

June 5, 2008

TO EAST MITCHELL STREET RESIDENTS:

The City Council two months ago authorized an agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation under which the Department will provide the City with a total of \$750,000 over the next two years to offset partial costs for reconstructing East Mitchell Street from Division Street to the east City Limit near Bay View Avenue. Because the State will serve as the grant-in-aid agency, the Department of Transportation has awarded a contract for this project on behalf of the City. Also as part of its action in April, the City Council had authorized improvements along the downtown portion of East Mitchell Street from Petoskey Street to Division Street. Work between US-31 and Petoskey Streets would be undertaken in 2009.

Costs for all work along East Mitchell Street during 2008 - both the downtown- and residential-area segments - will total more than \$5,000,000. Because the residential portion will be partially funded by a Department of Transportation grant, the construction contract was awarded this week by the State. Supervision of day-to-day activities will be overseen by the City. Elmer's Crane & Dozer, Inc., Traverse City, has been engaged by the State as the project's contractor and Northwest Design Group, Petoskey, will serve as the City's engineering inspector. Although the City has begun certain electric work as part of the project, the start of major construction now has been scheduled to begin on Monday, June 9, 2008, at the eastern end of the project area just to the west of Kalamazoo Avenue.

Both residential and downtown-area segments of East Mitchell Street improvements include installations of storm-sewer-system components, but the residential portion of the project - that is, from Division Street to the east City Limit - also will involve replacements of water, sanitary-sewer, and electric utilities, with removals of poles and wiring and conversion of these overhead facilities to underground installations. Following utility work, new concrete curb-and-gutter structures, driveway aprons, and sidewalks will be constructed and new asphalt street pavements will be placed. Work also will include installations of new street lights, planting of trees, and shaping and seeding of panels between curbs and sidewalks.

Designed by JJR, LLC, Ann Arbor, with technical assistance from Parsons Brinckerhoff Michigan, Detroit and Grand Rapids, street-center median islands - that will contain trees and lawn areas - will be installed as traffic-calming devices. It is believed that these median islands also will provide "safe zones" for pedestrians when they cross East Mitchell Street at its intersections with various side streets. Other pedestrian enhancements will include the installations of sidewalks along both sides of East Mitchell Street to the City Limit just east of Bay View Avenue, following installations of sheet pilings at the ravine west of Bay View Avenue. Drawings of proposed improvements are available at the City Hall for viewing.

As a result of the comprehensive nature of the project - that is, complete replacements of main pipelines for underground utilities and burials of electric-system components prior to completion of surface improvements - East Mitchell Street, generally from Woodland Avenue to the east City Limit, will be closed to through traffic with a detour route being established to the south. Efforts will be made to provide access to driveways along East Mitchell Street each evening, but there will be periods when other arrangements will be necessary. East Mitchell Street residents will be advised of such schedules. Public Works Supervisor William LaCross will serve as the City's on-site representative. For further information concerning the project and/or the construction schedule, you may call Mr. LaCross, as well as Director of Public Works Michael Robbins or me, at 213-347-2500.

Sincerely,

George Korthauer
City Manager

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cc-City Council
cc-City Planner
cc-Director of Public Safety
cc-Director of Public Works
cc-Administrative Assistant