

**Village of Elk Rapids Trail Routing  
Adjacent Landowner Outreach Meeting  
March 9, 2020**

A special meeting was held on March 9, 2020 at the Village offices for landowners adjacent to a proposed trail route through the Village of Elk Rapids. This Village led process follows the completion of preliminary design for the 11-mile trail segment of the Nakwema Trailway (formerly the Traverse City ↔ Charlevoix Trail) between Acme and Elk Rapids in June 2019. The meeting provided landowners with an opportunity to hear from Village representatives, the design engineers, and representatives of the Nakwema Trailway Project Team about the routing process, considerations for trail routing, and a recommended route through the Village. All attendees had the opportunity to speak and ask questions.

The following route was recommended based on the engineering assessment and information and feedback compiled through a public open house, online public comment period, and stakeholder meetings. It would be shared roadway and would include pavement markings and signage.

Proposed route: S Bayshore Dr → Ottawa St → Oak St → River St → Dexter St

Below is a summary of comments from the event.

General comments:

- Should avoid residential districts as much as possible (Bridge St route would solve this)
- People will go where it works best for them
- Trail is eroding the character of town
- Bridge St was selected for US-35 bike route through a previous planning process and this new planning process ignores that previous determination
- Bridge street would avoid residential areas
- Continuing on US-31 to 4<sup>th</sup>/Bridge St would be safer and safety should be priority
- There are no other communities that have trails routed through residential areas
- Could try the proposed route for a period of time and re-evaluate
- There were residents along the proposed routes that did not receive notice of the meeting

River St concerns:

- Angle parking and parking on both sides of the street is dangerous for trail users
- Several events in the downtown area resulting in large crowds
- Overwhelm the parks with users
- Already busy with vehicle and pedestrian traffic
- Most dangerous street in ER (*the Chief of Police later clarified that he was referring specifically to the segment of River between Cedar and Dexter*)

S Bayshore → Ottawa St → Oak St concerns:

- Disruption to residents
- Motor vehicle, pedestrian, cycle conflict
- High counts of bicycle traffic flooding the streets and neighborhoods
- Speeding vehicle traffic

- It will eventually lead to widening the street / paving road shoulder
- Encroachment onto adjacent properties
- Suggestion to route onto 2<sup>nd</sup> St (instead of continuing up to Ottawa and Oak Streets)
- Scenic and access to Day Use Park
- Trail users coming from the south will use this regardless of a trail to 4<sup>th</sup>/Bridge St

Questions:

- How many accidents occur downtown?
- What does a shared road look like?
- What are the anticipated costs of continuing on US-31 to Fourth/Bridge St route?
- What is the timeline for making a decision on the Village route?
- How would the trail be routed for large organized rides? Any differently?
- What amenities – bike racks and water stations – are planned?

Next Steps:

- Village to post links to the resources shared at the meeting online
- Village to regroup with partners to assess routing and re-evaluate the proposed route based on comments received from adjacent landowners and further route analysis
- Route recommendation to Village Council