

Fred Meijer Standale Trail Tunnel



Back Story Timeline

- **1998** – Dr. Dick Granze, President of the Friends of the White Pine Trail comes to the Walker staff about the City becoming a hub for the regional trail network, connecting the White Pine, Musketawa and Kent Trails.
- **2000** – Walker publishes *Bike and Pedestrian Trail Master Plan*
- **2001** – Walker spearheads the creation of the *West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition*, providing one voice for the numerous trail networks and agencies in west Michigan.
- **2004** – South Standale Trail is constructed.
- **2007** – Public hearings and negotiations begin for the trail corridor from City Hall Campus south to Millennium Park.
- **2011** – Grand Opening of Fred Meijer Standale Trail (FMST) – Mr. Meijer's last public appearance.
- **2013** – FMST M-45 Crossing Analysis conducted to determine best option (tunnel, bridge, etc.)
- **September 2014** – Design begins on the tunnel.
- **February 2016** – Project is bid.
- **April 2016** – Nagel Construction Contractors begin construction.
- **October 2016** – Construction is Completed; ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate.

Civic Engagement

- A campaign was launched to raise awareness and funds for the tunnel (Renderings were used to help envision the tunnel design).
- An open house was held 6 weeks before construction for residents and representatives.
- Updates were provided through social media and the City's website.
- Project team's weekly progress meetings were open to the public.



Civic Engagement

- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on October 14, 2016

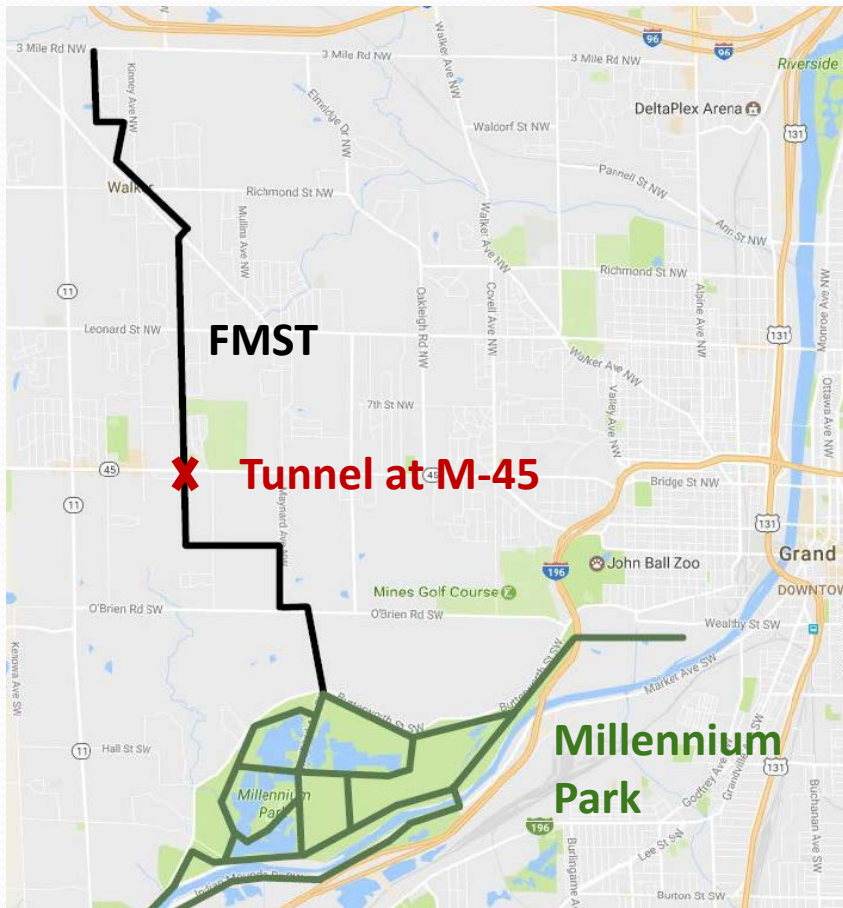


Public Safety



- Preventative safety measure – The tunnel provides a safe route under M-45 (Lake Michigan Drive), the City of Walker’s 5-lane main street (speed limit: 45 mph).
- Trail users include commuters, GVSU students, recreationalists, and residents.
- Public transportation pick-up and drop-off stops exist on both sides of M-45.

