

SECTION 4: Priority Projects

PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR THE SUNRISE SIDE COASTAL HIGHWAY

This section is comprised of lists of priority projects which the overall "Management Team" and the six individual "County Teams" will assist in implementing, in cooperation with the appropriate local, State and/or federal organization or entity.

Overall Sunrise Side Coastal Highway Projects

Marketing and Promotion

- Coordinated "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway" signs for the entire Route.
- Coordinated educational and directional signs for the entire Route.
- Develop and distribute educational and informational brochures and other promotional literature and a web site about the Route.
- Identify where to establish informational and educational tourist centers at strategic places along the Route. Determine how the tourist centers will be designed, staffed and maintained.

Transportation Enhancement

- Support the construction of more passing relief lanes along US-23.
- Construct more non-motorized and snowmobile paths along US-23, or parallel to US-23 (i.e. rail corridors) in areas where they can be safely built.
- Construct more pull-off points and roadside parks along US-23.
- Develop a plan for implementing access management practices along US-23 where there are traffic conflicts.
- Plan for the use and development of efficient routes to handle trucks and traffic in the northern Lake Huron vicinity.

Tourism Enhancement

- Improve hiking, non-motorized and snowmobile paths in public lands as a part of a regional network system.
- Plan to develop self-guided theme tours (e.g. ghost towns, genealogy).
- Delineate and mark water trails.
- Develop and deliver hospitality training programs for tourism related businesses.

Environmental

- Plan how to best protect environmentally sensitive areas along US-23.
- Prioritize the most significant scenic views, forest lands and open spaces along the Route to be included in a protection plan. Plan for the best ways in which to protect these areas.

Beautification

- Plan for community beautification, streetscapes and parking facility improvement projects, where appropriate.
- Plan methods in which to better control the placement of new and the maintenance of existing billboards along US-23.
- Develop attractive "gateways" to communities that don't already have them.

Cheboygan County Projects

Marketing and Promotion

- Coordinated "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway" signs for the entire Route.
- Coordinated educational and directional signs for the entire Route, including non-motorized and snowmobile trail signs.
- Develop and distribute educational and informational brochures and other promotional literature and a web site about the Route.
- Identify where to establish informational and educational tourist centers at strategic places along the Route. Determine how the tourist centers will be designed, staffed and maintained.

Transportation Enhancement

- Construct more passing relief lanes along US-23 (i.e. Mill Creek Campground area, Cheboygan State Park area and between Mackinaw City and Cheboygan).
- Construct more non-motorized paths along US-23 in areas where they can be safely built.
- Construct more pull-off points and roadside parks along US-23 (i.e. where the town of "Freedom" was located, and across from Mill Creek).
- Develop a plan for implementing access management practices along US-23 where there are traffic conflicts.
- Resurface Main Street in downtown Cheboygan.
- Resurface US-23 in the Cheboygan City area.
- Re-design the corners of US-23 and Main St. in Cheboygan City to accommodate large vehicles making right and left turns.
- Street improvements in Mackinaw City: N. Huron St., M-108 and Lou Vingny St.

Tourism Enhancement

- Construct more hiking and non-motorized paths in public lands as a part of a regional network system.
- Plan to develop self-guided theme tours (e.g. ghost towns).
- Joseph Doyle Recreation Area pathway development.
- Cattail Park Pathway development.
- Identify a productive re-use for the old Woolworth building site in downtown Cheboygan City.
- Establish a trailhead in Cheboygan City between Court St. and Lincoln Ave. on the trail, with amenities for trail users.
- Improve the trail surface from Mackinaw City to Cheboygan to better accommodate bicycles, hikers and snowmobiles.
- Erect trail signs on the non-motorized and snowmobile paths which help to direct traffic to downtown Cheboygan.
- Complete the snowmobile trail from Indian River to Cheboygan.
- Develop a boat docking area on the Cheboygan River in Cheboygan City where Great Lakes cruises can dock in order to visit the area.
- Purchase the "Bell property" in Mackinaw City and add it to the Conklin Heritage Park.

Environmental

- Plan how to best protect environmentally sensitive areas along US-23.
- Prioritize the most significant scenic views, forest lands and open spaces along the Route to be included in a protection plan. Plan for the best ways in which to protect these areas.

