

PEDESTRIAN PLAN

GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA



SUMMARY

WHAT'S A PEDESTRIAN PLAN?

A pedestrian plan identifies the transportation needs of people moving at a walking pace in a defined geographic area and provides strategies to address those needs. "Walking" is an inclusive term that includes all people moving at a walking pace – with or without an assistive device.

ABOUT

In the summer and fall of 2018, the City of Grand Marais, Cook County, and Sawtooth Mountain Clinic through the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) convened a steering committee to develop a pedestrian plan for Grand Marais. The Grand Marais Pedestrian Plan steering committee consisted of Bryan Anderson, Jay Arrowsmith DeCoux, Jeff Cadwell, Heidi Doo-Kirk, Krysten Foster, Tim Kennedy, Patrick Knight, Andrea Orest, Mike Roth, and Maren Webb.

WHY?

Members of the steering committee identified the following reasons for pursuing a pedestrian planning effort:

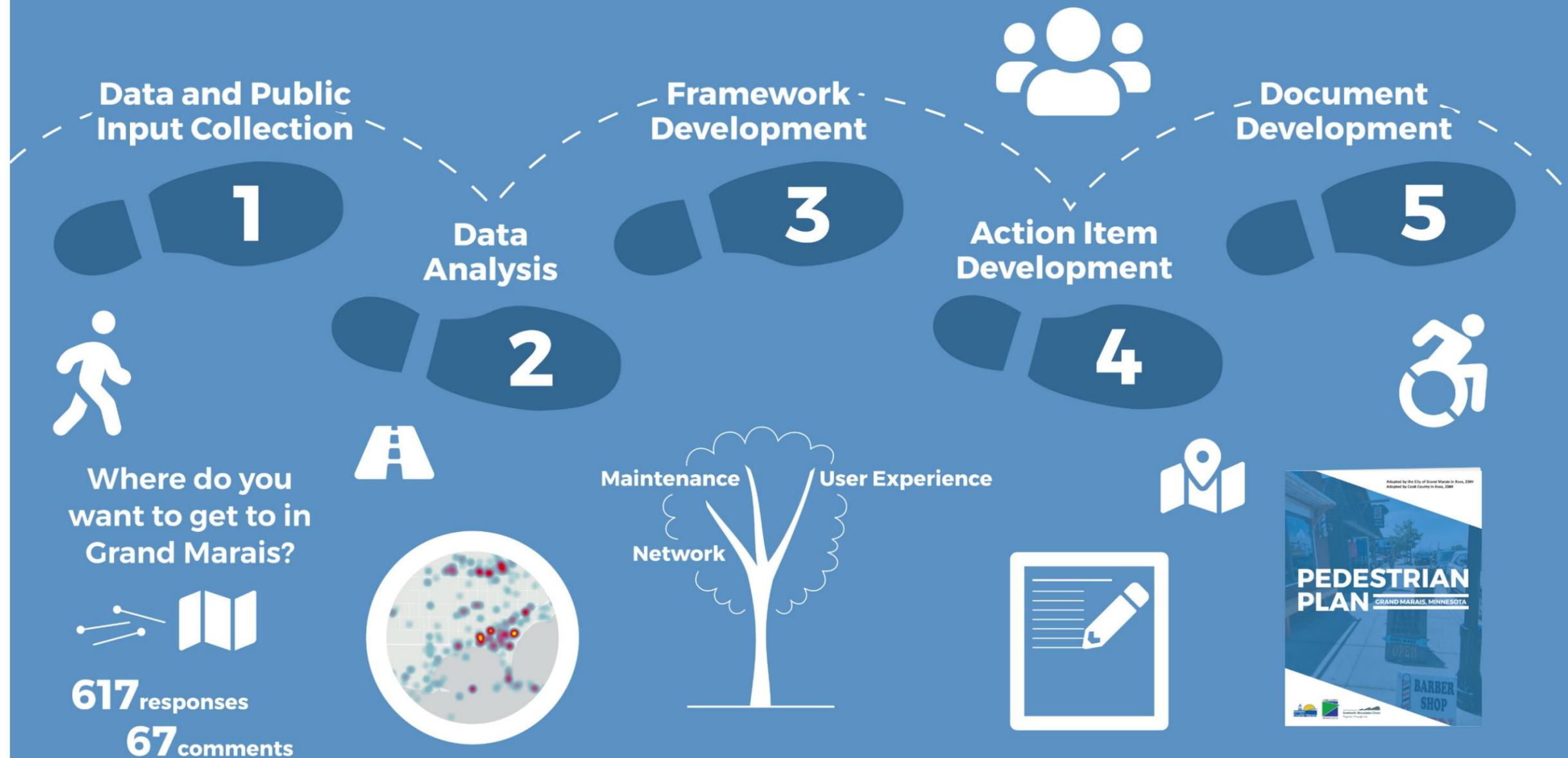
- Address safety and accessibility
- Discuss infrastructure needs
- Outline existing practices
- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Receive input for priority infrastructure
- Promote citizen health
- Explore opportunities for the future

