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Hello Franklin Villagers

Thank you for your understanding as the Village Office has adjusted hours due to the CV health situation. Thank you also to our police and fire departments for quickly communicating health information to residents via social media and newsletters and for responding to residents' concerns.

After careful planning for two years, the Village Council approved next steps in the Downtown Streetscape plan. We anticipate starting work this spring, obviously depending on the Covid 19 impact on the construction industry. I am very excited about improving mobility for walkers and improved safety especially for kids and strollers while we maintain the beauty of our historic downtown through careful choice of materials and lighting.

Funds for the Downtown Streetscape project are coming from two main sources. From the State, the Village annually receives Act 51 road funds to maintain and improve roads and related infrastructure. A requirement of Act 51 funding is that a portion of the funds must be used for non-motorized transportation improvements such as sidewalks and lighting. The second source is voter approved bond proceeds for the repair and improvement of the roads throughout the village. Of the 3.2 M available in these buckets, Council approved \$1.7 M for the Downtown Streetscape and the completion of Franklin Road from Scenic to Fourteen Mile. A good financial environment and sound financial and construction management has enabled us to have these funds on hand to pay for these improvements.

Here is a summary of what to expect:

- The final 1/3 mile of Franklin Road from Scenic to Fourteen Mile Road will be repaved, concluding the road resurfacing started nearly three years ago.
- Pole lights will be installed at specific places along Franklin Road, mainly intersections where we will have new crosswalks. Additional low-level pedestrian lighting will be installed in various locations to enable visibility when walking after sundown.
- About 1200 ft of 4' wide pedestrian walkways will be installed on the west side of Franklin Road within the public road right-of-way from Evelyn Court to the Village Office/across from the Post Office. This will enable pedestrians to move up and down Franklin Road easily and will improve safety by separating the walkway from the traffic lane on southbound Franklin Road. They will also help eliminate long term drainage problems in those areas.
- A 5' pedestrian walkway on the east side of Franklin Road will go in from where the existing sidewalk ends to Thirteen Mile Road, enabling safe passage to and from the village center. As you know the Thirteen Mile/Franklin Road intersection is a difficult one and the engineers are working on where cross walks need to be placed to allow safe crossing. Right now, we don't have plans to build walkways along Thirteen Mile Road, which is owned by Oakland County. We hope that can change, however, in the near future.

- Franklin's tree canopy was destroyed many years ago due to Dutch Elm disease. Since many of the trees were on private property, the team is working with property owners to select a mix of trees to begin restoration of the canopy.
- Additional, low maintenance landscaping will be added using plants that are able to thrive with minimal maintenance once they are established. On that note, we will ensure our maintenance budget will enable us to care for walkways in the winter and maintain plants.
- The orange rocks near Fourteen Mile Road on the east side will be replaced with plants and the lawn will be regraded.
- Retaining walls will be needed in some areas. We plan to use natural stone similar to walls seen throughout the village in areas visible from the street. This is expensive. However, it is a decision that will allow residents to enjoy stone walls many years from now, and stone requires little maintenance.

Thanks to the groups, individuals and Council members for getting us to this point. I am very excited about moving into the execution phase of this process and hope you are too. We are committed to keeping you up to date via newsletters like this as we move forward.

Please check the weekly newsletter <http://cms7.revize.com/revize/franklinmi/enotify/index.php> and check the Village website <https://www.franklin.mi.us> or call the Village Office to get your questions answered.

Pam Hansen

Village President