

County roads slated for repair

Some \$20.6 million in Oakland County road improvements will be funded in fiscal 1984, according to the Board of County Road Commissioners.

Sources will be \$9.6 million of federal aid, \$2.7 million of local government contributions, \$3.8 million from special assessments and \$4.5 million of Road Commission revenues from the state gasoline and weight tax.

Managing Director John Grubbs said the new budget, adopted last week, contains these projects:

FARMINGTON
• Farmington Road at Freedom Road: Widen Farmington to five lanes with center left turn lane, construct non-motorized path on east side, fence off west side, install pedestrian signal — \$132,000 (including \$99,000 federal and \$21,000 city).

FARMINGTON HILLS
• 12 Mile Road, Middlebelt to Farmington roads: Widen to four and five lanes for two miles and overlay all lanes — \$12.5 million (including \$900,000 federal and \$300,000 local).

• Farmington Road, south of 13 Mile: Overlay, pave three-foot shoulders, extend southbound passing lane approaching Oakland Community College driveway, upgrade guardrail south of CCC driveway, construct right turn lane southbound vehicles at Farmington-12 Mile intersection, curb all four quadrants — \$201,000 (including \$148,000 federal). Originally programmed for 1983.

• Orchard Lake Road at Freedom Road: Widen Orchard Lake to four lanes immediately north of Freedom, install signal, minimal flashing at Grand River, bituminous resurfacing of Orchard Lake from Freedom to Grand River — \$135,000 (including \$101,000 federal). Originally programmed for 1983.

• Maple from Orchard Lake to Inkster: overlay — \$571,000 (including \$428,000 federal).

FARMINGTON HILLS, NOVI
• Haggerty Road at 12 Mile: Widen all legs to five lanes and pave three-foot shoulders for 100 feet from end of tapers — \$458,000 (including \$343,000 federal).

SOUTHFIELD
• 12 Mile Road, Telegraph to Northwestern: Widen to five lanes for 1.2 miles — \$835,000 (including \$626,000 federal and \$209,000 city).

• 10 Mile Road, east of Inkster: Replace bridge — \$470,000 (including \$414,000 federal and \$25,000 city).

TROY
• Big Beaver at Rochester Road: Acquire right of way for future reconstruction to boulevard on Big Beaver — \$1 million (including \$750,000 federal aid and \$250,000 from the city). The city is acquiring properties.

• Long Lake road, west of Coolidge: Replace bridge \$308,000 (including \$270,000 federal and \$19,000 city).

AVON TOWNSHIP
• Adams Road, Walton Boulevard to Dutton: Overlay with joint and grade corrections, intersection widening at Dutton, and pave three-foot shoulder.
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ders — \$448,000 (including \$336,000 federal).

• Adams at Walton: Upgrade signals — \$11,000 (all federal).

• Avon at Crooks: Upgrade signals — \$5,000 (all federal).

• Brewster at Walton: Install signals — \$9,000 (all federal).

• Dequindre at Avon: Install beacon — \$2,000 (all federal). Project added after public hearing.

WEST BLOOMFIELD and ORCHARD LAKE

• Orchard Lake Road, from Pontiac Trail to Commerce: Overlay, pave two-foot shoulders, improve railroad crossings, upgrade guardrail and add lane width for turn and passing lanes, reconstruct Pine Lake Road to a "T" intersection, relocate street light poles and remove selected trees for safety — \$255,000 (including \$190,000 federal). Originally programmed for 1983.

WEST BLOOMFIELD
• Orchard Lake Road, Maple to Will-O-Way: Reconstruct to five lanes for 1.5 miles — \$2.35 million (including \$1.76 million federal, \$294,000 from the township).

• Drake at Maple: Install flashing signal — \$2,000 (all federal). Rescheduled from 1983 due to funding delay.

Home heating assistance available through Consumers

Consumers Power Co.'s "winter protection plan" to help needy customers keep their homes warm through the coming heating season is in effect.

"The plan provides shutoff protection to senior citizens and low income customers during the time of the year when they need it most," said Jim Thomas, superintendent of customer services for the metro region.

Under the plan, protection is available to qualifying customers who agree to pay a budgeted amount toward their energy bills during the four-month December-March period and the balance during the remainder of the year. They must also agree to apply for state or federal heating assistance.

IF AN ELIGIBLE customer has already had his or her service shut off for non-payment, the customer may have service restored without a fee or a security deposit if he or she seeks assistance through the plan.

The program is available to customers who are

below certain income levels, or are receiving government assistance of some kind (such as food stamps or Medicaid), and to those who are age 65 or older.

"Customers who think they might be eligible for the program should call the phone number printed on their utility bill," said Thomas. "People should be sure to make us aware of their problems. We can't help unless they call."

Besides the winter protection plan, other programs are available through governmental agencies.

For example, the heating assistance program of the Michigan Department of Social Services provides shutoff protection from October through March.

Information about this and other government assistance programs may be obtained by calling the state's toll-free home heating assistance hotline at 1-800-292-5850.

WEST BLOOMFIELD and COMMERCIAL TOWNSHIP
• Haggerty Road at Maple: Widen all legs to five lanes with center left turn lanes, pave shoulder at end of tapers — \$399,000 (including \$296,000 federal and \$28,000 township).

• Haggerty Road at Pontiac Trail: Intersection improvement — \$301,000 (including \$226,000 federal). Project added since public hearing.

AUBURN HILLS
• Opdyke from Pontiac Road to Walton: overlay — \$265,000 (including \$202,000 federal).

BEVERLY HILLS
• Deleted after public hearing was replacement of a bridge on Lahser south of 13 Mile, \$395,000. If possible, it will be programmed for fiscal 1985.

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