

WHITE PINE PRESS

We hew to the line; let the chips fall where they may.

ARE WE READY FOR THE UNTHINKABLE?



NMC PREPARES FOR POTENTIAL ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATIONS PG4

NMC News in Brief

Biden Faces Protest Vote in Michigan Primary

The Michigan presidential primary elections took place on Feb 27, and incumbent Democratic candidate President Joe Biden ran up against a lack of support among progressive voters. As a result of his inaction and enabling of Israel's genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, campaigns to vote "Uncommitted" in the primary attempted to show Biden his constituent's frustration.

The final results were more than 100,000 uncommitted votes statewide— 13% of Democratic ballots cast in the state.

NMC Board of Trustees Selects Trustee at Unrecorded Meeting

On Feb. 19, the NMC Board of Trustees held a "special meeting" to select a new member, who ended up being Bill Marsh. The meeting was not recorded, and no audio or video call-in option was provided. Minutes after a member of the *White Pine Press* contacted NMC president Nick Nissley's office about the meeting going unrecorded, public notice about the meeting was removed from NMC's website.

NMC Career Fair Upcoming

NMC's 2024 Career and Employment Fair is scheduled for Mar. 7 at the Hagerty Center. The event will include workshops for students seeking employment to bolster their hireability, practice professionalism, and build stronger resumes. Employers from around the state in all sectors will be present and searching for new recruits.

Nominations are open for the Staff Excellence Award and Team Excellence Award

Show your appreciation and make a difference in the lives of your colleagues. Nominate them for the Staff Excellence Award and Team Excellence Award.

NMC is seeking nominations for:

- Staff (full-time, part-time, or supplemental), and
- Teams of two or more individuals (departments, cross-departmental collaborative groups, strategic projects, initiative-focused teams, etc.) whose work serves to inspire us all, and who:
 - Demonstrate NMC's values
 - Exhibit commitment 'above and beyond' to the NMC mission, vision, values and strategic directions
 - Made a difference at NMC over the past year (2023-2024)

Nominations must be received by 3/29/2024.

*Recipients will receive a monetary award and an engraved plaque to be awarded on May 9, 2024, at the NMC You Made It Possible Celebration at the NMC Hagerty Center.

Thank you for recognizing the great work of your colleagues and showing you care!

White Pine Press is Hiring

Are you a writer, editor, page designer, ad salesperson, or photographer? Looking for a job?

The *White Pine Press* would like to offer you the opportunity to join our staff. The *White Pine Press* is a bi-weekly newspaper published during the NMC school year that offers real-world experience while you do what you love. And we pay!

If you would like to learn more, contact faculty adviser Jacob Wheeler at jwheeler@nmc.edu or editor-in-chief Jacob Pszczolkowski at pszczoj@mail.nmc.edu

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The *White Pine Press* welcomes comments, suggestions, ideas for news stories and calendar items.

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Lab-Grown Meat Creates New Ethical Questions

Sonny Rogers
Staff Writer

As sustainability grows in popularity, so does the conversation around the future of ethical food production.

Lab-grown meat, also known as cultured or cell-based meat, has become increasingly controversial as an alternative to traditional meat production. According to the Good Food Institute, there are 156 companies working on the proteins now approved for sale in the United States. While some argue that lab-grown meat is an ethical alternative to conventional meat consumption, others question whether it aligns with core values of vegetarianism, raising questions about our relationship with food, animals, and the environment.

Lab-grown meat can offer many a new option that closely resembles traditional meat without the ethical and environmental concerns associated with animal agriculture. One of the key advantages of lab-grown meat is that it closely resembles conventional meat in terms of taste, texture, and nutritional profile. This aspect of lab-grown meat makes it the more familiar and palatable option for vegetarians who may prefer or miss the taste and texture of meat but are unwilling to compromise their ethical principles. With this, some vegetarians may embrace lab-grown meat as a pragmatic solution to ethical and environmental issues, while others may

prefer to stick to plant-based alternatives that don't resemble meat in any way.

However, the acceptance of lab-grown meat among vegetarians is not universal. For some, the idea of consuming meat, even with the absence of harm, goes against their ethics. Vegetarians who abstain from meat for religious or spiritual reasons, for example, may still choose to avoid lab-grown meat. You may be thinking, well, if there is no harm or mistreatment of the animals involved, then why not try it?

In religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, vegetarianism is practiced for reasons that go beyond non-harm or taste, including beliefs about sanctity of life and cleanliness. Despite these principles, the question of ethics regarding the consumption of lab-grown meat seems to vary among groups. In Hinduism, for example, cows are revered as sacred, and the consumption of beef is largely considered taboo. Even if beef were to be produced without harming cows, it may still be considered unacceptable for many Hindus. Similarly, in Buddhism and Jainism, consuming meat is generally discouraged, especially if the animal was killed specifically for food. Furthermore, the acceptance of lab-grown meat among religious communities may also be influenced by cultural and traditional beliefs. In many cultures, food is deeply

intertwined with religious practices and beliefs, and the acceptance of new food technologies may be met with skepticism or resistance.

Additionally, cultivated meat may be met with further resistance by some vegetarians particularly concerned with animal welfare. Some might argue that growing meat in a laboratory reinforces the idea of animals as commodities to be produced and consumed, even if they are not raised and slaughtered in traditional ways. The availability of lab-grown meat could shift the focus of animal welfare advocacy. Some activists may see it as a step in the right direction, while others may worry that it could divert attention and resources away from addressing the root causes of animal suffering in industrial agriculture.

Lab-grown meat has the potential to be a more ethical option for people who are concerned about animal welfare and environmental sustainability. However, its reception may continue to be rocky, particularly among those with dietary limitations and those with religious reasons for abstaining from meat. As the technology develops and becomes more widely available, it will be interesting to see how both vegetarians and non-vegetarians navigate the ethical and practical considerations surrounding cultivated meat.

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Preparing For The Unthinkable: Is NMC For An Active Shooter Situation?

Julia Belden
Staff Writer

On Jan. 8, 2023, NMC president Nick Nissley wrapped up his opening remarks at the NMC January conference with a call to action: it's time to talk about how the NMC community should respond to an active shooter scenario. It's a sobering thought; that such a situation could unfold on our small, friendly campus. Unfortunately, these incidents have become all too common.

The FBI has documented 484 active shooter incidents from 2000-2022, with 68 of those incidents occurring at schools—including college campuses. The FBI defines an active shooter "as one or more individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area." These incidents are increasing in frequency: in its most recent active shooter report, the FBI notes a general upward trend in active shooter incidents from 2018-2022.

The mass shootings at Oxford High School in 2021 and Michigan State University in 2023 are still seared in Michiganders' minds.

"Now's a time where there seems to be additional anxiety just coming from society about active shooter situations, so that's the one area where we have a lot of concern bubbling up that this could happen at NMC," said Troy Kierczynski, NMC's vice president of Finance and Administration. So, the question becomes: how does the NMC community prepare for such a frightening and unsettling situation?

Prevention

The first step, of course, is to prevent an incident from happening in the first place.

"Situational awareness is key," said Gregg Bird, Grand Traverse County's Emergency Management Coordinator. Bird, who has worked in public safety since 1990, collaborates with NMC and other area schools on emergency preparedness. He urges students and other community members to be on the lookout for unusual behavior:

"Every active assailant incident to date that has happened, but one, there's always been warning signs of some sort." The exception was the mass shooting in Las Vegas in 2017 that left 60 dead—Bird said that no one has ever come forward with reports of the gunman acting strangely or exhibiting a motive.

In every other case, witnesses reported unusual behavior from shooters prior to the incident. "There were warning signs that other people didn't act upon, that could have prevented that incident from happening," said Bird. He gave the example of the shooter who killed 32 at Virginia Tech in 2007: weeks before the massacre, people at a local shooting range noticed the young man firing at paper plates on the ground. Extremely unusual, yet no one reported it.

Bird says to trust your gut. "We are the only species of mammal that teach our offspring to ignore their instincts," he said.

There are many reasons people might feel uncomfortable reporting someone's unusual behavior. "I think it's that we've been taught to be politically correct," said Bird. "We've been taught not to judge or persecute others. There's just been so much pushed on us about accepting all, you know, with racism, with the identifying with an alternative lifestyle, alternative sexes. But when we're talking about this, none of that matters when someone's overt behavior changes. And there are warning signs, like shooting paper plates on the ground, when everybody else at that shooting range is shooting at targets."

Bird strongly encourages students with concerns to reach out to a trusted faculty or staff member. Anyone can also file an anonymous tip with Campus Safety by calling (231) 995-1116. NMC maintains a Behavioral Intervention Report Team (BIRT) to manage such situations.

