

# Construction ahead

## Hills road projects on county's 1998 wish list

By RALPH R. ECHTINAW  
STAFF WRITER

The Road Commission for Oakland County plans to tackle six road-widening projects this year in the area.

Although many more projects are on the road commission's list, things to do, they're not scheduled to begin construction until at least 1995.

Because Michigan's 15-cent gas tax is sixth-lowest in the country, cities and counties don't get nearly as much money as they need to keep up with maintenance and construction needs, said Brent O. Bair, director of the Oakland County road commission.

The only states with lower gas taxes are Missouri (13 cents), New Jersey (10.5 cents), Wyoming (nine cents), Alaska (eight cents) and Georgia (7.5 cents). Connecticut is highest at 28 cents.

The local governments in Oakland County have determined that \$1.4 billion in road work ought to be completed in the next 10 years, Bair said, but "there's no way we'll have even a 10th of that money. I don't care how efficient you try to become, the gap is too great. We don't have enough to maintain what we've got."

This year the road commission will spend about \$23 million on road work in the area. Eighty percent of that money comes from the state and federal governments. Ten percent is paid by the road commission with money it gets from the gas tax and license fees. Ten percent is paid by the community in which the road work occurs.

The projects listed below are on the road commission's list of things to do. All of them are widenings. As you drive around the area, you will encounter other road maintenance and construction projects. These are city and state endeavors, and they are not listed here.

Road commission projects to begin construction or finish construction in 1994 are as follows:

■ One mile of 10 Mile Road from Evergreen to Southfield in Southfield for \$2 million. Construction is expected to begin in June and be finished by Nov. 15.

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■ One mile of Livernois between Avon and Walton in Rochester Hills for \$5.5 million. Work is expected to start in September and be finished in 1995.

■ Four-tenths of a mile of Orchard Lake Road from Lone Pine to Pontiac Trail in West Bloomfield Township and Orchard Lake for \$560,000. This job should be finished in June or July.

■ One mile of Maple from Lahser to Cranbrook in Bloomfield Township for \$2.5 million. Construction is expected to begin in August and be finished by Thanksgiving.

■ Two miles of Dequindre from 14 Mile to Big Beaver in Troy for \$6.5 million. Construction is expected to begin in September and be finished in 1995.

■ One mile of Baldwin from the Auburn Hills city limit to St. Mary's for \$6.2 million. This one is in progress and expected to be done by September.

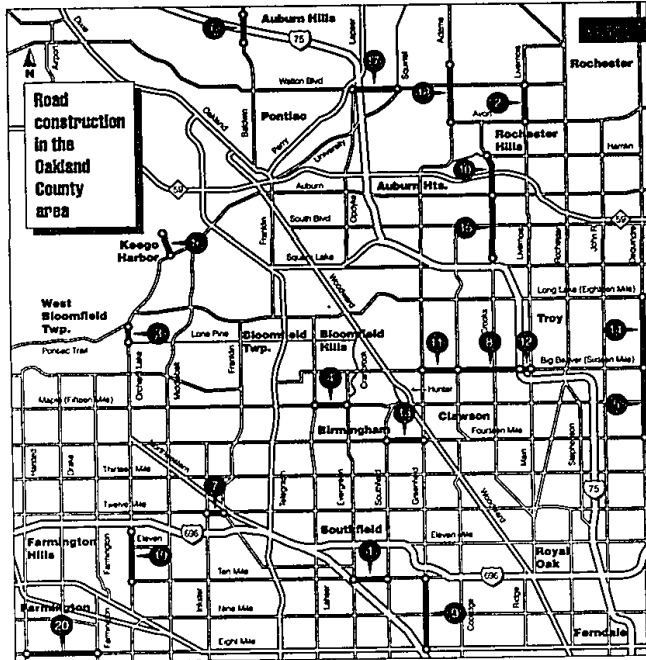
The following projects are scheduled to begin construction in 1995:

■ One half mile of 12 Mile Road from Inkster to Northwestern Highway in Southfield for \$1.9 million.

■ One and one half miles of Big Beaver from Cowlidge to I-75 in Troy.

The following projects are scheduled to begin construction in 1996:

■ Two miles of Greenfield from Eight Mile to 10 Mile in Oak Park and Southfield for \$3 million.



Key:

**1994 widening projects:**

1. Ten Mile, from Evergreen to Southfield
2. Livernois, Avon to Walton
3. Orchard Lake, Lone Pine to Pontiac Trail
4. Maple, Lahser to Cranbrook
5. Dequindre, 14 Mile to 18 Mile
6. Baldwin, Auburn Hills city limit to St. Mary

**1995 widening projects:**

7. 12 Mile, Inkster to Northwestern
8. Big Beaver, Cowlidge to I-75

**1996 widening projects:**

9. Greenfield, Eight Mile to Ten Mile
10. Crooks, Auburn to Hamlin

**1997 widening projects:**

11. Big Beaver, Adams to Cowlidge
12. Big Beaver, I-75 to Livernois
13. 14 Mile, Southfield to Greenfield
14. Dequindre, from 16 Mile to 18 Mile
15. Crooks, Square Lake to Auburn
16. Cass Lake, Orchard Lake to Otter
17. Walton, Opydyke to Squirrel

**1998 widening projects:**

18. Adams, Avon to Powderhorn
19. Orchard Lake, Ten Mile to 606
20. Eight Mile, Halsted to Farmington

Source: Road Commission for Oakland County  
TAMMIE GREENE/STAFF ARTIST

■ One mile of Crooks Road from Auburn to Hamlin in Rochester Hills for \$3.7 million.

The following projects are scheduled to begin construction in 1997:

■ One mile of 14 Mile Road from Southfield to Greenfield in Birmingham and Beverly Hills for \$4.1 million.

■ Two miles of Dequindre from

Big Beaver to Long Lake in Troy for \$6 million.

■ One half mile of Big Beaver from I-75 to Livernois in Troy. (Part of a \$12 million project.)

■ One mile of Big Beaver from Adams to Cowlidge in Troy. (Part of a \$12-million project.)

■ Two miles of Crooks Road from Square Lake to Auburn in Troy

and Rochester Hills for \$13.3 million.

■ One mile of Cass Lake Road from Orchard Lake Road to Otter in Keego Harbor for \$3.5 million.

■ One mile of Walton Boulevard from Opydyke to Squirrel in Auburn Hills for \$3.6 million.

The following projects are scheduled to begin construction in 1998:

■ One mile of Adams Road from Avon to Powderhorn in Rochester Hills for \$5.8 million.

■ One and one half miles of Orchard Lake Road from 10 Mile to I-696 in Farmington Hills for \$9 million.

■ Two miles of Eight Mile Road from Halsted to Farmington in Farmington Hills for \$6 million.

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