



120 S. Pleasant Street
Belding MI 48809
616.794.1900
616.794.0091

August 20, 2009

Dear M-44 Residents and Business Owners:

The M-44 Corridor Enhancement Project is ready to get underway, as it will commence around September 15, 2009. It may begin a week earlier, but that remains to be seen as we are dependent on the MDOT process and timeframes.

MDOT has awarded the bid to the low bidder which is J.R. Howell Airport Lighting out of Luther, MI. This contractor will be the prime (general) and also do the electrical work on the job. The two major subcontractors will be Eastlund Concrete and Twin Lakes Nursery. All three of these contractors have a very good reputation and hopefully will do a good job on this project. The low bid came in about \$50,000 under the cost estimates and budget.

The contractor will be starting on the west end near Orchard Street. The bituminous pathway on the north side of the road between Orchard and Water Street is to be completed by October 15, 2009 and the rest of the project by November 15, 2009. The final installation of the lights may be later as there is a long lead time when ordering the lights.

The contractors will be utilizing a lane on M-44 during the course of the project. However, there will not be any detours needed during this time.

There will be about eighty-four new decorative street lights added along M-44 and the lights are identical to the ones we have downtown. Upon completion of the project, if the light shines too much into your house, please contact me at the number below and we will install a house-side shield on the light. This will prevent the light from emitting in the direction of the house.

I would like to thank all the property owners who granted easements along this stretch of roadway in order to make this project possible. All the necessary easements were obtained and it was very surprising to find out that almost everyone, where an easement was needed, supported the project. Hopefully the expectations you have of this project will be met upon completion.

These are the tentative plans and dates, which are subject to change depending on weather and unknown factors that often arise during construction projects. Should you have any questions or comments during the construction project, please feel free to contact me at 616.794.4800.

Sincerely,

Randall S. DeBruine
City Manager