

# MEMORANDUM



**TO:** MOBILITY COMMITTEE  
**FROM:** REBECCA RUNKEL, PROJECT ENGINEER  
**SUBJECT:** TAFT ROAD SIDEWALK FEASIBILITY, 10 MILE RD TO 11 MILE RD  
**DATE:** OCTOBER 9, 2025

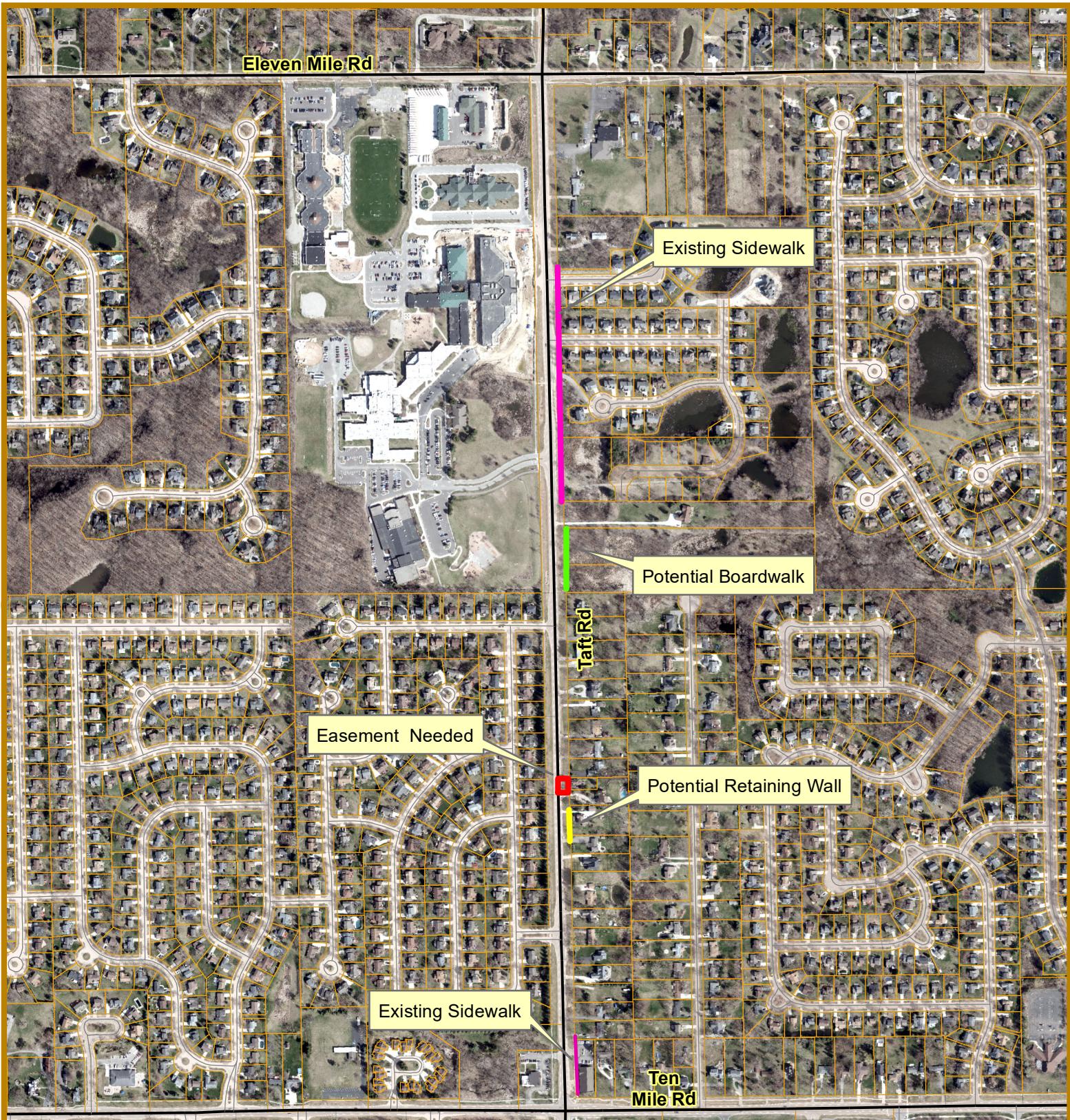
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At the August Mobility Committee meeting, more information was requested on the sidewalk gap on the east side of Taft Road between 10 Mile Road and 11 Mile Road due to its proximity to the Novi School District multi-school campus. Currently, there is sidewalk and/or pathway along the entirety of the west side of Taft Road between 10 and 11 Mile Road, the majority being 8-foot-wide asphalt pathway. The east side of Taft Rd has sidewalk along the Taft Knolls and Heritage Woods subdivisions, and along the southernmost parcel. When the road was reconstructed in 2018, northbound and southbound bike lanes were added. The Active Mobility Plan recommends filling this sidewalk gap with 6-foot concrete sidewalk as part of the Long-Term Network plan. The gap is approximately 3,670 feet in length.

Sidewalk on the east side of Taft Road was considered during the 2018 road reconstruction project but not designed due to issues with grades and wetlands. There is at least one area that would require a retaining wall, and one area that would require boardwalk. There are 22 single-family homes with Taft Road frontage on the east side of Taft Road between 10 Mile Road and Emerald Forest Drive. Sufficient right-of-way exists along the stretch of road except for one parcel, where the home is only about 43-feet from the edge of pavement. The City would need to obtain a sidewalk easement from this property owner and would have to remove a large tree and landscaping from their frontage to fit a sidewalk. Storm water ditches along the east side of the road would also need to be enclosed to accommodate the sidewalk.

Only considering general costs per foot of concrete sidewalk (\$80/ft) and wooden boardwalk (\$800/ft), a preliminary estimate would put the cost of filling in the sidewalk gap at upwards of \$500,000. That does not include additional costs for retaining wall, tree removals/replacements or storm sewer. A more detailed engineering estimate can be requested from a City consultant if desired by the committee.



Map Author: Runkel  
Date: 10-1-25  
Version #: 1.0

## Taft Road Sidewalk Gap

### Legend

Right of Way - Novi Edits

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