

## Valparaiso Awarded Roadway Grant

The City of Valparaiso has been awarded a new Community Crossings Grant from the Indiana Department of Transportation, announced Mayor Matt Murphy. This 50/50 matching grant will support the reconstruction of a section of Eisenhower Avenue, including concrete curbs, storm sewer upgrades and the installation of sidewalks. “We’re very pleased to receive this additional funding and be able to extend roadway improvements into neighborhoods,” said Murphy.

“We’re continuing to seek all available funding and road-extending techniques, stretching our budgets to do the maximum possible each year,” said Murphy. With the help of grant funding, the City of Valparaiso was able to pave nearly 12 miles of roadway in 2020. “It was gratifying to come in under budget this year, allowing us to add a series of projects and traffic-calming features,” said Murphy.

The Community Crossings grant will support improvements on Eisenhower Avenue from 720 feet west of Crockett Avenue to Sturdy Road, for a length of 1,300 feet. The project is expected to cost \$845,000, with the Community Crossings grant funding \$422,000. Work is expected to be completed begin in May or June 2021.

Additional roadway projects will be announced early in 2021, according to City Engineering Director Mike Jabo. “We are optimistic that we will receive an additional Community Crossings grant and 2021 has the potential to be another very good year for Valparaiso roadways,” he said.

Deciding which roads to improve is currently based on a PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation Rating) system, with 1 being the worst condition and 10 being the best, also considering whether roads are arterial, collector or local streets, plus their safety, scope and cost. The city re-evaluates all roadways every two years and is expanding its road evaluation system and road treatment schedule to maximize the life of all surfaces in the city’s right of way. Once details are available regarding paving, improvements and scheduling, the City of Valparaiso will post a list of roadway projects and approximate dates on its website, Valpo.us.