Contact Campus Safety At (231) 995-1116

Run. Hide. Fight.

It's a nightmare scenario: warning signs are missed on campus. Now what? As uncomfortable as it sounds, Bird offers such a scenario. "The body can't go where the mind's not."

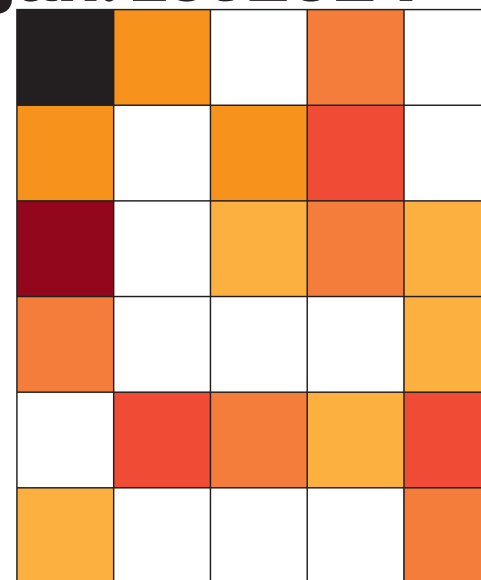
Diana Fairbanks, NMC's assistant vice president of Student Affairs, echoed Bird's words: "You want to constantly work on it. If anything were to happen right now, if I had to run, right now? If I had to fight, what could I use right now?"

Similar to how "Stop. Drop. Roll." helped us prepare a framework for dealing with an active shooter. Escape in a room and hide. Bird and Kierczynski shared a survival tip: if a room and employees are properly locked and barricaded in a room.

"There is not a single solitary injury or death, if you're in a room and the doors are locked. The importance is knowing how to lock doors. According to Bird, many classrooms are equipped with exterior doors that can lock automatically when you're getting into the building, but not from leaving. Classroom doors on campus have doors that do not lock from the inside (e.g., the Hall). Bird shared a cautionary tale from the Virginia Tech shooting: students and employees could not lock the doors. In such a situation, students and employees were not able to lock the doors. In one of the Virginia Tech classrooms, students and faculty members were able to lock the door, creating enough leverage to block the gunman from entering. However, with a malfunctioning lock, 76-year-old Professor Liviu Librescu, a Holocaust survivor, and his students made it to safety.

Fighting an armed assailant is a last resort, and one that requires a specific mindset: "I'm not dying today." To me, that's what fighting for my life, and I'm going to do whatever it takes within my power. I might not go down, but I'm not going to be a victim. I'm not going to turn my back. I'm going to kick, punch, scream, throw things. I'm not going to hurt me or my family.' That's the mindset."

Jan. 1st 2024



1 square = 1 day

Ready

nt.

or ignored, and an active shooter situation unfolds on Bird said that you should imagine what you would do in never been,” he said.

of Public Relations, Marketing, and Communications, your muscle memory. So, just checking yourself, ‘Hey, where can I run? If I had to hide, how would I do that w?’”

are to deal with a fire, “Run. Hide. Fight.” gives us a if you can; but if that isn’t an option, barricade yourself surprising statistic: no deaths have occurred when students a room.

that’s been done properly,” said Bird. Of paramount ng to Fairbanks and Kierczynski, NMC buildings are cally via a control system – this prevents people from room doors must be locked manually (of note, certain he inside, such as the first floor auditorium in Scholar’s Tech incident: multiple fatalities occurred after students ation, another means of securing the entry must be used. Faculty lay on the floor and pressed their feet against the m pushing it open. They survived. In another classroom u Librescu, blocked the door while his students escaped was eventually killed by the gunman. All but one of his

e that requires intention. Bird said to embrace a warrior nt means. ‘I’m not dying today, and you’re trying to take ne to prevent that from happening. It doesn’t mean that a. I’m not going to cower in the corner, I’m not going to y, hit, bite, grab, pull, whatever it takes to stop you from

Imagining the Unimaginable

Most current college students are familiar with lockdown drills—they’ve been doing them for their entire lives. College faculty and staff (who came of age before school shootings became commonplace) are a different story. Bird said that he has encountered college employees who are concerned about students’ well-being during lockdowns. “Now we’re seeing kids who have had lockdown drills all their life in higher ed institutions, and I don’t think it’s as shocking as we’re projecting or college staff is projecting. But I don’t know, because they’re not doing [lockdowns]. There is no regulation or mandates that higher ed institutions do lockdown drills. And I’m suspect on that, because almost every state has a mandate on K-12.”

