

NEWS RELEASE

Chairman Woodward secures county funds to improve, repair Berkley roads *County program supports \$100 million in local road repair since inception*

July 15, 2021, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI. – On June 17, 2021, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution sponsored by Board Chairman **David T. Woodward** (D-Royal Oak) securing \$39,245 for Berkley through the county's Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). These funds will be used to help with road maintenance requirements and other road repairs. Berkley plans to use the funds to help with spray patch and mastic road repair on various City of Berkley jurisdiction streets.

"Better roads make for safer roads and better cities," Woodward said. "While we eagerly wait for a national infrastructure funding deal, this county road funding program continues to be a huge success. It's another example of Oakland County's commitment to work with our local communities to improve our local infrastructure."

Oakland County's LRIP provides financial assistance to Oakland County cities and villages for repairs and improvements on local roadways. The program matches county resources with local city funding. Launched in 2016, the LRIP has driven an estimated \$108 million investment in local roads across the county. The program is an effective means for encouraging investment in local roads, which continue to be underfunded by the State of Michigan. This lack of funding from the state and federal government has resulted in poor road conditions, which negatively impact safety, quality of life and economic development in the region.

"The City of Berkley is grateful to Oakland County and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners for being great partners as we continue the work to improve our roads," Ross Gavin, Berkley councilmember, said. "Infrastructure improvements are a fundamental service and will remain a top priority for the board and for city leadership."

"We appreciate Oakland County's continued assistance with the Local Road Improvement Program," Matthew Baumgarten, Berkley city manager, said. "The City of Berkley is using these funds in addition to

those approved by Berkley voters in 2018 to make targeted road improvements and catch basin repairs to improve the quality of life for all residents and visitors.”

In 2017, the Board of Commissioners’ LRIP received national recognition when it was selected for a National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award in the category of Community and Economic Development.

Chairman Woodward represents the 19th county commission district, which includes the City of Berkley, as well as most of Royal Oak. He can be reached at 248-296-5033 or via email to woodwardd@oakgov.com.

For more information, please contact the Board of Commissioners at 248-858-0100 or visit its website at www.oakgov.com/boc.

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