

ROADS

Road work on course; next year's list in limbo

This may not be easy to believe, but the absence of road construction next year could be a problem for Oakland motorists... at least in the long run.

Oakland is winding down a bountiful construction season, according to both the Road Commission for Oakland County and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). More than \$38 million has been invested in Oakland roads by the road commission and about \$30 million from MDOT this year.

Roads were reconstructed and resurfaced. Some potholes were filled. And intersections upgraded.

While this year's winding down, next year's projects are somewhat up in the air, according to Kent Rubley of the Oakland road commission and Susan E. Holt, spokesperson for MDOT. That's because MDOT last month announced that

federal money normally earmarked for county roads will likely be "redirected" to state highway projects.

That "redirecting" may be contested. And its full impact is yet to be determined. But right now it looks like much of road construction that inconvenienced motorists this year will be absent in 1996.

Brent O. Bair, managing director of the Oakland road commission, put it this way: "This year was a very good year compared to previous years. But it's still far short of what we should be doing. We should be resurfacing 38 miles of highway each year, and we're doing four. But 1995 was a relatively good year."

Next year, however, is up in the air. What happens is anybody's guess, he said.

Some projects will go forward as scheduled. Reconstruction

along Eight Mile Road between Halsted and Farmington roads in Farmington Hills will continue as expected. So will the M-6 expansion near West Bloomfield. But other projects are under careful review.

As much as this year's road construction inconvenienced motorists, the projects were generally completed on time. An absence of road construction next year could be like not going to the dentist: Postponing the inevitable and making the situation worse in the meantime.

The following is an update of construction projects in some southern Oakland communities:

- **BIRMINGHAM:** All road projects are complete, although in Bloomfield Hills, Kenington is being resurfaced south of Long Lake Road and north of Wattle's. Completion is imminent.
- Adams remains closed to through traffic between Big

Beaver and Wattle's for installation of a 72-inch water main. The alternate route is along Woodward.

- **FARMINGTON:** Northbound Farmington Road near Nine Mile is down to one lane for bridge repairs. Those repairs were winding down, however, and both lanes should be open in the near future.
- **FARMINGTON HILLS:** Twelve Mile Road is being upgraded to four lanes from Halsted to Drake and the intersection of 12 Mile and Middlebelt is undergoing extensive lane improvements. Both projects should be near completion by mid-November.

