

NEWS RELEASE

Commissioner Zack successfully secures county funds to improve, repair Ferndale, Hazel Park and Huntington Woods roads

September 8, 2020, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI. – On July 23, 2020, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution sponsored by Commissioner **Helaine Zack** (D-Huntington Woods) securing \$113,986 for the cities of Ferndale, Hazel Park and Huntington Woods through the county's Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP).

"As we continue through this pandemic, I am especially pleased to bring additional matching Oakland County road improvement dollars to our cities on the south end of Oakland County," Zack said.

These funds will be used to help with road maintenance requirements and other road repairs. Ferndale plans to use \$52,347 to help with the resurfacing of Allen Road. Hazel Park plans to use \$47,533 to help with concrete replacement on East Woodward Heights Boulevard. Huntington Woods plans to use \$14,106 to help with crack sealing and asphalt repairs to 11 Mile Road and Coolidge Highway.

"Improving our local roads and streets is a critical and vital goal, not just for motorists but for people on bicycles, pedestrians of all ages and abilities, and more," Melanie Piana, Ferndale mayor, said. "We're so thankful to Commissioner Zack for her advocacy, and the efforts that allow us to make these fundamentally important infrastructure updates."

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.

“We are very appreciative of the road funding that we get from Oakland County,” Edward Klobucher, Hazel Park city manager, said. “We are grateful that the Board of Commissioners is helping local units of government with road repair costs. Because of this money, we are repaving a very important road in Hazel Park -- Woodward Heights.”

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 condition of our local roads is a priority for Huntington Woods, so we appreciate the county providing additional funding for crack sealing and asphalt repairs that will extend the life of our roads,” Amy Sullivan, city manager, said.

Commissioner Zack represents the 18th county commission district, which includes the cities of Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods and Royal Oak Township, as well as a portion of the City of Oak Park. She can be reached at 248-546-7392 or via email to zackh@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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