



## **Baldwin Road Project Fact Sheet**

***Project: Complete reconstruction and widening of two miles of Baldwin Road between Morgan and Waldon Roads in Orion Township.***

- Highly complex project due substantial nature of redesign of the road, the extensive existing underground utilities (many of which had to be moved or replaced), the topography of the land, the replacement of five intersections with modern roundabouts, the proximity of many homes and businesses and much more
- Project cost: \$55 million-plus, and involved funding from multiple federal sources, from the township and from RCOC. It was a real challenge to bring all these funding sources together, and, frankly, many thought this project would never happen because of the cost.
- This project was a long-time in the making: The proposed widening of this section of Baldwin Road has been part of RCOC's long range plans for decades.
- RCOC received the first federal grant of \$2 million in 2002, which was used to pay for 80 percent of the cost of the federally required "environmental assessment" (EA).
- The EA was an extensive, multi-year federally mandated study of the road and existing conditions, a review of anticipated future needs and a formal means of ensuring input in the process from all stakeholder groups.
- The EA began in 2009 and was completed in 2012.
- As part of the, EA and the subsequent process of sharing the project plans with the community, RCOC, in partnership with Orion Twp., conducted 15 public meetings between 2008 and 2017, and the township and Orion Chamber of Commerce conducted numerous other meetings. The public input portion of this project was critical, and RCOC listened closely to what the public said and included many of those perspectives in the final design.
- The final design was extensively vetted: It was required to be approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Orion Township and the Road Commission.
- Some of the main goals of the project were:
  - Improving motorist and pedestrian safety
  - Improving traffic flow and property access along the corridor
  - Improving pedestrian movement and access
  - Positively transforming this section of Orion Township

- Consequently, the project included a mix of four-lane boulevard and five-lane road. It also included five state-of-the-art roundabouts that greatly improve traffic flow and safety. It also included pedestrian pathways on both sides of the corridor for the length of the corridor, thanks to the township's desires and financial contributions.

- In addition to the construction of the roundabouts at key intersections within the project, High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) pedestrian signals were installed at each roundabout to help ensure safe pedestrian crossings.

- The project required extremely complicated traffic-control plans in order to ensure continuous access to all residential and business properties along the corridor at all times during construction. This included construction of temporary roads in several locations as well as temporary traffic signals, temporary driveways and much more.

- The project also involved incredibly complex utility relocation and right of way acquisition processes as well as highly complex construction of new storm and sanitary sewer systems and installation of new water lines.

- In all, 107 parcels of land had to be acquired.

- A total of 12,474 linear feet of new storm sewer was installed.

- A total of 5,196 linear feet of new water main was installed.

- The project created a truly unique district within Orion Township that is already stimulating significant economic growth that will benefit the township and the larger community for decades to come.

- A total of 16,638 cubic yards of concrete were used for the project.