	_ Aggregate Base, 4 inch, 21AA, RCOC	Syd	849.67	15.00	12,745.04
0035	8030044	Sidewalk, Conc, 4 inch	Sft	7,046.19	6.00	42,277.13
0040	8030046	Sidewalk, Conc, 6 inch	Sft	600.84	8.00	4,806.69
0045	2050010	Embankment, CIP (Compacted in Place)	Cyd	463.13	20.00	9,262.62
0050	2057011	_ Turf Establishment, THM Seed, Regular Mulch, Performance, RCOC	Syd	685.89	10.00	6,858.92
0055		Drainage ($15k)	LS	1.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
					Total	**137,820.78**

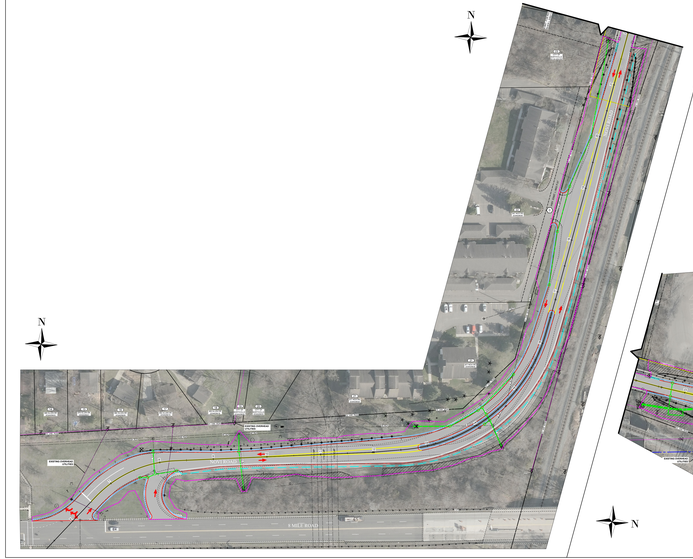
Assumptions:
Does not include PE/CE.
Does not include highway or temporary easements.
Does not include damages outside of the ROW.

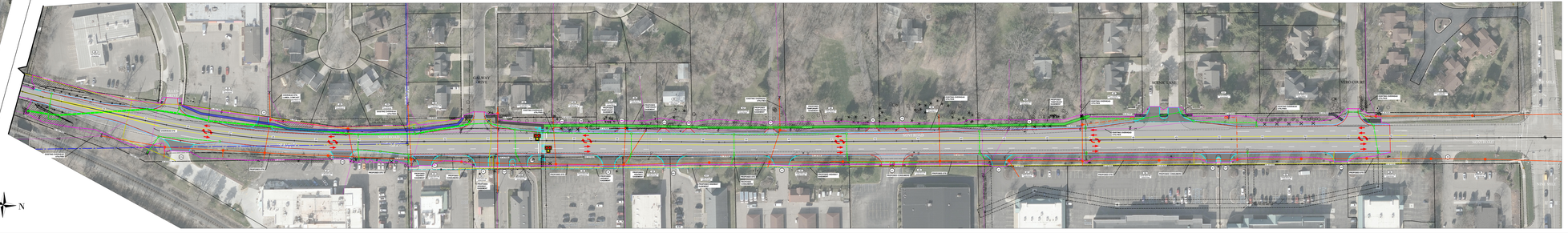
NOVI ROAD

EIGHT MILE ROAD TO NINE MILE ROAD

N

SCALE: 1" = 30'
10/21/2024





LEGEND

- PROPOSED BACK OF CONCRETE CURB
- PROPOSED EDGE OF ASPHALT PAVEMENT
- PROPOSED GRAVEL SHOULDER
- PROPOSED CONCRETE SIDEWALK
- PROPOSED LANE LINES
- MUNICIPALITY BORDER
- EXISTING OVERHEAD UTILITIES
- PROPOSED DTE AERIAL
- PROPOSED DTE UTILITY POLE
- PROPOSED CONSUMERS ENERGY GAS LINE
- SLOPE STAKE LINE (PROPOSED)
- EXISTING STORM STRUCTURES
- PROPOSED STORM STRUCTURES
- EXISTING STORM PIPES
- PROPOSED STORM PIPES
- PROPOSED STREET LIGHT
- PROPOSED HMA
- PROPOSED CONCRETE
- PROPOSED TREE AND VEGETATION CLEARING
- PROPOSED TREE TO BE REMOVED
- PROPOSED TRAFFIC DIRECTION ARROWS
- PROPOSED HIGH-INTENSITY ACTIVATED CROSSWALK (HAWK) SIGNAL LOCATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

0.92 MILES OF COLD MILL AND HMA OVERLAY WITH SPOT CURB REPAIR. ADDITION OF SECOND LEFT TURN LANE FROM ALLEN DRIVE TO NINE MILE ROAD. FULL RECONSTRUCTION OF SECOND CURVE SOUTH OF NINE MILE ROAD. ADDITION OF TURN LANES. OTHER IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE SIDE STREET AND COMMERCIAL APPROACH RECONSTRUCTION, STORM SEWER REPAIR, ADDITION OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK SIGNAL INSTALLATION, AND PERMANENT SIGNAGE AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS.

