



PROJECT BACKGROUND

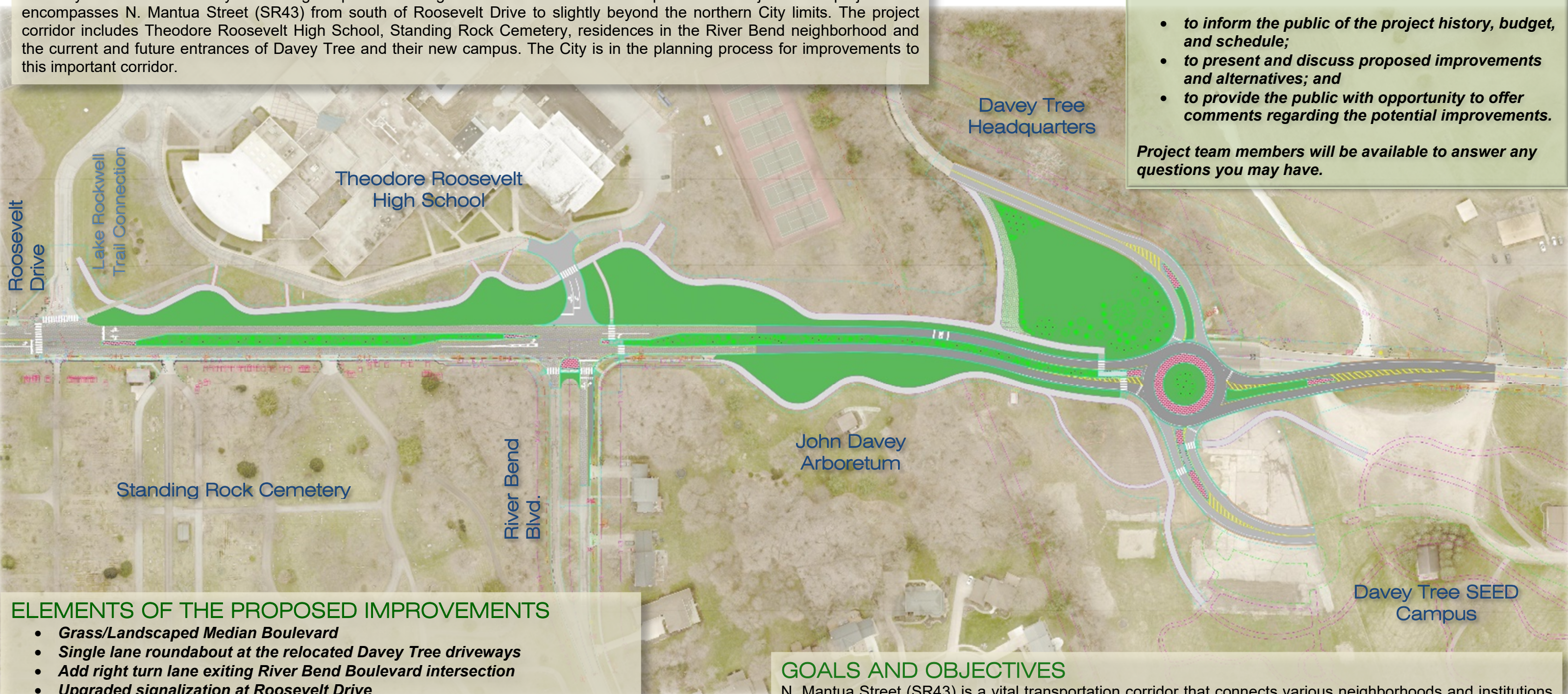
The City of Kent welcomes you to tonight's public meeting for the N. Mantua Street Improvement Project. The project area encompasses N. Mantua Street (SR43) from south of Roosevelt Drive to slightly beyond the northern City limits. The project corridor includes Theodore Roosevelt High School, Standing Rock Cemetery, residences in the River Bend neighborhood and the current and future entrances of Davey Tree and their new campus. The City is in the planning process for improvements to this important corridor.

PURPOSE OF TONIGHT'S MEETING

The purpose of this public meeting is . . .

