

ROAD COMMISSION **for OAKLAND COUNTY**

PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE

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FARMINGTON/MAPLE ROUNDABOUT NOW OPEN

Beverly Hills, Mich. - The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) today reopened the intersection of Farmington and Maple roads in West Bloomfield Township as a modern roundabout.

The intersection had been closed since Sept. 4 for the roundabout construction. The Maple/Farmington roundabout is the eighth roundabout in operation on RCOC roads.

The Maple/Farmington roundabout is also the second of eight roundabouts to be built as part of the Northwestern Connector Project, which is intended to relieve traffic congestion and improve safety in the area where Northwestern Highway ends at Orchard Lake Road, and better move that traffic to M-5, less than five miles to the west. The Northwestern Connector Project is a partnership of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), RCOC, the City of Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield Township.

The Maple/Drake roundabout, which opened Sept. 1, was the first of the Northwestern Connector roundabouts to be completed.

Ultimately, the Northwestern Connector Project, in addition to the construction of the eight modern roundabouts, will include reconstructing Orchard Lake Road as a six-lane boulevard between 14 Mile and Maple roads and widening both Maple and 14 Mile roads between Orchard Lake and M-5. However the widening of Maple and 14 Mile roads remains unfunded.

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For more information about the Northwestern Connector Project, including instructions on how to drive a roundabout, visit the project Web site, www.nwconnector.com or call the RCOC Department of Citizen Services at (877) 858-4804.

The Farmington/Maple roundabout was constructed by Dan's Excavating of Shelby Twp. at a cost of \$2.2 million.

RCOC chose to include eight roundabouts in the Northwestern Connector project, including at the Maple/Drake and Maple/Farmington intersections, because of their documented ability, in many instances, to dramatically reduce serious injury accidents and to move more traffic more efficiently than a traditional signalized intersection.

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