

Help shape the future of Grand Rapids

November 7, 2024

The City of Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority (GREDA) is developing a small area plan for the area along the Highway 2 corridor. GREDA, in partnership with the business community and property owners, has made significant public investment and aesthetic improvements to the blocks near the intersection of Highway 2 and Highway 169.

There is still work to be done to improve economic development, activate underused properties, improve walkability, and make it easier and safer to get through the city and west along Highway 2. The GREDA Highway 2 West Land Use and Development Study will address these needs.

Study Area

The GREDA is focusing on one block north and south of Highway 2 from NW 16th Avenue to NE 5th Avenue, as shown in the map below. This is a busy corridor with a lot of vehicle and truck traffic on Highway 2. Land uses include a mix of small shops, restaurants and fast food, offices, auto sales and repair uses, convenience stores and gas stations, professional services, equipment retailers, showrooms, and similar uses. The area is characterized by a lot of parking lots in various states of repair, a lot of signs, some disconnected sidewalks and very little green space or landscaping.

STUDY AREA



Study Goals

The GREDA is coordinating this planning effort with the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Hwy 2/169 Grand Rapids/La Prairie Corridor Study in an effort to build on the findings and recommended improvements from that project. Other goals of the study include:

- Address land use and aesthetic challenges: Create a welcoming place where people want to be by connecting this area to the Mississippi River, enhancing public spaces, and identifying potential improvements to the aesthetics. Develop strategies to address land use challenges, under-performing and poorly configured sites, environmental challenges, and deteriorated property to improve visual appeal.

- Support economic development: Develop strategies that encourage investment and support economic development along this Highway 2 Corridor through appropriate mixes of use, density, and scale.
- Improve multimodal transportation networks: Develop a network of roads, trails, and sidewalks that allow people to move safely through and within the study area, regardless of whether they are on foot, in a car, on a bike, or using a mobility device.

More information about the MnDOT Corridor Study is available online at: [Hwy 2/169 Grand Rapids/La Prairie corridor study - MnDOT](#)

Get involved

We want to hear from residents, businesses, property owners and visitors about what they like about Grand Rapids and ideas for how this area could be improved. You can get involved by:

- Visiting the website
- Signing up for email updates [Bolton & Menk](#)
- Taking this brief survey www.surveymonkey.com/r/GREDA
- Participating in a walking tour on November 21 from 10 to 11:30 AM (space is limited so please register here [GREDA Hwy 2 West Land Use and Development Study: Morning Walking Tour](#))
- Stop by the Grand Rapids Library at 140 NE 2nd St on November 21 from 2 to 4 PM to talk to a staff person

To learn more about this project and sign up for project updates visit: www.GREDAStudy.com