The Grand Ave Improvments – Section VI is the sixth improvement in the Grand Ave corridor that began years ago to the west and is continuing to the east. Section VI is located between Chicago Avenue to the northwest and Damen Avenue to the east. The work involves the partial reconstruction and resurfacing of West Grand Avenue including; asphalt resurfacing; pavement and curb and gutter removal and replacement; 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 five intersections; drainage and landscaping; installation of pavement markings and signage.

The existing sidewalks will be widened approximately 3 feet through most of the project and approximately 200 trees will be installed along the new sidewalk adjacent to the street. Sidewalk amenities such new bicycle racks and sitting benches will be installed throughout the corridor. Additional work will include the complete reconstruction of the southwest corner of the Grand Ave. and Western Ave. intersection. The existing right turn lane will be removed to create a more user-friendly space that will continue to be the focal point of the area. The new space will have all new landscaping, a decorative retaining wall around the sculpture, decorative walkway and a new irrigation system. Although not part of this project, the existing sculpture will be repainted.

To accommodate the wider sidewalks, the existing pavement width will be decreased to prevent double parking and cars attempting to create 2-lanes in the same direction while the parking is allowed. The current parking restrictions will remain in effect so that the roadway will be less congested during rush hour periods. The existing right lane will be considered a shared lane at all times for motorists, bicyclists and parking.

In addition to the CDOT project, Peoples Gas is installing all new gas transmission and local service mains to maintain reliable service to their customers.

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.