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PLANNING PROCESS*

LED BY A STEERING COMMITTEE WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CITY OF GRAND MARAIS, COOK COUNTY, AND SAWTOOTH MOUNTAIN CLINIC



*FUNDING PROVIDED IN PART BY THE CENTER FOR PREVENTION AT BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESOTA

ACTIONS

The action items in this plan rely on the City of Grand Marais, Cook County, the Minnesota Department of Transportation District 1, and property owners committing their partnership and resources to implement this collaborative vision for the Grand Marais community. These items are intended to be dynamic and to be updated in order to reflect changing interests about walking over time. An appendix supplements the plan and is available on the City of Grand Marais website.

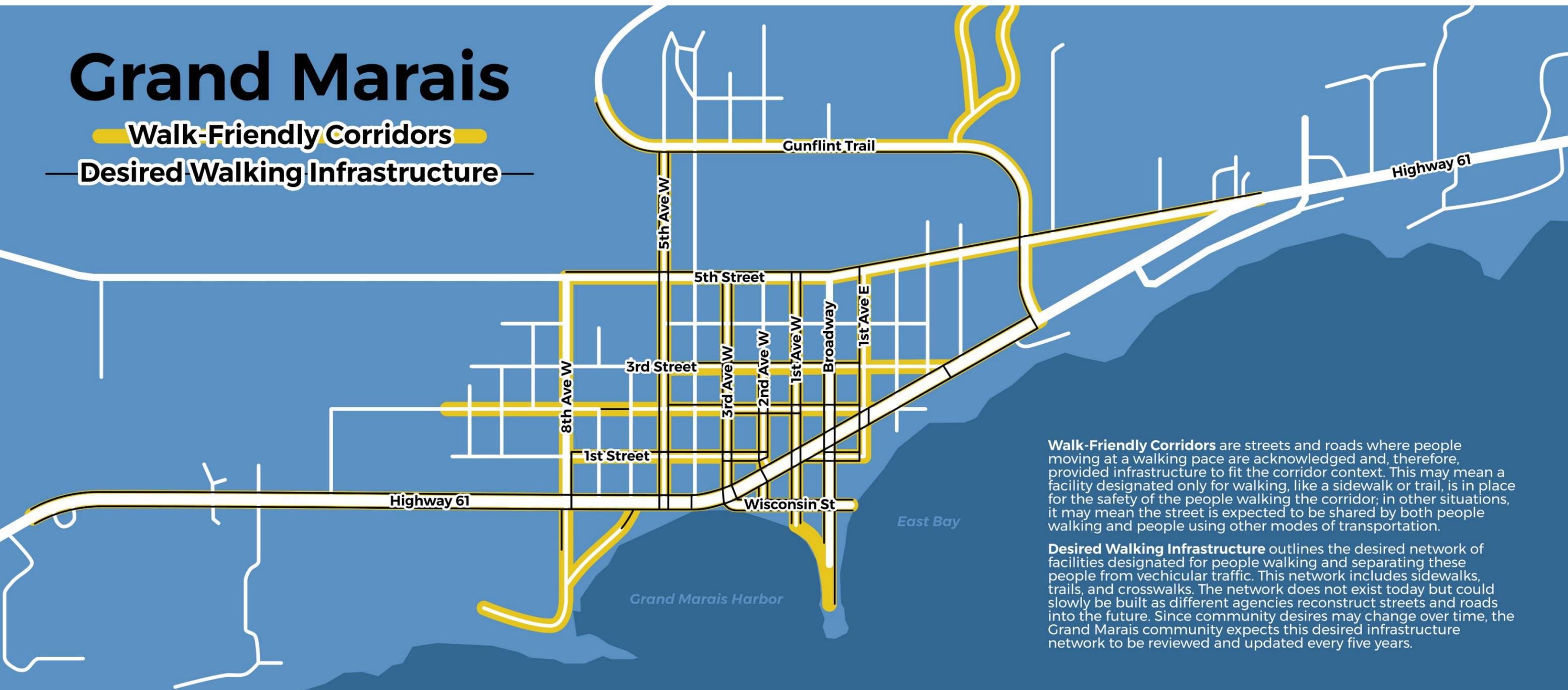
INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

The following action items aim to enhance the pedestrian infrastructure network in Grand Marais.