Beautification

- Plan for the relocation and/or burial of utility lines located in the urbanized areas or in scenic viewsheds along US-23, where appropriate.
- Construct attractive "gateways" into the communities along US-23, where they don't already exist.
- Plan for community beautification, streetscape and parking facility improvement projects and how to maintain them.
- Plan methods in which to better control the placement of new and the maintenance of existing billboards along US-23.
- Place Afton Stone all along the Route.
- Continue streetscape improvements on major commercial streets in Mackinaw City.

Presque Isle County Projects

Marketing and Promotion

- Coordinated "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway" signs for the entire Route.
- Coordinated educational and directional signs for the entire Route.
- Develop and distribute educational and informational brochures and other promotional literature and a web site about the Route.
- Identify where to establish informational and educational tourist centers at strategic places along the Route. Determine how the tourist centers will be designed, staffed and maintained.

Transportation Enhancement

- Support the construction of more passing relief and turn lanes along US-23. (i.e. Turn lanes at Hwy. 638, Airport Rd., Hoeft State Park, Rayburn Hwy. to Presque Isle, Forest Ave., and Hwy. 646).
- Construct more non-motorized and snowmobile paths along US-23 in areas where they can be safely built (i.e. around the Rogers City area).
- Construct more and improve existing pull-off points and roadside parks along and near US-23 (i.e. Quarry View, Harbor View, Presque Isle County Airport View, Hammond Bay, Ocqueoc River, Lifesaving Station area, Grand Lake, Long Lake, Thompsons Harbor Wildflower area).
- Develop a plan for implementing access management practices along US-23 where there are traffic conflicts (i.e. in the Rogers City and Bearinger Township areas).

Tourism Enhancement

- Construct and improve hiking, non motorized and snowmobile paths in area public lands as a part of a regional network system (i.e. Thompsons Harbor State Park, Mackinaw State Forest).
- Plan to develop self-guided theme tours (e.g. trailways, maritime, mining, geology, color tours).
- Develop a connection and "gateway" from US-23 to:
 - the Ocqueoc "Chain of Lakes" water trail
 - the Black Mountain/Black Lake State Park area
 - the Presque Isle Harbor area
 - the Posen agribusiness area
- Extend the non motorized pathway from Hoeft State Park to north to 40 Mile Point and the Cheboygan trail and south to Thompsons Harbor State Park and Rockport.

- Develop a nature and geological features trail through the Presque Isle/Alpena County karst areas.
- Grand Lake Twp. Park expansion and improvements.
- Erect interpretive signs for snowmobile trails.
- Develop educational signage to mark agricultural sites and businesses of interest on and near US-23.

Environmental

- Plan how to best protect environmentally sensitive areas along US-23.
- Prioritize the most significant scenic views, forest lands and open spaces along the Route to be included in a protection plan. Plan for the best ways in which to protect these areas.

Beautification/Landscaping

- Plan to develop ordinances for the relocation and/or burial of new utility lines located in the urbanized areas or in scenic viewsheds along US-23, where appropriate.
- Construct attractive "gateways" into the communities along US-23, where they don't already exist.
- Plan for community beautification, streetscapes and parking facility improvement projects, where appropriate.
- Plan methods in which to better control the placement of new and the maintenance of existing billboards along US-23.

Alpena County

Marketing and Promotion

- Coordinated "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway" signs for the entire Route.
- Coordinated educational and directional signs for the entire Route.
- Develop and distribute educational and informational brochures and other promotional literature and a web site about the Route.
- Identify where to establish informational and educational tourist centers at strategic places along the Route. Determine how the tourist centers will be designed, staffed and maintained.

Transportation Enhancement

- Construct more passing relief lanes along US-23 (i.e. between Alpena and Ossineke).
- Construct more non-motorized paths along and near US-23 in areas where they can be safely built (i.e. Ossineke to Alpena, improvements and extensions to the Alpena Bi-Path).
- Construct more pull-off points and roadside parks along US-23 and re-open ones that have been closed (i.e. Squaw Bay, Black River Hills, Spruce Rd at US-23).
- Develop a plan for implementing access management practices along US-23 where there are traffic conflicts.
- Improve the transportation access to Negwegon State Park. Erect signs to guide visitors to the park.

Tourism Enhancement

- Construct more hiking and non motorized paths in area public lands as a part of a regional network system.
- Plan to develop self-guided theme tours (e.g. ghost towns, genealogy, industrial site tours).