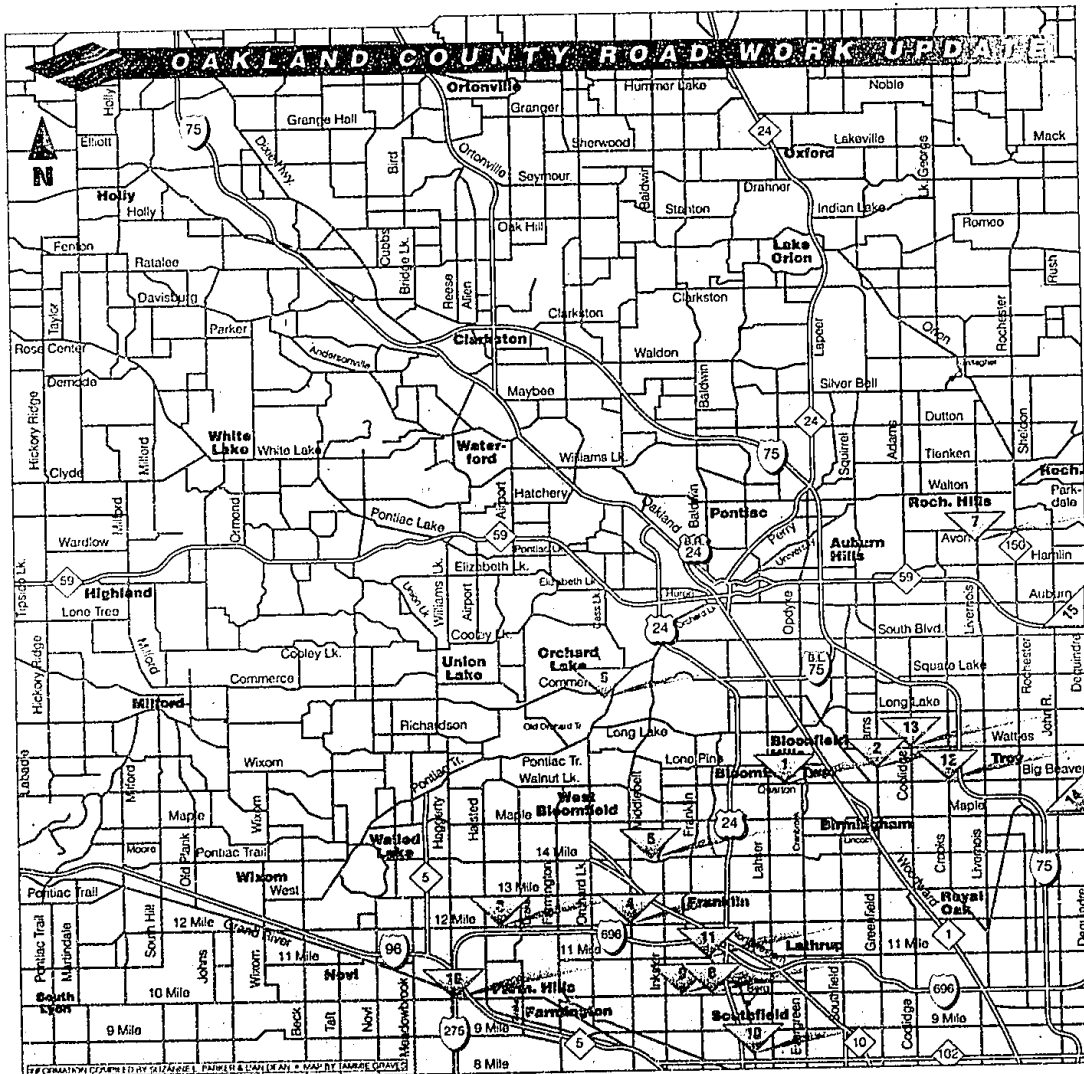
Other projects nearing

completion are ramp improvements at M-6 and I-275 and resurfacing on 14 Mile Road west of Laker.

- **SOUTHFIELD:** 10 Mile Road between Telegraph and Beech is expected to reopen after replacement of a bridge.
- **Berg Road** between Eight and Nine Mile roads continued to be closed to through traffic as crews replaced a water main and resurfaced the road. Completion was expected in mid-November.
- **Catalpa** west of Greenfield was expected to be reopened this month as construction is completed.
- **Eleven Mile Road** from Franklin to the offices of WKBD-TV will be partially closed until the end of November.
- **Spot concrete patching** on Evergreen Road between 11 and 12 Mile roads was expected to be completed early this month, while sidewalk repair on the east

side of Laher between Nine and Ten Mile roads was not expected to disrupt traffic.

- **TROY:** The main project, widening Big Beaver to a six-lane boulevard from Cuninghame, west of Cooldige, to I-75 is finally winding down. Work crews will complete landscaping next year.
- **Cooldige** is being widened from Golfview north to Lexington. While much of work was completed ahead of scheduled this year, according to the road commission, the project will not be finished until next year.
- **Dequindre** is being widened to five lanes between 14 Mile and Big Beaver. Road work will continue, with partial lane closures.



Key Route	Type of work	Start	End	Traffic Comments	
CITIES					
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP					
1	Quinton	Water main installation from Laher to Cranbrook	6/1/95	12/95	Total closure. Detour using Maple, Lone Pine
2	Adams	Water main installation from Big Beaver to Wattle's	8/1/95	11/95	Total closure. Detour using Wattle's, Cooldige and Big Beaver.
		Water main installation from Wattle's to Long Lake	11/95		Total closure. Work begins once Big Beaver to Wattle's section is complete.
FARMINGTON HILLS					
3	12 Mile	Reconstruction from Drake to Halsted.	5/95	11/95	Open to 4 lanes complete by Thanksgiving
4		Intersection of Middlebelt, extensive lane improvement	11/95		Will be open to traffic by mid-November.
5	14 Mile	Resurfacing from Inlander to 5 mile west.	7/95	11/95	Open to local traffic with intermittent lane closures.
ORCHARD LAKE					
6	Indian Trail	Water sewer construction from Commerce to Orchard Lake.	6/95	12/95	Total closure. Depending on weather will reopen near end of November.
ROCHESTER HILLS					
7	Livemore	Road widening from Avon to Harding.	7/95	12/95	Open to local traffic with partial lane closures until mid-December.
SOUTHFIELD					
8	10 Mile	Bridge reconstruction between Telegraph and Beech.	6/95	11/95	Road closed to through traffic during construction.
9		Board resurfacing from Beech to Inlander.	6/95	11/95	Open to local traffic with closure around 10 Mile Bridge
10	Berg Road	Resurfacing from 6 Mile to 9 Mile	10/95	11/95	Work begins once water main is replaced.
11	11 Mile	Closed to local traffic only Franklin Rd. to WKBD Channel 50	11/22/95		
TROY					
12	Big Beaver	Widening of 1.5 miles from Cuninghame to I-75.	4/95	11/15/95	2 lanes open Eastbound, 1 Westbound
13	Cooldige	Widening of 1 mile from Golfview to Lexington.	4/95	7/95	Open to local traffic with partial lane closures.
14	Dequindre	Widening of 2 miles from 14 Mile to Big Beaver.	5/95	11/95	Open to local traffic with partial lane closures.
HIGHWAYS					
15	M-59	Reconstruct 4 miles from west of Plover to east of M-53	8/95	6/97	Open to traffic with partial lane closures.
16	I-275	Resurfacing ramps at I-96 and M-6.	6/95	11/30/95	Northbound ramp to I-96 rerouted to North M-6.