The State of Michigan requires three lockdown drills per school year for K-12 schools. There are no requirements for lockdown drills on college campuses.

On Feb. 23, NMC Campus Safety led Communications Department faculty and staff on a “lockdown walkthrough” in Scholar’s Hall. It’s a step in the right direction, according to Bird. “They’re trying to change. And I’ve been helping them because there’s resistance.” In the past, Bird said, “it’s always been higher ups that have caboshed any types of student involvement.” The new administration, however, seems to be far more amenable to taking action, he says.

In late February, NMC put out a “Request for Proposals” (RFP) seeking bids from security consultants for a campus safety and security assessment.

“This is really, I would think, the most comprehensive external assessment we’ve done of our emergency preparedness in decades,” said Fairbanks.

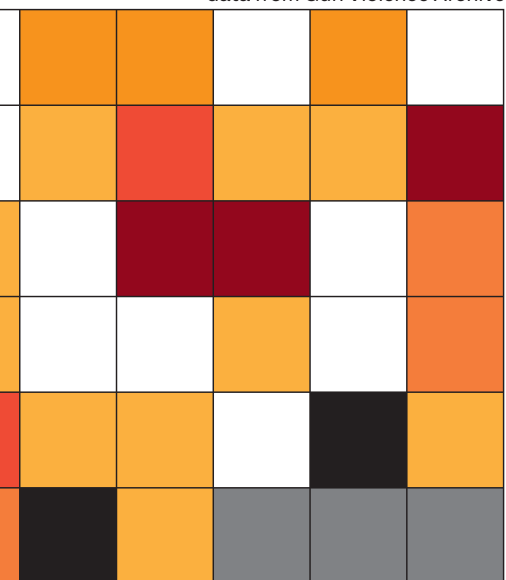
Kierczynski added, “It’s well beyond just the physical security assessment; it covers policies, procedures, our safety climate, training, all of that.” Both noted that it’s time for an overhaul of many safety-related items, including the campus safety video that students are required to watch every semester.

As NMC works on the campus safety assessment (the RFP states a desired completion before the Fall 2024 semester), Fairbanks, Kierczynski, and Bird recommend students make sure their contact information is up-to-date on the myNMC webpage—this ensures that students will receive emergency messages via the CodeRed alert system. For an additional layer of safety, Fairbanks suggests students download the CodeRed app, which sends out alerts based on location.

If you find yourself in an emergency, 911 operators are also available through text message—a potential lifesaver for those in a situation where a phone call may be dangerous. Simply text 9-1-1. If you’re stuck in an area with spotty cellular service (NMC’s Innovation Center, for instance), Bird said that texts may go through even when calls cannot. (Bird points out that calling 911 is still preferable in most situations as it allows dispatchers to listen to what’s happening in the background.) Calling 911 from a campus landline will also immediately alert the campus security desk.

Preparing yourself for a potential active shooter scenario is a daunting yet critically important task. Fairbanks is encouraged by the mindset of the NMC community: “One of the things I’d say I’m really proud about is, every person on this campus—students, faculty, staff, donors, you name it—everybody wants our community to be as strong and healthy as it can be, and that includes safety.”

data from Gun Violence Archive



Feb 29th

Number of Mass Shootings



Graphic by Emma Marion

Quality Study Abroad Programs at NMC

Megan Thoreson
Staff Writer

The study abroad program at NMC is one of the best in the nation, ranked at #10 by the Institute of International Education. Students in 2022/2023 had the opportunity to travel to Colombia, France, Spain, the United Kingdom, Guatemala, Morocco, Iceland, and Portugal.

This year, students and faculty will be traveling to Brazil, India, Costa Rica, Switzerland, and Ireland. Despite having such a unique opportunity within reach, many students that consider the program worry about cost, time away from home, and whether the experience will benefit their educational goals. It turns out that destinations are chosen in conjunction with faculty: professors are asked to work with international services to find a location that can best suit their academic discipline and offer an incredible educational experience for students.

The total cost of the trip can vary, depending on location and economic factors. This year's Biology/Brazil experience runs for \$4,094. NMC offers a \$1,000 Global Opportunity Scholarship for first-time study abroad students, set up by previous NMC president Tim Nelson. Additional scholarships are available to help reduce the out-of-pocket cost. Students can also apply their federal financial aid toward a trip.

