

## GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Grand Ave Improvements – Section VII is the seventh improvement in the Grand Avenue corridor that began years ago to the far west and is continuing to the east to Canal Street. Section VII is located between Damen Avenue at the west project limit and Ogden Ave at the east project limit. The work involves partial reconstruction and resurfacing of West Grand Avenue including; concrete pavement reconstruction; asphalt resurfacing; curb and gutter removal; installation of bus pads; sidewalk replacement including new ADA ramps to meet current standards; replacement of the existing street lighting systems with smart LED lighting; traffic signal modernization at three intersections; drainage, trees and landscaping; installation of pavement markings and signage.

This next section will also continue the complete streets program that was started on the last section of Grand Avenue between Chicago Avenue and Damen Avenue by widening the pedestrian sidewalks between Damen Avenue and Ashland Avenue and providing protected bike lanes in each direction throughout the entire corridor so that the corridor will be equally accommodating for pedestrians, cyclists, and the motoring public. Minor cross street intersections will have the width of cross street narrowed and raised cross-walks installed to reduce pedestrian/vehicle conflicts. Final landscaping will include the installation of tree pits to accommodate the planting of 157 new trees within the pedestrian sidewalks. Decorative trash receptacles, sitting benches, and bicycle racks will also be installed throughout the corridor,

Three intersections are to be modernized as part of the project: N. Wood Street, N Ashland Avenue and N. Noble Street. Intersection improvements include replacement of all traffic signals and installation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) which are devices integrated into pedestrian push buttons that communicate crosswalk timing via non-visual cues, such as audible tones, speech messages, and vibrotactile surfaces.

The majority of the underground utility reconstruction was completed in 2023/2024 so this section of the corridor should not have any delays due to utility underground reconstruction. The project is anticipated to begin in 2026 and be completed in 2027. Currently there is a detour for a Chicago Avenue construction project which is utilizing Grand Avenue as a detour route between N. Orleans Street and Ashland Avenue. Typically, the corridor reconstruction would involve completing one side of the street throughout the corridor in the first stage, then switching to the other side in the second stage. Due to the ongoing detour, and the need for the reconstruction to begin, the City is looking into completing the project in stages that would include the entire street reconstruction between Damen Avenue and Ashland Avenue in 2026 then completing the remaining entire street reconstruction between Ashland Avenue and Ogden Avenue in 2027.

When completed, the improvements will transform the corridor from the industrial corridor it was in the past to be more consistent with the mixed-use commercial, retail, restaurant and residential corridor it has become.