MEMORANDUM

TO: WALKABLE NOVI COMMITTEE

FROM: LINDSAY BELL, *AICP*, SENIOR PLANNER

SUBJECT: NORTHVILLE RIVERWALK CONNECTION

DATE: JUNE 10, 2022

At our next meeting we will have representatives from Northville as well as a SEMCOG planner attending to discuss the prospect of connecting the proposed Northville Riverwalk trail to Novi's trail system. The purpose of this memo is to give committee members background information on the planning efforts of Northville, identify some of the obstacles to connecting the two trail systems, and suggest future action to consider.

"In 2020, the Northville City Council established the Rouge Restoration Task Force and the Sustainability Team. Since then, the teams have been closely following proposed developments in the City to ensure that they achieve the community's goals for economic development, clean water, recreational opportunities, walkability, and regional connectivity. The 'Walkability' sub-team from the Sustainability Team and the sub-team from the River Task Force recently came together as a Mobility Network Team to review our work on routing, connectivity, and traffic. With a sense of urgency, the group was formed in the spirit of collaboration to meet our mutual goal of creating a 'Livable' community." (*From the Mobility Report presented to Northville City Council, December 6, 2021*)

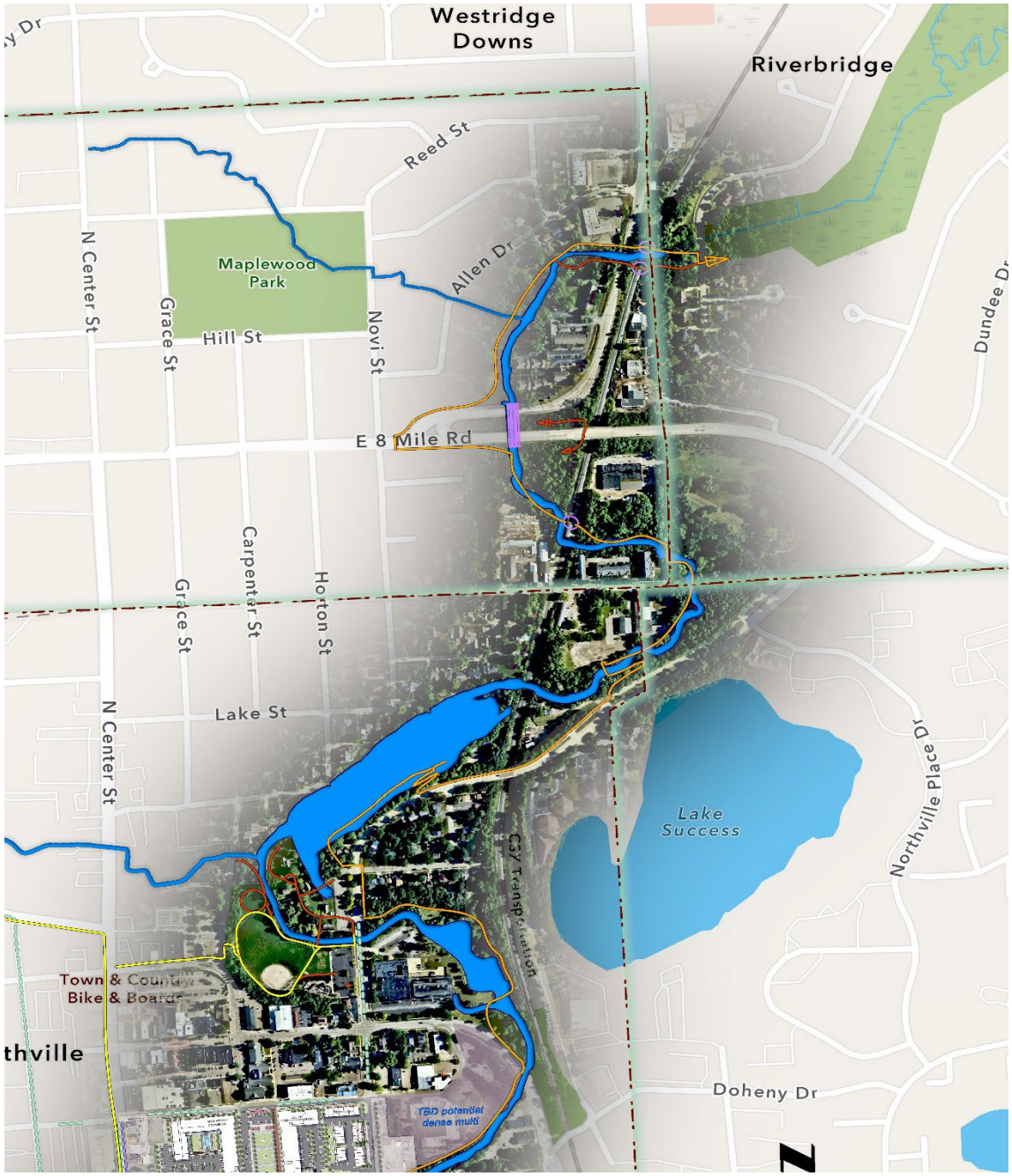
The resident we will be meeting with belongs to the River Task Force and the Mobility Network Team – Ms. Nancy Darga is the chair of the River Task Force. The Mobility Network Team presented to the Northville City Council after they had completed a Mobility Network Study. The Team requested Council hire a consultant to address "specific critical action areas" that the group had discerned to have priority.