"When we figure cost, we look at trying to find a sweet spot for students," said Jim Bensley, Director of International Services and Service Learning. "We don't propose any projects or experiences overseas that surpass \$4,500. That includes everything. It's a pretty good price for the experience. The ideal sweet spot is \$3,800. Having said that, the students are not paying for that themselves. We are happy to help students find scholarships to help cover the costs!"

"Students were floored in previous years with the experience! We don't do the cookie cutter approach. I love to be creative when we set them up. We had students in Ireland a few years ago, and the price was pretty good, the provider is fabulous – what could we do that would allow us to explore Irish culture in a different way? Audio tech is going there this year. I took my students (World Cultures and Intro to Humanities) to Greece a few years ago to have exposure to the refugees coming to that area from

Syria, so for that and the historical aspect of Greece. Sometimes we do home stays, which allows them to make new friends and connect to the culture.

"In 2016 we were 16th in the nation. We received the 10th ranking in 2022. With Covid still around, we had to be careful and mitigate any risk that we could. Administration allowed us to do that. We took a team to Columbia, the UK for nursing, and others to France for a historical/humanities focus there. We were able to have 50 students go. Normally, there are around 65. I felt we mitigated the risk and had steps in place if anything went wrong. Every student had to test before they came back to the U.S. We really thought things through before we did it, and as institutions started doing study abroad again we received that 10th-place rating for getting out there and doing it right. Always usually in the top 25, punching above our weight in that. Other schools that do that have a lot more students enrolled."

These short-term study abroad opportunities offer amazing experiences in a short time frame. With most trips only taking up 10 days and beginning before the summer semester officially starts, students with jam-packed schedules can still go on a trip abroad, earn their credit, and be home in time to start summer classes.

Students who partake in a study abroad experience earn points toward NMC's "Global Endorsement," a voluntary certification that is printed on their transcript. This endorsement could benefit the student with hiring prospects, and the experiences gained by participating help the individual feel more confident and prepared to enter diverse work environments and take on the ever-changing landscape of this industry-driven world. Studying abroad can help an individual stand out against other potential job seekers. According to a study in 2012, those who have this experience earn more money and find jobs faster than those who don't.

"When I go overseas with students and see that light bulb go off over their head, that is so satisfying for me as an instructor," said Bensley. "Despite the differences we are so similar to other people around the world, and these opportunities to study abroad really open the world up to students."



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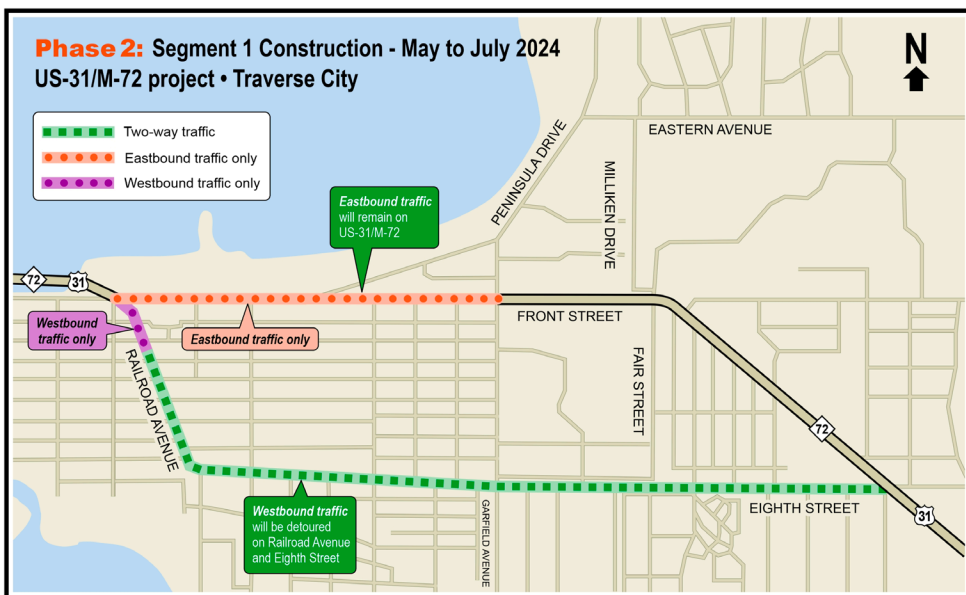
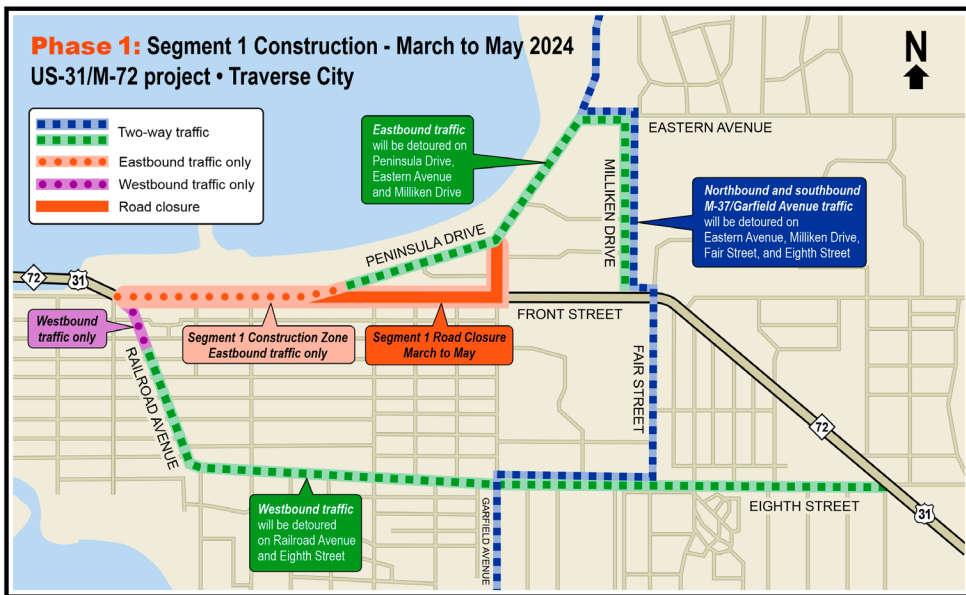
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Road Closures to Impact Traverse Traffic

