

Under SEMCOG plan

Oakland County's major streets to get a face lift

By Suzie Rollins Singer
staff writer

and cities, headed by Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy.

Road construction on major streets throughout urbanized areas of Oakland County will move ahead, thanks to a cooperative effort by 44 elected officials.

Last month the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) adopted a Transportation Systems Management Plan, a five-year outline for road repairs, bike paths and other Oakland transportation projects.

The plan was drafted by 43 elected officials from the county's urbanized villages, townships

"THE FEDS felt too much money was going into new construction, and there wasn't enough emphasis on maintenance," explained Deputy County Executive Pat Nowak.

"They required the development of the TSM so local units would pay attention to short-term maintenance, upgrading and traffic problems," he said.

The plan was drafted by 43 elected officials from the county's urbanized villages, townships

and cities, headed by Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy.

county, the Oakland County Road Commission and local governments.

Center turning lanes, right turn lanes, additional traffic signals and continuation of bicycle paths are a few of the projects going on throughout the county.

"Each unit (of government) prioritized their project, opting for low-cost solutions. They were looking for things that were doable," Nowak said.

"This is not a Christmas wish list. We're dealing with realities of traffic management. We should have 80-90 percent completion on these projects in the next five years," he added.

THE GROUP identified the high traffic accident and congestion areas in the county first, hoping to work on those problem areas right away.

Critical accident points include:

- Maple and Orchard Lake roads, West Bloomfield.
- Southfield and 10 Mile roads, Southfield.
- Franklin and Square Lake roads, Bloomfield Township.
- Big Beaver and Crooks roads, Troy.
- Woodward and Maple Road, Birmingham.
- Orchard Lake and 12 Mile, Farmington Hills.

The report stated that traffic congestion — especially in the southeastern area — is particularly evident on the east-west roads between 10 Mile and Maple, especially 12 Mile, and on several north-south roads — Dequindre, John R, Woodward and Southfield.

Work on the Twelve Mile corridor is scheduled to begin next month, the report stated.

Nowak attributed the project's success to teamwork.

"The input was from local people who were involved which made it have more of a real flavor than if the feds drafted the plan," he said.

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