1. Leverage road construction, utilities work, and grant opportunities to update the pedestrian network over time to reflect desired walking infrastructure. (See below and Appendix.)
2. For Walk-Friendly Corridors without adjacent sidewalks or trails, pursue context sensitive solutions to create a safe environment for people walking.
3. Study road crossings of concern and develop a plan to enhance infrastructure in these areas. (See Appendix.)
4. Reevaluate and update pedestrian infrastructure network desires every five years.

Grand Marais

— Walk-Friendly Corridors —
— Desired Walking Infrastructure —



Walk-Friendly Corridors are streets and roads where people moving at a walking pace are acknowledged and, therefore, provided infrastructure to fit the corridor context. This may mean a facility designated only for walking, like a sidewalk or trail, is in place for the safety of the people walking the corridor; in other situations, it may mean the street is expected to be shared by both people walking and people using other modes of transportation.

Desired Walking Infrastructure outlines the desired network of facilities designated for people walking and separating these people from vehicular traffic. This network includes sidewalks, trails, and crosswalks. The network does not exist today but could slowly be built as different agencies reconstruct streets and roads into the future. Since community desires may change over time, the Grand Marais community expects this desired infrastructure network to be reviewed and updated every five years.

MAINTENANCE

The following action items address maintenance practices impacting walking in Grand Marais.

1. Continue government snow clearing services for high priority sidewalks. (See below.)
2. Evaluate sidewalks annually to monitor sidewalk conditions and maintenance needs.
3. Communicate with property owners about their responsibilities to maintain the walking infrastructure network.

USER EXPERIENCE

The following action items aim to enhance the comfort of people walking in Grand Marais.

1. Prioritize the Downtown District, Highway 61, 1st Avenue West, and 5th Avenue West for street lighting that enhances corridor safety and encourages walking use during low light hours.
2. Develop a plan to strategically locate walk-friendly amenities (i.e. benches and wayfinding signage) to accommodate users.
3. Encourage property owners to provide amenities (i.e. benches or Little Free Library boxes) along the street for use by passers-by.

Sidewalk Snow Clearing in Grand Marais

High Priority

Low Priority



By order of the city ordinance in Grand Marais, sidewalk snow clearing is the responsibility of property owners. While all property owners are required by local law to clear snow from a sidewalk adjacent to their property, the City and County acknowledge some sidewalk connections are more valuable for the community as a whole and have made it a practice to clear the high priority sidewalks as shown on this map. Provided appropriate equipment, the City of Grand Marais and Cook County hope to continue this practice as a service to the community in the future.

Note: One side of Highway 61 will be used as a snowmobile route and not plowed.

INPUT

In September 2018, a community input opportunity asked community members what is important for people to access on foot in Grand Marais; an opportunity to share general ideas about walking was also presented. The input received is recorded in summary on this page and in full in the plan appendix, which is available on the City of Grand Marais website.

COMMENT TOPICS

The following topics were mentioned by community members who provided written comments about walking in Grand Marais. The numbers in [brackets] indicate how many times a topic was mentioned.

- Construct new sidewalk/trail connections [26]
- Enhance pedestrian street crossings [16]
- Clear snow/ice from sidewalks [12]
- Clear conflicts/obstructions from sidewalks [i.e. vegetation, motorists, bicyclists, snowmobilers] [10]
- Enhance street corridor lighting [6]
- Repair existing sidewalks [4]
- Educate motorists about stopping for people in crosswalks [3]
- Maintain existing on-street parking [3]
- Rely on individuals to use headlamps instead of adding street lighting [3]
- Eliminate private vehicles from Wisconsin Street [2]
- Provide programming for people walking for recreation [2]
- Address danger of unleashed dogs [1]
- Educate people walking about safety etiquettes [1]
- Eliminate pull-in diagonal parking from community due to safety issues [1]
- Enhance storefront pedestrian access for community destinations [1]

PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

The heat map below records community feedback when we asked, “Where do you want to get to in the city of Grand Marais?” As a geographically small community, the steering committee gave guidance that general community destinations should all be accessible by foot. The community feedback question was deployed on interactive boards stationed at popular locations around the community and at community events as well as in an online survey. These responses were collected in September 2018.



