



For Immediate Release

For Additional Information Contact:

Matt Jenkins, Executive Director

director@downtownortonville.org

248-627-4976

ORTONVILLE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY RECEIVES \$60,000 GM ON MAIN STREET GRANT TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Ortonville, MI, August 4th, 2026 - The Ortonville Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has been awarded a **\$60,000 GM on Main Street Grant**, making Ortonville one of only **five communities nationwide** selected to receive funding through the highly competitive program. Powered by General Motors and Main Street America, the grant supports innovative transportation, road safety, and traffic calming initiatives that strengthen commercial districts while improving safety for residents and visitors.

The grant will fund **The Old Mill Historic Gateway Initiative**, a targeted infrastructure improvement that will realign the sidewalk in front of the Old Mill Museum to eliminate an awkward pedestrian pinch point and create a safer, more accessible connection between Ortonville's residential neighborhood and its historic downtown district. The project addresses a long-standing gap in the pedestrian network by creating a continuous ADA-compliant walkway while clearly defining the roadway edge to reduce pedestrian and vehicle conflicts.

"This project reflects our commitment to Transformation Strategy - Placemaking by reimagining public spaces that make Downtown Ortonville safer, more welcoming, and more enjoyable for everyone," said Matt Jenkins, Executive Director of the Ortonville DDA. "Every investment we make is focused on creating an even more inviting place where residents and visitors can walk, gather, explore, and experience everything our downtown has to offer."

The initiative is designed to improve safety for all vulnerable road users by transforming an existing barrier into a continuous pedestrian corridor. The project will eliminate nearly 200 feet of disconnected sidewalk, improve accessibility for individuals of all abilities, and establish a safer gateway into Downtown Ortonville. By creating a predictable pedestrian route and improving roadway definition, the project enhances mobility while supporting increased walkability throughout the downtown district.

The GM on Main Street Grant Program was created to help nonprofit organizations and municipal governments implement innovative revitalization initiatives in their local commercial districts. Since launching in 2023, the program has awarded more than **\$1 million** in grants to **21 organizations** across the United States. This year's recipients include the City of San Luis, Arizona; the City of Montclair, California; GOBike in Buffalo, New York; the City of Toledo, Ohio; and the Village of Ortonville Downtown Development Authority in Michigan.

Projects funded through the 2026 program include innovative transportation safety improvements ranging from traffic-calming roadway murals to community traffic gardens where residents can develop road safety skills. Ortonville's project was selected for its practical, high-impact approach to improving pedestrian safety while

supporting long-term downtown revitalization.

Beyond improving accessibility and pedestrian safety, the Old Mill Historic Gateway Initiative supports the DDA's broader vision of creating a more connected, welcoming, and economically vibrant downtown district. Safe and accessible infrastructure encourages walking, strengthens connections between neighborhoods and local businesses, enhances visitor experiences, and reinforces Downtown Ortonville as a destination for residents and visitors alike.

The Ortonville DDA remains committed to investing in projects that improve quality of life, preserve the community's historic character, and encourage sustainable economic development. The Old Mill Historic Gateway Initiative represents another significant step toward creating a downtown that is safer, more accessible, and welcoming for everyone.

About Ortonville Downtown Development Authority

For the past 175 years, Downtown Ortonville has served as a small town but fits closer together as a community, founded by Amos Orton whose mill inspired people to settle here. The Ortonville DDA was created to promote economic growth and development. The boundaries of the DDA are primarily contained within the Gateway and Downtown sections of the Village. The DDA continues to work toward volunteering, building a strong community, and reflecting on local history in Ortonville while persuading local businesses and events to bring the community together. To learn more about the DDA, visit www.downtownortonville.org.

About the GM on Main Street Grant Program

The GM on Main Street Grant Program, powered by General Motors and Main Street America, supports nonprofit organizations and municipal governments in implementing innovative revitalization initiatives that strengthen commercial districts and improve quality of life. Since its launch in 2023, the program has awarded more than \$1 million in grants to communities across the United States, funding projects that improve transportation safety, walkability, accessibility, and downtown vitality.

About Main Street America

Main Street America leads an inclusive, impact-driven movement dedicated to reenergizing and strengthening older and historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts nationwide. Through technical assistance, education, advocacy, and grant programs, Main Street America helps communities create vibrant places that support economic opportunity and preserve local character.

About General Motors

General Motors (NYSE: GM) is a global company focused on advancing an all-electric future that is inclusive and accessible to all. Through community investments and strategic partnerships, GM supports initiatives that improve safety, strengthen local economies, and create more resilient communities across the United States.