

# Sustainable Transportation and Calvin College - Action Steps



## Lake Drive Bicycle Lanes

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CALVIN  
MINDS IN THE MAKING

### The Problem

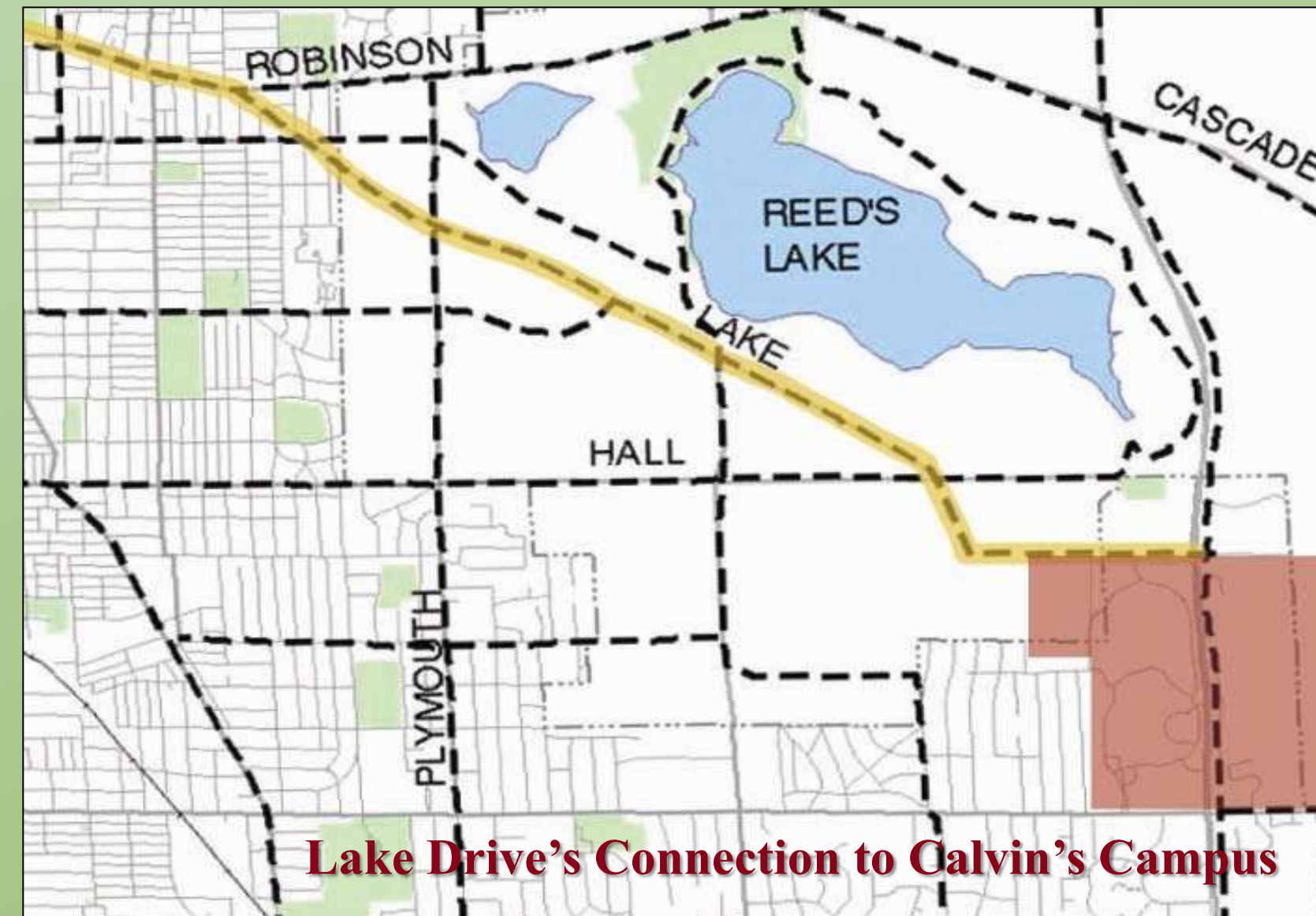
Despite its role as a major circulation path between Calvin College's campus, East Grand Rapids and the Grand Rapids neighborhoods of Eastown and East Hills, Lake Drive lacks the appropriate infrastructure to safely provide for both automobile and bicycle use. Furthermore, the current design of Lake Drive encourages excessive speeding due to its wide travel lanes.

### Project Background

Lake Drive is identified as a "preferred" bicycle route with proposed bike lanes in the 2002 Grand Rapids Master Plan, the 2004 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and the Bike GR map.

The section of Lake Drive linking the north end of Calvin College's campus to East Grand Rapids was recently re-striped (without bike lanes) and is planned to be updated/reconstructed within the next ten years.

The recently published Green Grand Rapids planning objectives include making Grand Rapids "a bike-friendly city" with strategies of preparing an on-street bike route plan and incrementally implementing improvements.



