

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Transportation Department RAISE Grant Infrastructure Investment Update

Ozhitoon Mino-Bimaadiziwin

Date: September 18, 2026

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Transportation Department is making strides toward transforming community infrastructure with the Ozhitoon Mino-Bimaadiziwin RAISE Grant Project, a significant transportation grant funded through the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program. The Transportation Department was awarded \$19,781,404 in federal funding to enhance transportation safety, mobility, connectivity, and long-term infrastructure resilience throughout the community.

Grant Status

Quarterly project design meetings are established and ongoing with partners, including City of Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County Road Commission, and Soo Township are underway as the tribe prepares for construction to span from 2026 to 2031.

The Grant is currently progressing through its foundational planning and development phase. At this stage, project teams are established for each independent project and focused on activities necessary to advance toward construction, including:

- Environmental studies and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and documentation
- Preliminary and final engineering design development
- Right-of-way identification, acquisition planning, and easement coordination
- Coordination with federal, state, tribal, county, and local agencies for review and permitting activities

These efforts are essential to ensure the grant meets all regulatory requirements while supporting responsible stewardship of natural, cultural, and community resources.

Planned Improvements

The RAISE-Grant will bring significant infrastructure updates, including a multi-purpose trail system, sidewalks and improved streets to enhance pedestrian safety. Infrastructure

includes roadways, multi-purpose trail system, transportation facility, and nature preserve across several priority corridors and locations, including:

- 3 Mile Road roadway rehabilitation (Ashmun Street to Riverside Drive)
- New 3 Mile Road multi-use trail
- Shunk Road reconstruction and rehabilitation
- Marquette Avenue roadway rehabilitation
- 10th Street roadway rehabilitation
- 15th Street roadway reconstruction
- Casino Ring Road reconstruction
- South Access Road new roadway construction
- Ice Circle Drive Rehabilitation
- New roadway construction within the Ice Circle area
- Transportation Department Logistics Hub development
- Nature Preserve-related transportation improvements and new infrastructure initiatives

Anticipated Schedule

Project planning, environmental review, engineering, and permitting activities are currently underway. Preliminary site activities may begin as early as Summer or Fall 2027. The majority of construction activities are anticipated between 2028 and 2030, subject to the completion of design, environmental review, permitting requirements, and federal approvals.

Traffic and Community Impacts

Currently, no road closures, traffic detours, or significant construction-related disruptions are anticipated while the project remains in the planning, engineering, and environmental review phase. Residents, businesses, and travelers will receive advance notice of any future construction activities that may affect access or traffic patterns.

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