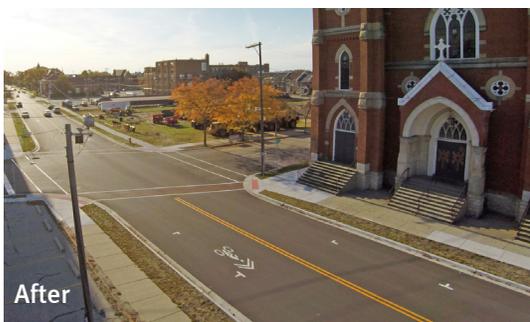


Downtown Muskegon gets walkability makeover

Webster Avenue and Muskegon Avenue run parallel through the heart of downtown Muskegon. They were originally broad, encouraging traffic mobility. When Muskegon built nearby Shoreline Drive that borders Muskegon Lake, traffic dropped on the two avenues. By 2013, the avenues were badly deteriorated and needlessly wide—encouraging speeding traffic and putting pedestrians in the downtown area at risk.

Muskegon wanted to reconstruct both avenues, but funding had been an issue. A \$3.2 million grant from the Michigan Legislature, administered by MDOT, gave the City of Muskegon the impetus it needed to get this \$4.6 million project built.



Muskegon hired Prein&Newhof to re-design both avenues. The design added several improvements: traffic calming, non-motorized user improvements, drainage, sidewalk, and green space in the downtown area. To bring this to reality, P&N provided surveying, design, and construction engineering for two miles of complete road reconstruction in just five months.

“We’re restoring a neighborhood in many ways,” Mayor Stephen Gawron said at the ribbon cutting. “Back in the day[...]we cut highways through neighborhoods and cities because we were so focused on cars. It’s nice that we are at a period in our culture and this era that we are concentrating on people.”

The project implemented traffic calming and Complete Street design concepts: focusing on people of all ages and abilities and different modes of travel so people can move more freely between neighborhoods. Shared-lane markings and sidewalks made this possible along with new ‘bump-outs’ at street corners, which shorten the crosswalk almost by half, so walkers can cross the street more quickly and safely. Bump-outs provide safer on-street parking by giving drivers space as they enter and exit their vehicles. Four-way stop signs replaced traffic signals to improve the flow of foot traffic.

The project also considered the environment. Open-bottom catch basins reduce the amount of storm water that flows directly into Muskegon Lake by 2.5 million gallons a year. Narrower streets reduce impermeable surface area by 20 percent, allowing for more trees and grass, and further reducing storm runoff intensity. Jackson-Merkey Construction, the contractor hired to build the project, used crushed, recycled concrete as road gravel under the avenues’ new asphalt pavement.

Do you want to improve the travelling experience in your town, making it safer and more pedestrian friendly? Contact **Connie Houk, PE** at (231) 468-3456 or chouk@preinnewhof.com. She knows Complete Streets, has transformed downtowns with her designs, and works with MDOT often.

Prein&Newhof
www.preinnewhof.com



Webster Avenue by Hackley Park with better pedestrian connections, bump-outs, and shared-lane markings.

“Back in the day we cut highways through neighborhoods and cities because we were so focused on cars. It’s nice that we are at a period in our culture and this era that we are concentrating on people.”

Stephen Gawron, Mayor
City of Muskegon

Jim Cook retires after 39 years with P&N, Airport Team transitions

Jim Cook, PE retired at the end of 2015, after 39 years with Prein&Newhof. During this time he has provided leadership to the company and the airport team, in addition to his career focus of serving municipal and airport engineering clients.

“I want to express my gratitude to all of you for the opportunity to work on so many challenging and rewarding projects, with so many great people,” writes Cook in a letter to clients announcing his retirement.

P&N appreciates Jim’s many contributions to the company’s success. “We are grateful for his leadership and his unwavering commitment to Prein&Newhof’s values,

and for his belief that the company’s greatest asset is its employees,” says Tom J. Newhof, President. “He demonstrated the importance of making our clients’ success our daily focus.”

Jim was a member of Prein&Newhof’s Board of Directors for 30 year, serving as a Vice-President (1994–2008), President (2008–2012), and as Board Chairman from 2013 until his retirement.

Chris Cruickshank, PE, a company officer and team leader, has taken over Jim’s administrative duties for the airport team. Chris is a geotechnical engineer who provides leadership to the company’s technical services team.



Jim Cook, PE joined P&N in 1976, and served as President from 2008–2012.



Winter 2016

Seeing Farther

Infrastructure for where
you're going.

Prein&Newhof

www.preinnewhof.com

Grand Rapids • Holland
Kalamazoo • Cadillac
Muskegon • Traverse City

Paper made with post-consumer
recycled content.



PRSRRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Grand Rapids, MI
Permit No. 552

Address Service Requested

3355 Evergreen Drive NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Prein&Newhof

Prein&Newhof welcomes seven more professionals

Matt Levandoski, LLA joined Prein&Newhof last fall as the company's first Landscape Architect. Matt is assisting with non-motorized trail projects and other conceptual design projects. He comes to P&N with 10 years of experience and a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from Michigan State University.

John VerPlank, PE joined P&N in November. John has 20 years of engineering experience and is working from our Grand Rapids office. John holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan.

Lucas Timmer, EIT joined Prein&Newhof in November. He is a 2014 graduate of Calvin College with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Lucas is working from our Holland office as an engineer-in-training.

Mary Amy Bajt, PE joined P&N in January. She has seven years of engineering experience and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Southern Illinois University. Mary Amy is working part-time from our Muskegon office.

Gene Couture joined Prein&Newhof in January, with over 20 years of experience in construction observation. He is working from our Muskegon office providing construction engineering services for MDOT projects.

Mary Lenardson joined P&N in January as our Laboratory Manager. Mary is an award-winning analyst with 30 years of laboratory experience, most notably as a chemist and Laboratory Supervisor for the City of Jackson Wastewater Treatment Plant. In previous roles, she has assisted manufacturers of water treatment, distribution, plumbing, and residential filtration products with international regulations, testing, and certification requirements. Mary is an active member of the Michigan Water Environment Association.

Payton Novak, EIT joined P&N in January, having just earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Michigan Technological University. Payton is working as an engineer-in-training from our Grand Rapids office.

Prein&Newhof specializes in:

- Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Environmental Consulting
- Surveying
- Geographic Information Systems
- Laboratory Testing

Seeing Farther is published for clients and colleagues of Prein&Newhof.

Articles should not be reprinted without permission from Elizabeth Newhof, Editor, or Kimberly Jongsma, Associate Editor.

Please send comments and address corrections to info@preinnewhof.com.

Please check out our blog and subscribe for more updates on what we're doing and how we can help you:

www.preinnewhof.com/resources/blog