

# SHELBY TOWNSHIP PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## County closes Shelby Road bridge, commits to 100 percent of replacement costs

Following the finalization of an independent structural engineer's inspection of a bridge on Shelby Road just north of 22 Mile Road, the Macomb County Department of Roads decided to close the bridge and facilitate a full fill of the span underneath the bridge with full reconstruction of a new roadway.

The bridge runs above an old railroad line that led into the former Ford Motor Co./Visteon plant near 23 Mile and Mound roads. After reaching an agreement with that property's current owner, the MCDR finalized a plan to remove the railroad line and fill the area to facilitate the new road.

"Last week the Macomb County Department of Roads completed an independent engineering inspection of the bridge on Shelby Road over the abandoned railroad spur into the old Visteon complex north of 22 Mile Road," MCDR Director Bob Hoepfner said. "The inspection revealed significant deterioration, and it was determined that the structure must be closed to traffic.

"We have received permission from the owner of the old Visteon complex to remove the deck and fill the structure with earth and repave the roadway and hope to have this work completed in the next few months," Hoepfner added. "Since this structure is located on a County Primary Road, the Macomb County Department of Roads will cover 100 percent of the project cost."

Like all bridge replacement and reconstruction projects on primary roads in Macomb County, the Shelby Road bridge replacement falls under the MCDR policy in which the MCDR absorbs all construction costs associated with the project.

The closure on Shelby Road comes on the heels of the finalization of an agreement between the township and the MCDR to reconstruct roughly one mile of 22 Mile Road beginning 500 feet east of Shelby Road traveling west to Ryan Road.

The 22 mile Road project is independent of the Shelby Road bridge replacement, and, because 22 Mile Road is designated a local road, the costs associated with the reconstruction of the road and a box culvert over the Clinton-Kalamazoo Canal must be split between the county and Shelby Township.

"While this closure and project is completely unrelated to the 22 Mile Road project our Board authorized last month, it is near to that project geographically, and since they will be running during the same time period, it may cause some additional difficulties navigating that area," Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis said. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank our township engineers, Fazal Khan and Shannon Filarecki, for their work on this issue.

"It was Shannon who was instrumental in investigating this situation at the request of Fire Chief Jim Swinkowski. She has pushed the MCDR to make a decision and get a firm answer as to how this bridge would be addressed. Thanks to that work, this very old bridge will be removed and replaced with a new roadway without any construction costs falling directly on the shoulders of the township."

The MCDR hopes to begin the 22 Mile Road project Sept. 14, which will close that road at the culvert located just west of Shelby Road. The MCDR hopes to have work done and in place to allow emergency vehicles to pass over the culvert by the end of September. Early estimates will be to have both roads re-open before the end of the asphalt construction season in mid-November.

"I trust Fire Chief Jim Swinkowski and Police Chief Robert Shelide will be able to organize their personnel to serve our residents through this process," Stathakis said. "And DPW Director Dave Miller and our Parks, Recreation and Maintenance Director Joe Youngblood will also work through this issue to assure the impact on our residents is minimized as much as possible."

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