

What is the West Michigan Express?

In the fall of 2017, a new planning initiative was started among 25+ public and private West Michigan leaders. The basic idea is to plan and pilot a new regional, commuter-based transportation service in the Chicago Drive corridor that links the communities of Holland, Zeeland, Hudsonville, Grandville and Grand Rapids together. The larger “framework” idea that is exciting these leaders is imagining the Chicago Drive corridor as a “Prosperity Corridor” that encourages transit-oriented development patterns and enhances economic growth and quality of life in our region.

WEST MICHIGAN EXPRESS

Creating the Chicago Drive Prosperity Corridor

Holland + Zeeland + Hudsonville + Grandville + Grand Rapids



The West Michigan Express initiative is a collaborative effort to link the West Michigan communities along the Chicago Drive corridor with the mobility option of commuter-based public transportation beginning with express bus service and potentially leading to commuter rail for the purpose of enhancing economic growth and quality of life in the region.



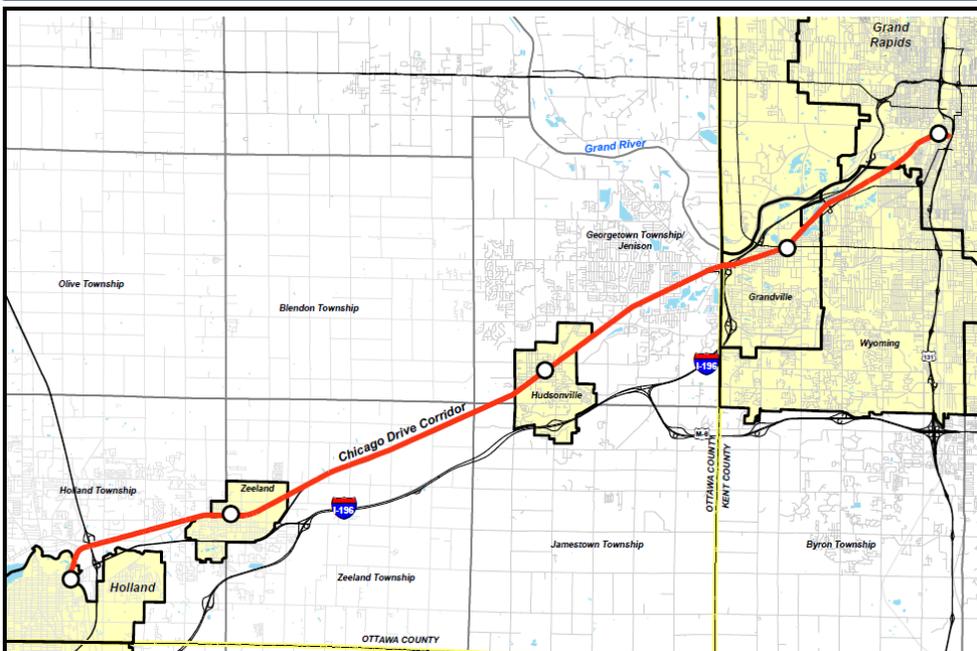
OUR VISION

In partnership with Housing Next, Talent 2025, Lakeshore Advantage, The Right Place, and other similar agencies that have aligned goals, establish the Chicago Drive “Prosperity Corridor” between Grand Rapids and Holland as a nationally recognized desirable area in which to live, work, and run a business thanks to its access to express public transportation, job opportunities, vibrant communities, affordable housing, and skilled workforce.

OUR MISSION

To establish phased express public transportation that runs between Grand Rapids and Holland beginning with bus service and potentially leading to commuter rail, thereby supporting local businesses, promoting tourism, attracting talent, reducing traffic congestion, promoting transit-oriented development, and enhancing the overall quality of life in our region.

OUR ROADMAP



How Can I Help Make the West Michigan Express a Reality?

Ways the Private Sector Can Help

- Consider making a financial pledge to help support WMX for at least 3 years.
- Consider making a commitment to provide or help provide connecting services for your employees between transit stops and your business (e.g. employer-provided or subscription-based shuttle service)
- Provide incentives to encourage your employees to use WMX (e.g. contribution toward transit pass, provide a company vehicle for daytime errands, offer flexible work hours, etc.)
- Make supportive statements to elected officials and economic development entities about Chicago Drive as an “armature for regional growth and quality of life”.
- Make promotional statements about WMX in company press releases.
- Become involved with the WMX Task Force.
- Approve our resolution of support endorsing the WMX.

Ways the Public Sector Can Help

- Approve our resolution of support endorsing the WMX
- Seek ways to support and integrate WMX and transit-orientated development into your policy and planning documents and related communications with media, social media and all public communications.
- Plan and provide for WMX transit station(s)/hubs, parking, signage etc. in your community.
- Seek opportunities to attract and approve transit-orientated development projects and amenities in your community, such as high density housing within walking distance from planned transit stops.
- Make supportive statements to elected officials and economic development entities about Chicago Drive as an “armature for regional growth and quality of life”.
- Become or continue to remain involved and supportive of WMX Task Force172.

For more information about the WMX, please contact:

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