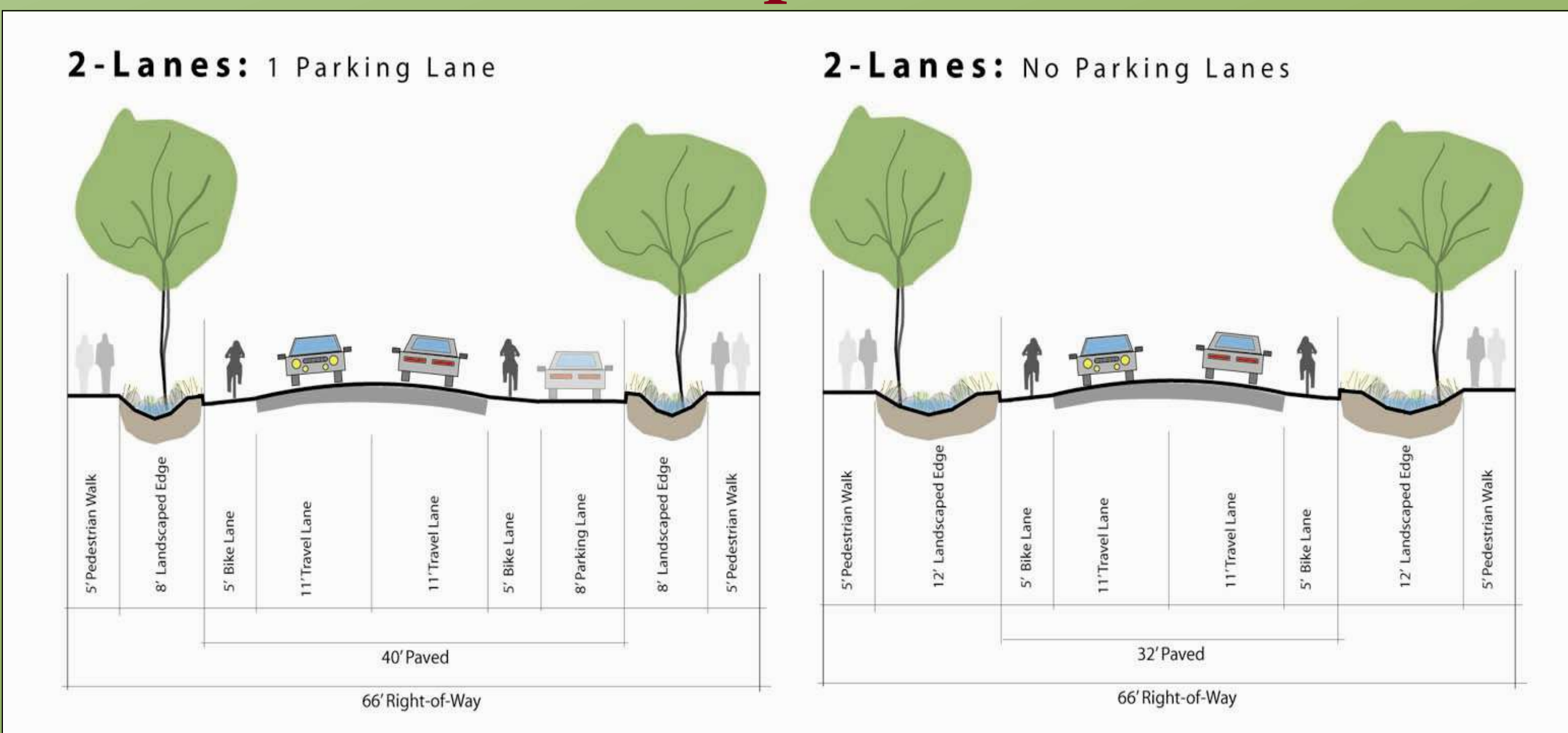
### Benefits to College & Community

- Creates a safer environment for bicyclists and automobile drivers by clearly designating right of way.
- Calms traffic by narrowing travel lanes.
- Increases mobility for the elderly, the young, and those with means too limited to be able to drive a car.
- Encourages healthy, active lifestyles.
- Reduces consumption of nonrenewable resources and improved air quality.
- Creates opportunity to educate the general public of the benefits of biking and makes alternative modes of transportation feasible.
- Relieves pressure on automobile infrastructure such as parking.
- Provides access between Calvin College and its northern neighbors.

### Action Steps – Municipalities

- Review and revise Master Plans to include improvements needed to create a connected and convenient bike system.
- Commit to coordinating street bike system improvements and fundraising efforts with the assistance of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, particularly concerning routes that cross municipal lines.
- Continue community education and information-gathering programs such as Green Grand Rapids that engage citizens.
- Create a bike system improvement hierarchy; for example:
  - First identify areas which could immediately accommodate improvements, such as new signage and striping over wide travel lanes.
  - Then identify areas that could be improved with moderate changes, such as the elimination of on-street parking or reduction of the number of travel lanes.
  - Finally, identify areas which would require more significant infrastructure modification and include such considerations in future street improvement plans.

### Schematic Bike Lane Options



### The Proposal

Wherever possible bike lanes should be installed in both directions along Lake Drive, designated by appropriate signage and street striping.

At minimum (wherever existing street widths prohibit the installation of exclusive bike lanes), the travel lanes should be designated as a *shared roadway* with appropriate signage.

All future road reconstruction and improvement projects should include plans for exclusive bike lanes wherever possible.



### Action Steps – Calvin College

- Organize collaboration between key student, faculty, and administrative groups:
  - Calvin Bike Club, Environmental Stewardship Committee, Student Senate
  - Faculty Governance Committee for Environmental Stewardship, Faculty Senate, HPERDS
  - President's Cabinet, Board of Trustees
- Participate in community planning events (such as Green Grand Rapids) and establish a means of dialogue with Grand Rapids, East Grand Rapids, and GVMC planning officials.
- Consider composing a formal document representative of students, faculty, and administrators that clearly outlines the College's support of improvement bicycle systems.
- Request to be regularly updated about street and bicycle system improvement plans.
- Continue to promote bicycle usage among Calvin students, faculty, and staff by improving on-campus bicycle infrastructure (such as racks, shelters, and connectivity) and expanding programs such as the Healthy Habits *Bike to Work* program.