

SHELBY TOWNSHIP PRESS RELEASE

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Shelby Township, Macomb County partner on 22 Mile Road reconstruction project

With a 5-2 vote Aug. 18, the Shelby Township Board of Trustees entered into an agreement with the Macomb County Department of Roads to split the cost to reconstruct 22 Mile Road from 500 feet east of Shelby Road to Ryan Road.

Per inspectors from the MCDR, the condition of the 22 Mile Road and a culvert over the Clinton/Kalamazoo Canal had deteriorated to the point that crossing over the culvert is dangerously close to becoming unsafe. If action was not taken and the culvert deteriorated further, it could lead to a need to close the road.

“For Shelby Township, it’s a very important project,” said Bob Hoepfner, director of the Macomb County Department of Roads. “If we inspect the culvert and say it’s no longer safe for cars to go through because it fails more than it is now, we will close the road.”

The agreement with the MCDR earmarks \$605,908 for the project. In 2012, the township requested that the county repair 22 Mile Road, from Shelby to Ryan roads. At a July 8 work session, members of the Board of Trustees requested that the project be extended an additional 500 feet east of Shelby Road.

“Since 2008, our Board of Trustees remains steadfast in its support of major and local road projects within the township,” Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis said. “I’m grateful that Macomb County recognized the urgency of this project and is helping us ensure the safety and well-being of our residents.”

The repair of 22 Mile Road takes added importance to township officials as it serves as a major access point for public safety professionals to the southwest portion of the township.

“Closing 22 Mile Road would impact our three primary fire stations, and ambulances would be unable to get down Shelby Road to the apartment complexes, Utica High School and other areas because there’s no way for two of the stations to get down Shelby Road,” Fire Chief Jim Swinkowski said.

“Compounding that is that the fire station on Ryan Road would either have to go down Hall Road to Van Dyke or come up 23 Mile Road. Closing 22 Mile Road would really hamper us from a public safety perspective.”

Along with the impacting public safety, there was added urgency for the project as 22 Mile Road is an asphalt road, which comes with a smaller window for the time allowed for major repairs.

“The problem is you can’t pave asphalt in the winter, so we would have to wait until April or May of next year,” Hoepfner said.

At the Aug. 4 board meeting, the Board reviews the need to repair the culvert, which has a crumbling wall and vegetation from the Clinton River growing through a hole on the edge of the travel lane for eastbound traffic. 22 Mile Road also has significant cracking, filled potholes and distress to the pavement between Shelby and Ryan roads.

Trustee Paula Filar withdrew her motion to approve the project Aug. 4; citing a need to speak with Hoepfner further about funding the project and the timetable to make the repairs.

Just prior to the Aug. 4, meeting bids for the contract came in to the MCDR roughly \$100,000 below the estimated price for the project.

The reconstruction project includes shoulders on the road, a new concrete box culvert, the elimination of a set of railroad tracks and the evening out and repaving of the entire road.

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