

Press Release



AUGUST 27, 2012 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

The intersection of Ecorse and Belleville Roads in Van Buren Township, MI, is part of a high traffic road network along this major artery of the Detroit Region Aerotropolis economic development corridor. Safety deficiencies at the intersection have created driver confusion and conflict points resulting in historically high crash rates. The Charter Township of Van Buren DDA, along with Wayne County and the Township, is undertaking a project to upgrade infrastructure in the area and reconfigure Ecorse Road at the intersection to improve safety and operations and accommodate future widening of Belleville Road.

Ecorse Road currently has four lanes separated by a narrow median with no crossovers for traffic to turn around without travelling to the nearest intersection. Service drives on both sides of Ecorse Road also create an abnormally long intersection for traffic travelling on Belleville Road. Ecorse Road transitions to a two-lane road immediately east of the intersection adding to safety issues. To improve this intersection, the County and DDA agreed to a cost sharing arrangement to fund the reconstruction of a 4,500-foot section of the boulevard on Ecorse Road to a traditional boulevard section with crossovers and reconstruct the South Service Drive within the DDA's limits. The new design reconfigures the intersection to address safety concerns and includes measures to correct drainage deficiencies, add new traffic signals, and upgrade public utilities while maintaining traffic during construction. In addition to the road reconstruction, the Township is funding two miles of sanitary sewer and over a mile of water main replacement to be constructed in conjunction with the roadwork.

The project was recently awarded to Angelo lafrate Construction Company in August of this year (2012). Work has begun to build temporary pavement to maintain traffic while the roadway is reconstructed. The eastbound lanes of Ecorse Road will be reconstructed this summer and fall. One lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained on the existing westbound lanes of Ecorse Road during this timeframe.

The sanitary sewer and water main construction will take place this fall as well. A winter shutdown will occur and in the spring of 2013, the remaining construction will begin including finishing the sanitary sewer installation, the reconstruction of the South Service Drive, and the westbound lanes of Ecorse Road. One lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained on the newly built eastbound lanes at this time. The bulk of construction activity is anticipated to be complete by August 2013. During the entire life of the project, traffic will be subject to intermittent shifts and closures at the intersection and along Ecorse Road to accommodate construction.

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