Major Roadways to NMC Undergoing Construction



- \$3.2 million investment in utility upgrades
- New 12” water main replacing 6”
- Sewer upgrades, removing 9” and routing to 24”
- Eliminating joints in water service lines in highway

On Sep. 5, 2023, preconstruction work began near the project location to accommodate for the planned detours. Temporary traffic signals will not be operational until major construction begins. Preconstruction work is as follows:

- Installation of a temporary traffic signal at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and East Front Street, removal of a portion of the center median at Grandview Parkway, and temporary paving at the north end of Railroad Avenue connecting it directly to Front Street.
- Removal of a portion of the center median island on Grandview Parkway at Division Street.
- Widening the turn radius at Railroad Avenue and Eighth Street for detour traffic, and installation of a temporary sidewalk ramp.
- Installation of a temporary traffic signal at the intersection of US-31 (Front Street) and Milliken Drive.
- Installation of a temporary traffic signal at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Washington Street.
- Installation of advance warning and detour signs for 2024 work.

Maps and Statements From TraverseCityMI.gov

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is planning to rebuild a section of US-31/M-72/M-37 (Grandview Parkway) in Traverse City from South Garfield Avenue to Division Street in 2024.

This project will result in operational enhancements at the intersections of Division Street, Hall Street, Front Street, and Peninsula Drive, drainage improvements, Americans with Disabilities Act review and upgrades, repairs to the Murchie Bridge over the Boardman River, and new signs and pavement markings.

The major project is anticipated to begin in March 2024 and will be divided into two segments. The first segment, Garfield Avenue to Front Street is expected to take place from March 2024 to July 2024. The second segment, Front Street to Division Street, is expected to take place from July 2024 to November 2024.

In addition, the City is planning utility infrastructure improvements to coincide with the project. Traverse City is investing \$3.2 million to replace underground water and wastewater utilities as part of the project which include the following:

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AARON BUSHNELL WAS A 25-YEAR-OLD MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE. ON FEBRUARY 25, BUSHNELL LIT HIMSELF ON FIRE IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL IN WASHINGTON DC AS AN ACT OF PROTEST AGAINST THE UNITED STATES’ SUPPORT OF ISRAEL’S ONGOING GENOCIDE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. A POLICE OFFICER RESPONDED BY POINTING A GUN AT HIS FLAMING BODY. BUSHNELL LATER DIED FROM HIS INJURIES. HIS LAST WORDS WERE “FREE PALESTINE”.