



Pittsfield Township moves ahead on plan for State Road pathway south of Ann Arbor

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This file photo shows State Road, which runs south from Ann Arbor as State Street, near Textile Road in Pittsfield Township in 2020. Jacob Hamilton/MLive.com

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WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI - A major roadway corridor south of Ann Arbor is on its way to becoming more friendly for cyclists and pedestrians thanks to a new project calling for an estimated \$1.58-million in pathway construction.

Pittsfield Township officials, who have steadily worked to link their suburban neighborhoods and businesses with paved pathways and greenways, are now targeting State Road between Morgan and Textile roads in their efforts.

In coordination with the Washtenaw County Road Commission, the township has been awarded \$1.25 million from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments for non-motorized projects.

On Wednesday, May 10, the Pittsfield Township board voted unanimously to proceed with designing a new 10-foot wide paved pathway on the roughly one-mile segment of roadway, which runs south from downtown Ann Arbor as State Street.

The efforts represent something of a pivot for township officials' plans for the State Road corridor, one of the many targeted for pathways. They had planned to begin from the north, starting with a stretch along the Ann Arbor Municipal Airport between Ellsworth and Morgan roads, according to township Supervisor Mandy Grewal.

But as engineers and township planners dug into the proposal, costs mounted for a number of reasons, including the acquisition of right-of-way and wetlands along the route, she said. In

March 2022, township leaders debated the roadblocks and decided to return a roughly \$1 million grant they had lined up for the construction, instead turning their focus further south.

Read more: [Pittsfield Township returns \\$1M grant for new pathway south of Ann Arbor](#)

“I think in many ways, it’s a much more seamless route, because it will connect up to the existing pathway on Textile,” Grewal said, adding that the township envisions the pathway would continue both to the north and south in the future.

Developing [the network](#) has been a priority of Pittsfield leaders since at least 2009, with projects including the Platt Road Greenway and pathways along Lohr Road, Michigan Avenue and Textile Road, among others.

A [recent sustainability-focused update to the township master plan](#) includes 151 mentions of the word “non-motorized,” alongside a vision for the growth to continue.

On Wednesday, the township board [OK’d an agreement with the Road Commission](#) that allows collaboration on design for the State Road project, as well as securing construction bids, which will come back before the board for approval, according to Pittsfield Director of Municipal Services Matthew Best.

The township will bear roughly \$250,000 of the projects costs, in addition to some extra for construction contingency, he told the board. [Conceptual plans](#) show the pathway on the west side of State Road.

Officials have already secured a green light for the rail crossing involved in the project, according to Grewal.

“We’re moving along. If things align and move smoothly hopefully it will be a 2024 project,” she said.



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Parks Commission Report From the Meeting on May 9th, 2023

CURRENT PROJECTS

Montibeller Park Improvement Phase II

Staff reported that they are continuing to work on the RFP to rebid the project for Phase 2 with additional alternates providing additional options. The Commission was informed that the Board of Trustees approved the Bathroom Renovation with the bidder, AJ Brouwer.

US-12 Wastewater (Sewer) Improvement Project

The contractor is currently working on Crane Road. There is a road closure on Crane, south of Hickory Woods Park to Textile Road. Secondary restoration work will commence in the Hickory Creek Park near the end of May and continuing into June. This will coincide with the final paving and restoration of Crane Road. Crane Road will then be reopened to traffic.

Waters Oak Valley and Seyfried Parks

Staff gave an update on the Michigan Trust Fund Grant application submittal to the State for the Waters Oak Valley Park Project. The grant awards will be announced in September 2023.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

MI Spark Grant

Staff reported that work continues on the two applications for the MI Spark Grant, Waters/Oak Valley Park and the Outdoor Gym at Marsh View Meadows. These grants will be submitted in June. Guidance has not changed since the last round of grants, but only one round will be open to the Township instead of the expected two rounds. The chances of qualifying for this grant are slim, as the State of Michigan is focusing on COVID impacted communities and Opportunity Communities, in which they defined 39 priority communities, of which Pittsfield Township was not included.

Manager's Report

Manager Wade reported that Playground Safety Surfacing is currently being installed this week. Not all parks are complete, but work is still ongoing. Maintenance staff have added rubber mats to the swing areas of each park before surfacing was installed. Maintenance is heavily involved in mowing, trimming, and cleaning of Park bathrooms and park grounds. Set up and maintenance is continuing at all softball, lacrosse, and soccer fields. Trail maintenance is ongoing.

Social Media

The Park Commission discussed bringing in a Social Media Promotion contractor to provide information to the public about the projects that have been completed in the Parks, as well as proposed future projects.