



M-24 RESTORATION PROJECT

What's Going On?

Washington Street in the Village of Oxford serves as a portion of Michigan State Highway 24, more commonly known as M-24. This highway, part of the national truck network, is a major arterial thoroughfare for connecting people, places, and businesses from all corners of Michigan. Oxford's prominent location along this major highway has helped make downtown Oxford a central commercial hub for over 100 years. In fact, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), 30,000 vehicles travel through downtown Oxford on a daily basis, accounting for more than 10,000,000 vehicles each year.

WHY NOW?

With all of this traffic, Washington Street, and much of M-24 has been worn down and is in need of repair. With this in mind, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has decided to completely restore the sections of M-24 that runs through downtown in 2020. The last time that M-24 was completely reconstructed was nearly 100 years ago, making this literally a once in a century opportunity to redevelop the core of downtown, and shape the future of the entire Oxford community.

In an effort to take advantage of this opportunity, the Village of Oxford, the Oxford Downtown Development Authority, and the Michigan Department of Transportation have joined forces to plan, fund, and execute the restoration of the road, and develop a unique and transformative pedestrian streetscape that will frame the downtown district; benefiting each and every member of the Oxford community, and the millions of people who visit our community each year.

WHO IS COORDINATING AND PAYING FOR THESE PROJECTS?

The Michigan Department of Transportation is responsible for the maintenance of M-24, including all of Washington Street within the Village limits. MDOT will be coordinating, and completely funding the four-mile M-24 Road Reconstruction project, valued at an estimated \$25,000,000 investment.

The Michigan Department of Transportation will also contribute just under \$1.2 million to the Streetscape Improvement project through construction credits and a potential Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant. To obtain this grant, the Village of Oxford has agreed to match grant funds in the amount of \$259,000 to the Streetscape Improvement project, the Village and the Oxford DDA will also contribute \$658,000 in additional infrastructure improvements and engineering for a total investment of nearly \$2.1 million into the infrastructure of our community.

WHEN IS THIS HAPPENING?

The projects will take place in 2020. The projects are expected to begin in March and run through November. Construction will be done daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

WHERE IS THIS HAPPENING?

The portion of the M-24 Road Restoration project that will take place in the Village will run from Drahner Road just south of downtown, all the way north to Harriet Street, just north of the Village. The proposed Streetscaping Improvement project will run from Minnetonka Drive to First Street.

Because this is a comprehensive road and streetscape reconstruction, much of M-24 will be difficult to traverse, and there will be detours implemented to help move traffic around the construction. As of May 2019, the official detour routes have been established. South bound traffic will remain open going through the streetscape area and north bound traffic will detour at Drahner to Oxford Lakes to Glaspie and up to Ray road then returning to M-24.

How will customers get to my business?

The parking lots downtown will be accessed as usual. There will be directional signs along the detour route to guide customers to their destination. Pedestrian access along M-24 will be maintained.

Where should downtown employees park?

Employees are asked to park in the overflow lots or at the rear of the parking lots behind the businesses.

Will there be any disruptions to my daily business?

Because this project includes improvements, there will be occasional interruptions. When an interruption is scheduled to occur, we will make every effort to inform you.

What about downtown business deliveries?

Loading zones for businesses in the downtown will be maintained. If you have deliveries to your business outside of the downtown, we ask you to inform your vendors and delivery people.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Restoration projects can be disruptive for businesses and individuals alike, and the Oxford DDA has made it a priority to support its community throughout the process. Make no mistake about it though, Downtown Oxford will continue to be a thriving place to live, play, and stay; even with the temporary construction. The Oxford DDA will host a variety of special events and promotions to support the downtown district, and we encourage our community to make visiting downtown a priority.

In an effort to ensure that each and every individual that could be impacted by these projects are informed, the Oxford DDA will be consistently publicizing information via its website, social media, and through press releases as that information becomes available. Once the project begins, please be sure to look for construction updates, detours, and additional timeline updates from the Oxford DDA.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to be involved with the project development processes, please contact Glenn Pape at 248-770-8587, or via e-mail at dda@thevillageofoxford.org. This is a transformative opportunity for the entire Oxford community, and we encourage you to connect with the Oxford DDA and be a part of this transformation.

The Village of Oxford and its downtown have the unique opportunity to reevaluate the way the vehicles and people interact with our community. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has elected to repave the section of M-24 that runs through Downtown Oxford, and through a series of grants and contributions, the Village of Oxford and the Oxford Downtown

Development Authority (DDA) are investing in infrastructure improvements along the M-24 corridor that will improve a wide range of aspects of our community for decades to come.

To see this project through, and to ensure that as many different viewpoints are considered as possible, an “M-24 Taskforce” has been established to coordinate each phase of this complex project. The M-24 Taskforce is made up of local officials, residents, and stakeholders from around the area with the common goal of improving our community. The intent behind these proposed streetscape infrastructure improvements is to cultivate the pedestrian amenities, increase safety and comfort, as well as accent the welcoming environment that is Downtown Oxford. These improvements can be broken down into a few key categories.

[PROPOSED STREETScape DESIGN](#)

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

The Downtown corridor has large volumes of vehicles moving at high speeds, making pedestrian movement more challenging and unappealing. By buffering sidewalks from passing vehicles with a variety of hardscape features, the area will not only improve its physical appearance, but will also improve the pedestrian safety aspects of the Downtown area. Some of the features will include:

- More accessible On-Street Parking
- Street trees & various forms of vegetation
- Planters, benches, and other physical amenities that separate pedestrians from passing vehicles.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Currently, all pedestrian traffic is routed to the intersection of Burdick and Washington streets to cross M-24. The streetscape plan that has been developed will provide for three additional crossings at non- signalized intersections. These new additions will assist pedestrians to navigate throughout the downtown, making it easier and more comfortable for people to utilize everything that our Downtown has to offer.

NOISE ABATEMENT

Another major consideration for the redesign of Downtown Oxford is the mitigation of noise. The current combination of road and vehicle noise levels are above acceptable standards for a downtown, leading to a less comfortable experience for those navigating downtown. The proposed streetscape design includes hardscape elements that block and reflect these noises, as well as landscape elements to absorb and buffer the noise.

TRAFFIC CALMING

One of the most influential concerns that every Downtown face is how to mitigate the high-volume of traffic that flows through their core. The current lane design that is being proposed for M-24 calls for 11' lanes which is narrower than federal design standards, with the goal of encouraging through-traffic to slow down while traveling through the core of Downtown. Some of the other new pieces of physical infrastructure include:

- Raised Medians
- Street trees
- Streetlights
- On street parking

These additions are designed to visually narrow the roadway, slowing traffic speeds in the Downtown and encourage a more pedestrian-friendly experience.

SENSE OF PLACE

Part of what makes Oxford unique is the special atmosphere of the community, especially in the Downtown area. This area developed around the core commercial district that serves as a hub for social gatherings, commerce, and a sense of community, and the M-24 project places a tremendous focus on highlighting that “sense of place” in Downtown Oxford. Some of the placemaking features will include: Increased sidewalk widths, installing hardscape and landscape features, as well as seating, lighting and other elements

- Increased sidewalk widths
- Planters & street trees
- Street, parking, and auxiliary lighting improvements
- Improved wayfinding signage
- Visually appealing and comfortable seating

These new features will frame the public spaces and promote a walkable, inviting area that looks and feels as special and unique as we know that it is.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Community involvement is key to ensuring that this project, and the results it will produce, are representative of the Oxford community. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please contact the Oxford Downtown Development Authority Director, Glenn Pape, at **248-770-8587**, or via e-mail at dda@thevillageofoxford.org.

