

NEWS RELEASE

Commissioner Woodward successfully secures county funds to improve, repair Berkley roads

September 22, 2020, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI. – On July 23, 2020, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution sponsored by Board Chairman **David T. Woodward** (D-Royal Oak) securing \$37,386 for the City of 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 city-wide concrete slab replacement and catch basin repairs.

"Getting needed road funding from the state remains a challenge," Woodward said. "Fixing our roads remains a top priority for our area. I'm proud I was able to secure additional county money to help repair our local roads locally, and in other cities across Oakland County."

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 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.

#