The Northville River Restoration and Riverwalk Task Force drafted a Framework Plan for "projects that will boost the ecological health of this Michigan community and Wayne County, improving quality of life." Within this plan, some of the key projects included regional walking and biking trails and green infrastructure, as well as projects to improve and protect water quality in the river. The specific key project that Ms. Darga hopes to cooperate with Novi on is connecting the Mill Pond Riverwalk Trail to Rotary Park. In the report this project is noted as being "complex due to topography, bridges and railroad crossings."

The Mill Pond Trail to Rotary Park project can be found on page 38 of the Framework Plan. The following excerpt describes the current (as of January 2022) conditions of this project:

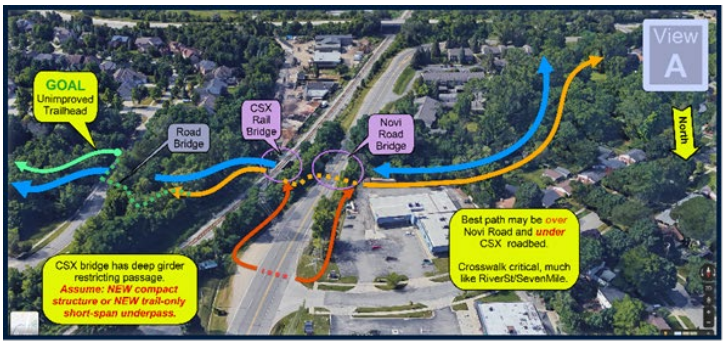
> "This project is in the early stages of feasibility analysis. This aspirational project seeks to extend the Northville Riverwalk from Mill Race Village, north to Novi's

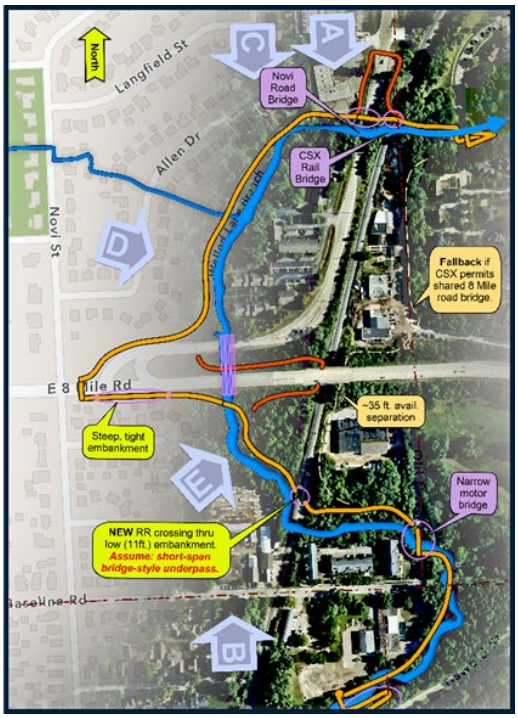
Rotary Park. Project 11a (Wayne County) envisions a boardwalk that begins at the east side of Upper Mill Pond and continues north to Eight Mile Road. Project 11b consists of a trail running from Eight Mile Road to Rotary Park. The project involves multiple complex crossings over and under bridges, overpasses and railroad crossings."

