

Bike Lane Extension

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Problem/Background

1. Grand Rapids' latest Master Plan includes plans to build bike lanes throughout Grand Rapids including surrounding areas that have a direct impact on Calvin's campus.
2. The City of Grand Rapids' Planning Department then began a more detailed action plan of where bike lanes should be constructed, however, this project never was completed due to lack of funds, and none of the proposed bike lanes have been installed.
3. Currently the routes for biking to and from Calvin are on major roadways, which can be dangerous.

Propositions

1. Form a group at Calvin College to petition Grand Rapids to follow through with plans already adopted concerning Bike lanes in Grand Rapids, with an emphasis on the proposed bicycle lanes on Lake Drive.
2. Construct designated bicycle lanes at Calvin College to promote the use of bikes around campus.
3. Inform the general public of the benefits of bicycling instead of driving.

Supporting Arguments

1. Bicycle Commuting Expenses:

1. Bicycle Cost: Average \$687, Median \$500
2. Annual Expenses: Average \$714
 - a. Bike Purchase: \$308
 - b. Upgrades: \$102
 - c. Tools: \$89
 - d. Miscellaneous \$50

--Transportation Research Board

2. The average annual cost to operate a motor vehicle in the U.S. is \$6,893

-- AAA Michigan

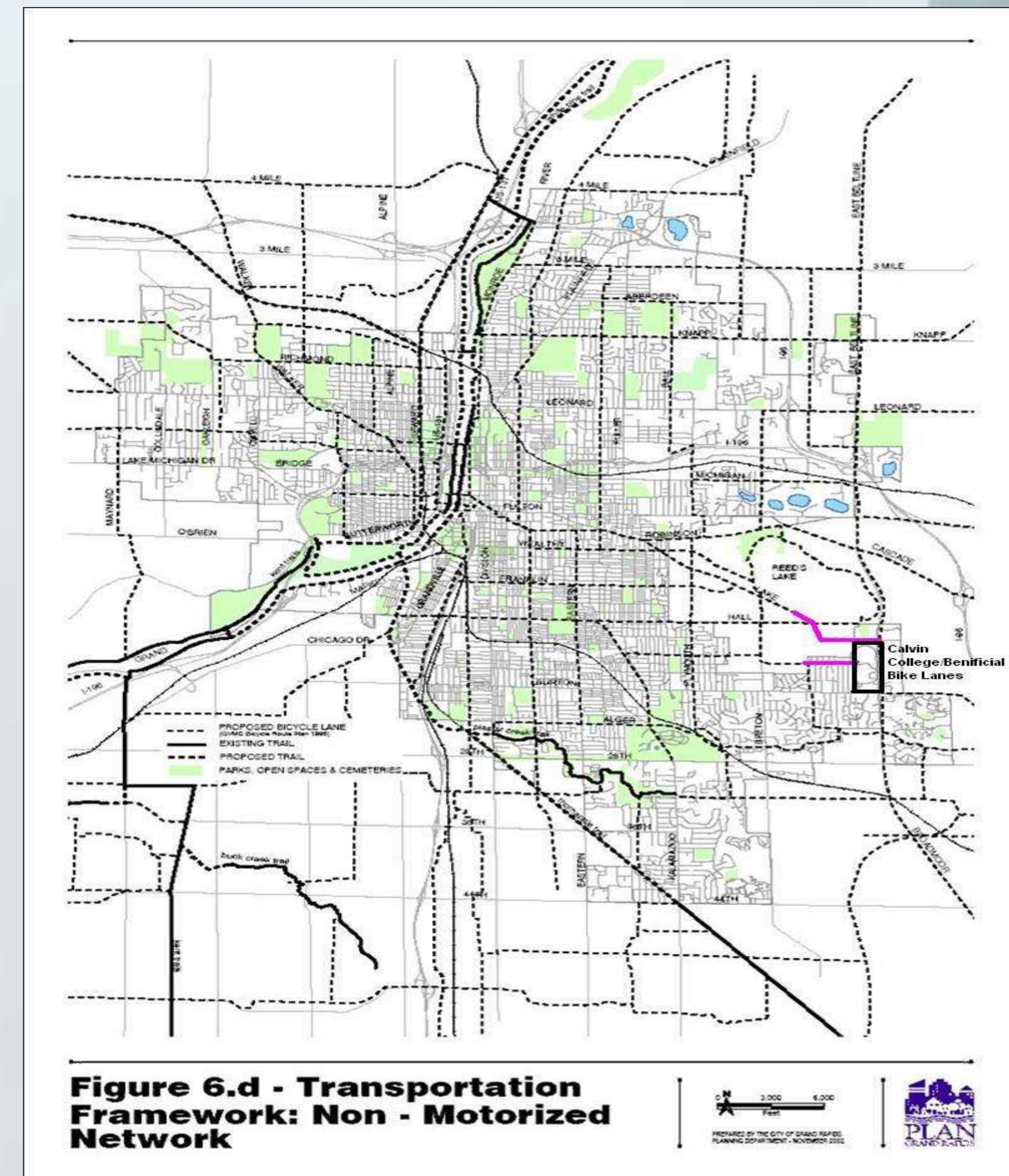
3. Calvin's goal is to encourage biking to campus, by providing incentives, and new facilities.

--Calvin College Statement on Sustainability

4. There is a need for an outside push for Grand Rapids to follow through with adopted bike plans.

--Grand Rapids Planning Department

Proposed Bike Lanes - Grand Rapids' Master Plan



Conclusions

1. Implementation of proposed bike lanes by the City of Grand Rapids will increase the safety of for those using the roads.
2. The implementation of bike lanes will advance the feasibility of the use of bicycling as an alternate mode of transportation to and from Calvin, especially on Calvin's north entrance; Lake Drive.
3. Biking is a significantly cheaper mode of transportation, compared to driving, which if promoted will also help to relieve the parking problems on Calvin College's campus

Reference

City of Grand Rapids Planning Department. Bicycling in Grand Rapids. 2006. 27 Nov. 2006
<http://www.ci.grand-rapids.mi.us/index.pl?page_id=2665>.