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# Overview of the Corridor Transportation Study

## What Is this Study?

The Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) is coordinating with local governments, community groups, and businesses to conduct a study examining ways to improve the seven-mile transportation corridor that includes Michigan and Grand River Avenues (from the Capitol east to Meridian Mall). The Corridor includes urban and suburban neighborhoods, a range of businesses, entertainment destinations, schools, and parks, running through Lansing, Lansing Township, East Lansing, and Meridian Township. The corridor is now served by CATA's Route 1 – the most used bus route in the entire CATA transportation system.

## Why Is this Study Important?

This densely populated Corridor includes many major employers, attractions, neighborhoods, housing, and activity centers. The Corridor and the nearby “feeder streets” are some of the most congested roadways in the region. More congestion is projected in the future. The highest levels of traffic are near the MSU campus, a major destination that contributes significantly to congestion. The average daily traffic on Grand River Avenue between Michigan Avenue and Okemos Road is more than 27,000 vehicles every weekday.

There is a growing demand for east-west trips, but existing development eliminates the possibility of

significantly widening the roadway. Plans for future employment and development along the Corridor make it clear that now is the time to think about how all modes of transportation can contribute to a prosperous future.

## What Will Result from the Study?

A project Steering Committee that includes representatives from each of the communities in the Corridor has been leading this work. It is guided by four Goals:

- Improve the Corridor's safety, mobility and accessibility.
- Improve multi-modal transportation that supports, sustains and grows economic value in the Corridor. This includes public transportation, automobile, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic, and train access.
- Contribute to improvements to the overall environment (natural, social and physical) in the region, and minimize any direct negative impacts in the Corridor.
- Complement or enhance the character of the Corridor.

These Goals are part of the Study's Purpose and Need Statement. The full statement and other information, such as technical reports, data and presentations about the project, can be found at [www.migtrans.org](http://www.migtrans.org).

[more >>>](#)

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## What Are the Four Phases of the Study?

### Phase 1:

#### *Project Initiation*

This phase of the Study involves a series of meetings to gather ideas and community input to build a vision for the future of the Corridor.

### Phase 2:

#### *Examining Possible Corridor Transportation Options*

In this phase, the Steering Committee, interested parties, and the public explore the “universe” of all possible transit improvement options. Each potential transit mode is evaluated according to a set of criteria that determine the mode’s ability to meet the project’s Goals and Objectives as well as the likelihood of federal funding. These criteria include cost, potential ridership, environmental impacts, economic development potential, safety, and other important local and regional considerations. Using input from public meetings, surveys, and transit evaluation tools, the Steering Committee eliminates transit alternatives that aren’t a good fit for our region.

### Phase 3:

#### *Evaluating Alternatives*

In this phase, the remaining corridor alternatives are refined and put through a more detailed evaluation process. Preliminary service planning, station locations, and concept designs will be developed. The Steering Committee will reach out to more local organizations, people and businesses for input. The refined transit alternatives will be evaluated against a set of criteria that include rider benefits, cost estimates, and economic development potential.

### Phase 4:

#### *Selecting a Locally Preferred Alternative*

In this final phase of the Study, the Steering Committee will examine all data, the impacts and benefits of each remaining transportation alternative, and public input. The outcome of this examination will be the selection of one Locally Preferred Alternative that will be submitted to the federal government for funding consideration.

### Your Participation Matters

In the coming years, the Michigan/Grand River Corridor can help our region grow and prosper or it can be a roadblock to success. The decisions we make now are important to everyone who lives and works in our region. For more information on the Study and to make your voice heard, visit the project website at [www.migrtrans.org](http://www.migrtrans.org).