

NEWS RELEASE

Commissioner Nelson successfully secures county funds to improve, repair Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake Village and Sylvan Lake roads

June 17, 2019, Pontiac, Mich. – On Wednesday, June 12, 2019, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution sponsored by Commissioner Kristen Nelson securing \$5,756 for Keego Harbor roads, \$6,400 for Orchard Lake Village roads and \$4,998 for Sylvan Lake roads through the county’s Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP). These funds will be used to help with road maintenance requirements and other road repairs. The City of Keego Harbor, the City of Orchard Lake Village and the City of Sylvan Lake plan to use the funds to repair and rehabilitate their local roads.

“We have plenty of lakes throughout our district, we don’t need any more on our roads!” Commissioner Nelson said. “I am pleased that that the City of Keego Harbor and the Villages of Sylvan Lake and Orchard Lake are able to take advantage of this funding, which will improve the local roads in those communities.”

“The City is very thankful to have an additional funding source to offset the costs to our road funds,” said Keego Harbor City Manager, Jered Ottenwess. “Funding for municipal road reconstruction and repair has been woefully inadequate in recent years and the LRIP program is a step in the right direction.”

“The City’s ability to participate in the Pilot Local Road Improvement Program has allowed the City to maintain a major thoroughfare, used by City residents to access the local businesses, in a safe and comfortable manner,” said Orchard Lake Village’s Director of City Services, Gerry McCallum. “This program offered by Oakland County has been instrumental for the City in keeping up with proper road maintenance.”

“This couldn’t have come at a better time,” said Sylvan Lake City Manager, John Martin. “Our roads are failing, so any revenue we can allocate to the preservation of our roads is crucial.”

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, it has driven an estimated \$70 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.

“Oakland County is stepping up, partnering with local cities and villages to help fix and maintain our local roads,” said Chairman David T. Woodward. “We started this local road funding program to be part of the solution, it’s now time the Michigan legislature do their job and fix the damn roads!”

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.

Commissioner Nelson represents the 5th county commission district, which includes the cities of Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake Village and Sylvan Lake, as well as portions of Waterford and West Bloomfield townships. She can be reached at 248-496-7968 or via email to nelsonkd@oakgov.com.

For more information, please contact the Board of Commissioners at 248-858-0100 or visit their website at www.oakgov.com/boc.

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