- Construction of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve Visitors/Interpretive Center.
- Redevelop the old Fletcher Paper Plant property for commercial uses.
- Construct a viewing/educational station at the Lafarge quarry site.
- Upgrades to the Mich-e-ke-wis Park.
- Construct an interpretive center at the Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Continue to improve and expand the Jesse Besser Museum.
- Ongoing improvements to the Alpena Marina.
- Add another ice rink at the Thunder Bay Ice Arena.
- Improvements to the Rockport area - picnic/fishing pier.
- Development of the Hoffmaster property into a low-impact recreational area.
- Develop a launch site at The Narrows.
- Acquire recreational property with Long Lake frontage.
- Improvements to Long Lake Park/Campground.

Environmental

- Plan how to best protect environmentally sensitive areas along US-23.
- Prioritize the most significant scenic views, forest lands and open spaces along the Route to be included in a protection plan. Plan for the best ways in which to protect these areas.

Beautification

- Plan for the relocation and/or burial of utility lines located in the urbanized areas or in scenic viewsheds along US-23, where appropriate (i.e. Squaw Bay).
- Construct attractive "gateways" into the communities along US-23, where they don't already exist.
- Plan for community beautification, streetscapes and parking facility improvement projects, where appropriate.
- Plan methods in which to better control the placement of new and the maintenance of existing billboards along US-23.

Alcona County Projects

Marketing and Promotion

- Coordinated "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway" signs for the entire Route.
- Coordinated educational and directional signs for the entire Route.
- Develop and distribute educational and informational brochures and other promotional literature and a web site about the Route.
- Identify where to establish informational and educational tourist centers at strategic places along the Route. Determine how the tourist centers will be designed, staffed and maintained.

Transportation Enhancement

- Support the construction of more passing relief lanes along US-23.
- Construct more non-motorized paths along US-23, or parallel to US-23 (i.e. rail corridors) in areas where they can be safely built. (i.e. Greenbush area, Lakeshore Drive to Negwegon and points north).
- Construct more pull-off points and roadside parks along US-23. (i.e. Greenbush area, Paul Bunyan Tower area).

- Develop a plan for implementing access management practices along US-23 where there are traffic conflicts.
- Coordinate with DNR on improving the transportation access to Negwegon State Park. Erect signs to guide visitors to the park.

Tourism Enhancement

- Construct more hiking and non-motorized paths in area public lands as a part of a regional network system.
- Plan to develop self-guided theme tours (e.g. ghost towns, genealogy).
- Renovate old depot in Harrisville as a historic attraction.
- Restore "Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox" site.
- Restore the old Black River "fish house" and lumbering headquarters as a historic attraction.
- Promote the area to attract more scuba divers.
- Delineate and mark water trails.
- Plan for a museum and/or interpretive trail that describes the history of transportation in Alcona County.

Environmental

- Plan how to best protect environmentally sensitive areas along US-23.
- Prioritize the most significant scenic views, forest lands and open spaces along the Route to be included in a protection plan. Plan for the best ways in which to protect these areas.

Beautification

- Plan for the relocation and/or burial of utility lines located in the urbanized areas or in scenic viewsheds along US-23, where appropriate.
- Construct attractive "gateways" into the communities along US-23, where they don't already exist.
- Plan for community beautification, streetscape and parking facility improvement projects, where appropriate.
- Plan methods in which to better control the placement of new and the maintenance of existing billboards along US-23.

Iosco County Projects

Marketing and Promotion

- Coordinated "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway" signs for the entire Route.
- Coordinated educational and directional signs for the entire Route.
- Develop and distribute educational and informational brochures and other promotional literature and a web site about the Route.
- Establish informational and educational tourist centers at strategic places along the Route.

Transportation Enhancement

- Construct more passing relief lanes along US-23.
- Construct more non-motorized paths along US-23 in areas where they can be safely built (such as along M-65).
- Construct more pull-off points and roadside parks along US-23 and re-open ones that have been closed (such as north of the Tawas Area).

- Develop a plan for implementing access management practices along US-23 where there are traffic conflicts.
- Construct a bike path north from the existing bike path at Fullerton Ave to Oscoda.
- Construct ½ mile of bike path at Sunrise Park.
- Develop one mile of bike path along US-23 from the South.
- Au Sable Bike Path improvement for pedestrian access and bicycle options. Part of extension would have the path run from Johnson Road to Mill Street.