Placemaking



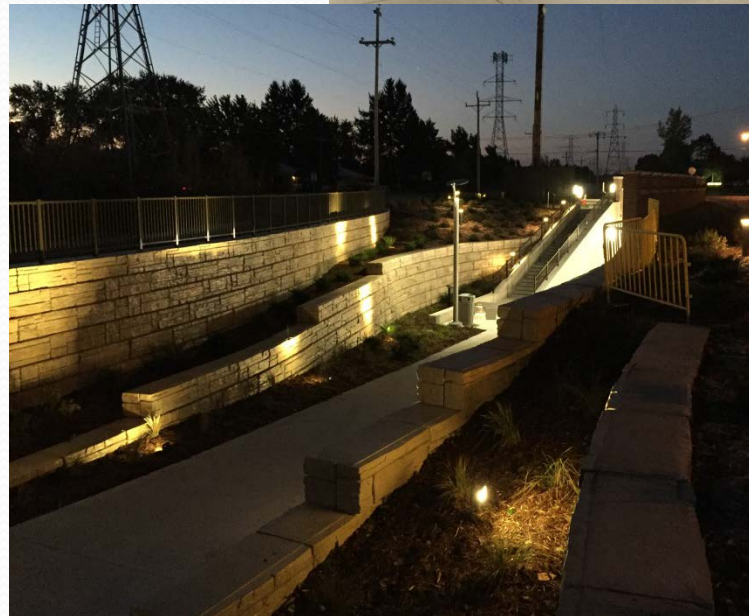
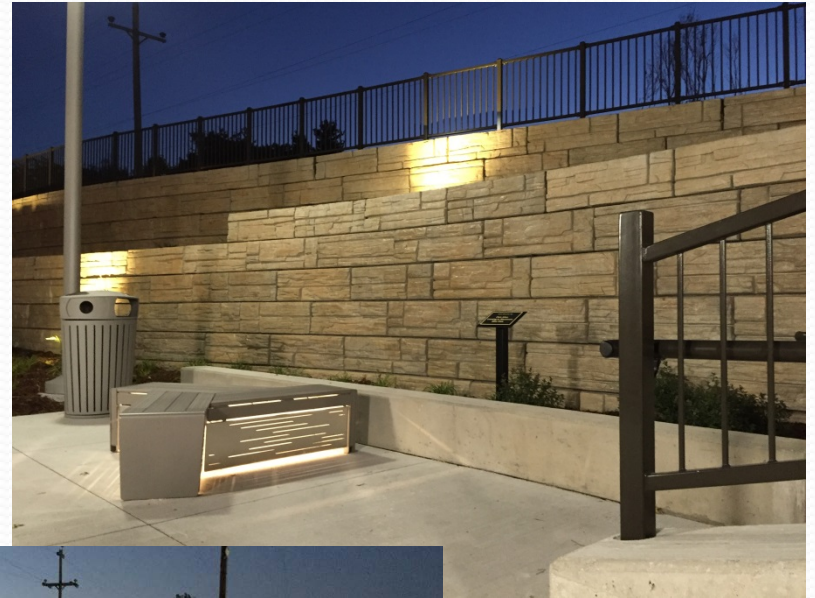
- Fred Meijer Standale Trail connects Walker's City Hall, schools, parks, library, and the Walker Ice and Fitness Center with Millennium Park.
- FMST is part of the regional trail connection.

Intergovernmental Cooperation

- Funding - MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (\$1.98 million)
- Construction staging saved the project \$200,000 but required a full closure/detour and approval from the following:
 - City of Grand Rapids
 - The Rapid
 - Michigan Department of Transportation

Tunnel Features

- *Tunnel size: 14 feet wide, 10 feet tall*
- Pedestrian Plaza
- Stacked Stone Retaining Wall
- Security Cameras
- Built-in Lighting
- Landscaping with native plants



Partners & Donors

- Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- The Meijer Foundation
- Standale Walker Downtown Development Authority
- West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition
- Bea Aldrink Idema Foundation
- ITC Holdings
- Dick Allen Lansing to Mackinaw Bike Ride
- DTE Energy Foundation
- Mark Huizenga Systems Consulting
- Chemical Bank
- Betz Industries



Byproducts

- Future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project

"An exciting outcome of the Laker Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) planning phase was the decision to incorporate station platforms within the streetscape right-of-way design on each side of the Fred Meijer Standale Trail tunnel. The City of Walker members of the Laker Line Technical Advisory Committee encouraged the coordination between the Standale Trail engineers and the BRT engineers to develop an effective alignment of project elements in order to realize the innovative vision for a robust multimodal transportation node."

– Nicholas Monoyios, Long Range Planner for The Rapid

- Happy and safe pedestrians/trail users every day!

- Potential Art Prize venue location

The tunnel's design incorporates recessed spaces to allow for future artwork installation. The City hopes to share its history.

- Private developers are now concentrating around the tunnel.