- *to inform the public of the project history, budget, and schedule;*
- *to present and discuss proposed improvements and alternatives; and*
- *to provide the public with opportunity to offer comments regarding the potential improvements.*

Project team members will be available to answer any questions you may have.



ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- **Grass/Landscaped Median Boulevard**
- **Single lane roundabout at the relocated Davey Tree driveways**
- **Add right turn lane exiting River Bend Boulevard intersection**
- **Upgraded signalization at Roosevelt Drive**
 - **State-of-the-art Signal System, with Pedestrian Actuated Crossing**
 - **Emergency Vehicle Pre-emption**
- **Sidewalks and shared use path that is part of a regional trail system**
- **Mid-block Pedestrian Crosswalk**
- **Lighting of all intersections, including River Bend Boulevard**
- **Trees and Landscaping**
- **Pavement resurfacing**
- **Signing and Pavement Markings**

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

N. Mantua Street (SR43) is a vital transportation corridor that connects various neighborhoods and institutions in the northern portion of the City of Kent. This stretch of roadway is well-traveled, with schools, a residential development and the corporate headquarters for Davey Tree. It also serves as the northern gateway into the City of Kent. For approximately two decades, the public has expressed concerns in regard to vehicular ingress/egress, vehicular speeds and pedestrian safety in the project limits. **The purpose of this project is to:**

- **improve safety for all users,**
- **balance vehicular needs with improvements to other modes of transportation,**
- **improve vehicle access and turning movements, and**
- **improve the aesthetics and gateway features.**



MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC

Access will be maintained to adjacent properties at all times during construction. Driveway access will be maintained to the greatest extent possible. There will be periods of time when driveway access may be disrupted during removal of the existing drive and construction of new driveways

Lanes will be reduced to allow the construction contractor a safe work zone. One vehicular travel lane in both the north and southbound directions along SR43 will be maintained at all times, by utilizing temporary, existing and proposed pavement.

FUNDING

The estimated project construction cost is approximately \$5,000,000.

The project is sponsored and funded by the City of Kent, Davey Tree and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). Through the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), Carbon Reduction Program and ODOT's Municipal Paving Program funds have been secured for this project. In addition, the City is actively pursuing other funding mechanisms through ODOT and the Ohio Public Works Commission.

SCHEDULE

The City will start working on the design and plan development process in the near future so that the construction contract can be awarded in the fall of 2026. Construction should take approximately one year.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Various environmental studies have been conducted for the project as required by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). As part of the project the following environmental elements were studied. The reports are available for review.

- *Ecological Resources* – including wetlands, rivers/streams, aquatic and terrestrial habitats, and threatened and endangered species.
- *Section 4(f) and Section 106* – including historical sites, archaeological sites, and historic architecture. Cemeteries and John Davey Arboretum (as a Section 4(f) resource) are within the project study area. Impacts to the Arboretum appear to be “de minimis”. Coordination is ongoing with the City of Kent concerning these impacts.
- *Hazardous Materials/Wastes* – studies to identify suspect hazardous waste sites.
- *Social and Economic/Community Impacts* – including businesses, residences, emergency services, travel patterns, schools, recreational activities, etc.

No significant hurdles to the project advancement were identified as a result of those studies.

RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION

The purchase of Right of Way (ROW) will be required to construct the project. Temporary construction easements will also be purchased to facilitate the grading of lawns and reconstruction of driveways.

The purchase of ROW will follow the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and amendments of 1987. The main objective of this Act is to ensure that every effort is made to acquire the needed right of way in a fair and equitable manner.

A cooperative stakeholder agreement between the City of Kent, City of Kent Schools and Davey Tree has been established in which land would be donated to help facilitate the construction of this project. All property required for this project is currently owned by the City of Kent, Kent Schools, and Davey Tree Company.



CONCEPTUAL STREET VIEW
Proposed view looking north along N. Mantua Street (SR43) at River Bend Boulevard intersection.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please feel free to contact the City of Kent Engineering Department with your questions or comments.

Send your e-mail to: Jim.Bowling@KentOhio.gov Or feel free to call: (330) 678-8106

Please submit your comments/questions by March 14, 2025.

Your feedback is an important part of the planning process for this improvement project.