



PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Nov. 7, 2008

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PUBLIC INFO MEETING WILL BE NOV. 19 TO DISCUSS REVISED ORCHARD LAKE ROAD PROJECT

Beverly Hills, Mich. — The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) will conduct a public information meeting Wednesday, Nov. 19, to share revised plans for the reconstruction of Orchard Lake Road between 14 Mile and Maple roads in West Bloomfield Township.

The meeting will run from 4 to 7 p.m., with a formal presentation at 4 p.m. It will take place at the West Bloomfield Aquatic Center, 6200 Farmington Road (just north of 14 Mile).

Following the 4 p.m. presentation, RCOC staff will be available to answer questions. For those who cannot make the 4 p.m. presentation, the same information will be available individually from the RCOC staff on hand throughout the meeting.

The original plan for this section of Orchard Lake Road was to reconstruct it as a six-lane, divided boulevard, as part of the ongoing Northwestern Connector project. However, because the costs associated with road construction and right of way acquisition have increased significantly in the years since the Northwestern Connector project budget was created, and because traffic volumes on Orchard Lake Road have dropped in recent years, rather than increasing as originally projected, RCOC plans now call for reconstructing the road as a five-lane road, as it is today. Also, a modern roundabout will be constructed at the intersection of Maple and Orchard Lake Road.

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Construction is expected to begin in late 2009, with the bulk of the work taking place in 2010 and 2011. When funding is identified, a roundabout will also be constructed at the Orchard Lake/14 Mile intersection.

The Northwestern Connector project is an extensive road improvement plan intended to move traffic north and west from the point where Northwestern Highway ends at Orchard Lake Road just north of 14 Mile Road. It includes the construction of eight modern roundabouts (three of which have already been built) as well the reconstruction of Orchard lake Road. The project is a partnership of RCOC, the Michigan Department of Transportation, West Bloomfield Township and the city of Farmington Hills.

Eventually, the project will also include the widening of Maple between Orchard Lake Road and Haggerty and the widening of 14 Mile between Drake and Haggerty, though no funding has yet been identified for those project elements.

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