

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Commissioner Nelson successfully secures county funds to improve, repair Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake Village and Sylvan Lake roads**

**September 8, 2020, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI.** – On July 23, 2020, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution sponsored by Commissioner **Kristen Nelson** (D-Waterford) securing \$14,720 for the cities of Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake Village and Sylvan Lake through the county's Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP).

"We have plenty of lakes throughout our district, we don't need any more on our roads!" Nelson said. "I am pleased that Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake Village and Sylvan Lake are able to take advantage of this funding, which will improve the local roads in those communities."

These funds will be used to help with road maintenance requirements and other road repairs. Keego Harbor plans to use \$5,364 to help with crack sealing on various roads. Orchard Lake Village plans to use \$4,680 to help with drainage improvements and the re-gravel of road edges on Old Orchard Trail. Sylvan Lake plans to use \$4,676 to help with the removal and replacement of various asphalt streets.

"We have been restoring roads in Keego Harbor for years, without raising taxes on our residents," Robert Kalman, Keego Harbor mayor, said. "The funding that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners granted us this year will be used to augment our crack seal program. It will help us extend the life of the roads that we've repaved. We're very appreciative of the financial assistance that Oakland County has provided."

Oakland County's LRIP provides limited financial assistance to Oakland County cities and villages for repairs and improvements on roadways under their jurisdiction. The program ensures that the county investment in roads is multiplied by requiring local municipalities to match funding from Oakland County. Launched in 2016, the LRIP has driven an estimated \$89 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 additional road funding provided by Oakland County through the Local Road Improvement Program allows the city to provide safe and stable means for residents to access the commercial shopping district and for members of the Orchard Lake Country Club,” Gerry McCallum, Orchard Lake Village director of city services, said.

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.

“The continuation of this program is fantastic,” John Martin, Sylvan Lake city manager, said. “This helps fill the gap left from decreased funding from the state, allowing us to make improvements to our streets.”

Commissioner Nelson represents the 5<sup>th</sup> county commission district, which includes the cities of Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake Village and Sylvan Lake, as well as portions of Waterford and West Bloomfield townships. She can be reached at 248-496-7968 or via email to [nelsonkd@oakgov.com](mailto:nelsonkd@oakgov.com).

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

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