

GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Grand Avenue Improvements – Section VII is the seventh major improvement project along the Grand Avenue corridor and continues the long-term reconstruction efforts that have progressed east toward Canal Street over the years. This section of the project extends along West Grand Avenue from Damen Avenue to Ogden Avenue. The work generally includes partial roadway reconstruction and resurfacing; concrete pavement reconstruction; asphalt resurfacing; curb and gutter replacement; installation of bus pads; sidewalk replacement, including new ADA-compliant ramps; modernization of the existing street lighting system with smart LED lighting; traffic signal improvements at three intersections; drainage improvements; landscaping; and installation of new pavement markings and signage.

This section will also continue the Complete Streets improvements introduced during the previous Grand Avenue project between Chicago Avenue and Damen Avenue. Planned improvements include wider pedestrian sidewalks between Damen Avenue and Ashland Avenue, as well as protected bike lanes throughout the corridor to better accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, and motorists alike. Improvements at minor side street intersections will include curb extensions and raised crosswalks intended to improve pedestrian visibility and reduce conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians. Final landscaping improvements are anticipated to include approximately 157 new trees, decorative trash receptacles, benches, bicycle racks, and other streetscape enhancements throughout the corridor.

Three intersections are anticipated to be modernized as part of the project: Wood Street, Ashland Avenue, and Noble Street. Intersection improvements are expected to include replacement of existing traffic signal equipment and installation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS), which provide audible, visual, and vibrotactile features to improve accessibility for pedestrians with visual impairments.

Typically, corridor reconstruction projects are completed by reconstructing one side of the street throughout the full project limits before shifting work to the opposite side. However, due to traffic impacts associated with an adjacent project and the need to maintain mobility within the corridor, construction activities are being evaluated as a phased approach that would divide the work into two segments: Damen Avenue to Ashland Avenue, and Ashland Avenue to Ogden Avenue.

Upon completion, the project is expected to further transform Grand Avenue into a corridor that reflects the area's continued evolution as a mixed-use commercial, retail, restaurant, and residential destination.