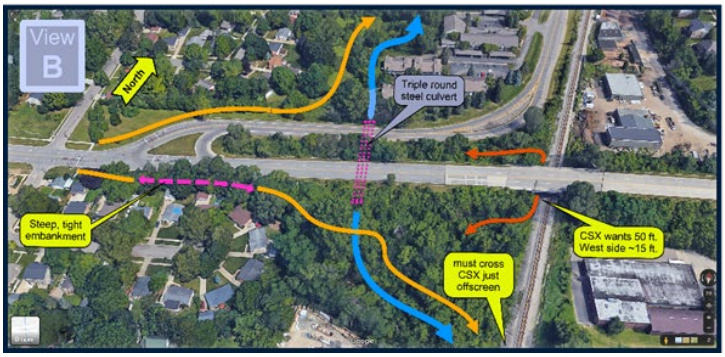


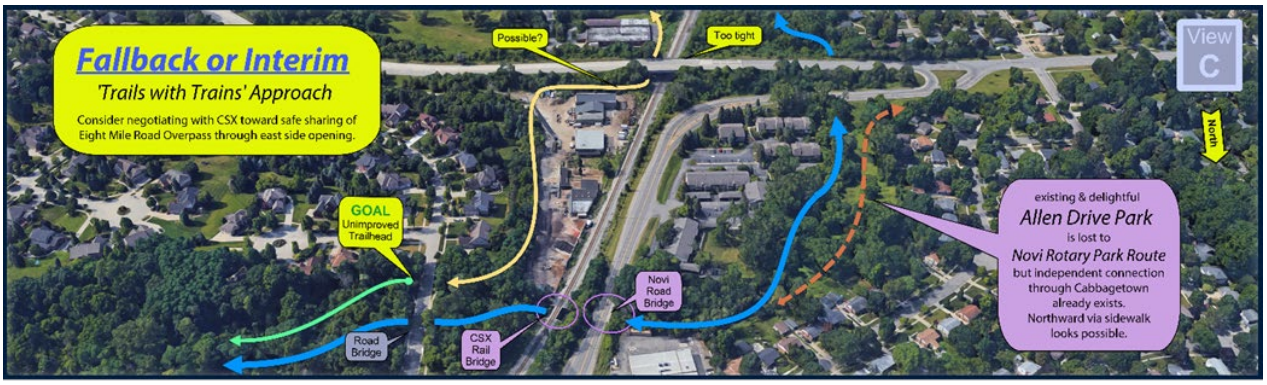
John Roby, another member of the Task Force, has provided a substantial amount of information through an [interactive map] detailing existing and proposed shared paths, bike lanes, and other bike and pedestrian-oriented infrastructure in Northville. Above is the portion of the proposed Mill Pond Trail connecting to Rotary Park. The orange line is

the proposed path with red showing possible alternatives and pink circles showing possible points of difficulty. This includes the shared Riverwalk that is proposed to follow along the Walled Lake Branch of the Middle Rouge River and connect to Novi's Rotary Park. The following images identify potential routes and barriers to the trail system in the area of Novi Road and Eight Mile to access Rotary Park.









The above image shows key destinations and connecting points that Mr. Roby called attention to in relation to the proposed pedestrian pathways. He points out connections to residential subdivisions and existing trails with key destinations such as the Parmenter Cider Mill, Guernsey Dairy, downtown Northville, and nearby parks, all of which are attractive destinations for residents of both communities. In addition, other framework projects would provide connections to Maybury Park, the new Legacy Park on Seven Mile Road, and the established Hines Drive trail network.

Other information that could be studied are interim routes to Rotary Park, including along Griswold to Ashbury Drive, which would avoid railroad crossings and a bridge over Novi Road. However, this would take the path away from the river and through residential streets. Land already in public ownership by Novi and Northville is also an important consideration. A conservation easement was granted to MDEQ over a good portion of Rotary Park, which will complicate getting an improved pathway constructed. If the ecological conditions this easement protects are sensitive it could be determined the trail connection should be made elsewhere.

In terms of next steps, Northville is in the process of applying for a grant to fund an update of their non-motorized plan through Wayne County's Connecting the Rouge initiative, which is a regional planning effort that seeks to connect communities via a trail system throughout the Rouge River valley. While no funding for capital improvements is available through the effort, the planning would include prioritization and implementation recommendations for the most critical segments in the network. It is thought that coordinated efforts of multiple jurisdictions can help win grant bids and align priorities. In

addition, grants for implementation of projects are more likely to be awarded if a community has an adopted plan in place.

As Novi is getting ready to issue a Request for Proposals to begin its Non-Motorized Plan update, the River Trail connection project could be further studied to come up with recommendations for implementation. If Novi's Walkable Novi Committee sees this as a worthwhile effort staff will make sure it is highlighted in the RFP scope of work.

Please feel free to contact me at 248-347-0484 or lbell@cityofnovi.org if you need further information.

Other Resources:

Rails with Trail's Report from the Rails to Trails Conservancy