Tourism Enhancement

- Construct more hiking and non motorized paths in area public lands as a part of a regional network system.
- Development of a Park Pathway system in East Tawas.
- Construction of the East Tawas City Park Campground Break-wall & Boardwalk.
- Removing old chain-link type fencing and making aesthetic improvements at the campground.
- Making the necessary capital improvements at local park facilities (lighting, fencing, signage, etc.).
- At Old Orchard Park, construct a bathhouse.
- Huron Sunrise Park, approximately 3 miles.
- At Footesite, purchase playground equipment structures for different age groups and levels of play.
- In Oscoda, develop a Sports Complex facility.
- Au Sable Shoreline Park improvements.
- Expansion of the Au Sable River Access in Au Sable Township.
- Provide an interpretive trail for the Dead Au Sable River Nature Area.
- Develop a public marina facility in Au Sable Township.

Environmental

- Plan how to best protect environmentally sensitive areas along US-23.
- Prioritize the most significant scenic views, forestlands and open spaces along the Route to be included in a protection plan. Plan for the best ways in which to protect these areas.
- At Footesite, construct shoreline erosion control and a fishing pier.
- Around the Riverfront Area, purchase property behind Gilbert's parking lot.

Beautification

- Plan for the relocation and/or burial of utility lines located in the urbanized areas or in scenic viewsheds along US-23, where appropriate.
- Construct attractive "gateways" into the communities along US-23, where they don't already exist.
- Plan for community beautification, streetscape and parking facility improvement projects, where appropriate.
- Plan methods in which to better control the placement of new and the maintenance of existing billboards along US-23.
- Continue to acquire riverfront property in the Downtown area and west of Oscoda.

Arenac County Projects

Marketing and Promotion

- Coordinated "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway" signs for the entire Route.
- Coordinated educational and directional signs for the entire Route.

- Develop and distribute educational and informational brochures and other promotional literature and a web site about the Route.
- Establish informational and educational tourist centers at strategic places along the Route such as the Central Michigan Depot in Standish, MI.
- Pursue a developer to investigate whether a conference center is feasible in Standish, MI.

Transportation Enhancement

- Construct more passing relief lanes along US-23.
- Construct more non-motorized paths along US-23 in areas where they can be safely built (Such as around the Rifle River in Omer).
- Develop a plan for implementing access management practices along US-23 where there are traffic conflicts.
- Work with MDOT to implement a streetscape project at the major intersection of US-23 and M-61 in Standish.
- Pedestrian Pathway Development and connections to regional areas.

Tourism Enhancement

- Construct more hiking and non motorized paths in area public lands as a part of a regional network system.
- Plan to develop self-guided theme tours (historic home tours, walking tours).
- The need for a park is necessary to serve as a gateway into the City the southern portion of Standish, possibly along US-23.
- A possible Standish Parks and Recreation Complex will also serve the residents, but also will provide desirable opportunities for travelers to visit Standish.
- Work with local tourism leaders to develop wintertime opportunities.
- Redevelop the Lutz property, and make additional improvements at parks in Au Gres.
- Construct a volleyball facility in Au Gres.
- Upgrade and improve the Community Park and pavilion in Au Gres.
- Develop a Frisbee/Disc Golf Course in Au Gres.
- Dog Run/Park in Au Gres.
- River access improvements or handicapped accessible pocket parks in Au Gres.
- Rifle River Trails in Deep River Township.
- Rifle River Access in Deep River Township.

Environmental

- Plan how to best protect environmentally sensitive areas along US-23.
- Prioritize the most significant scenic views, forestlands and open spaces along the Route to be included in a protection plan. Plan for the best ways in which to protect these areas.
- Implement bank stabilization for enhancement on the Rifle River.

Beautification

- Plan for the relocation and/or burial of utility lines located in the urbanized areas or in scenic viewsheds along US-23, where appropriate.
- Construct attractive "gateways" into the communities along US-23, where they don't already exist.
- Plan for community beautification, streetscapes and parking facility improvement projects, where appropriate.
- Plan methods in which to better control the placement of new and the maintenance of existing billboards along US-23.

- Property acquisition along the Au Gres River for passive and active recreation, but not limited to areas near the waterfront, or beaches.