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FEDERAL GRANT TO FUND WEST ELM UNDERPASS IN THE CITY OF MONROE

Project will build a bridge for railway traffic to improve safety and emergency response.

(MONROE, MI) - The City of Monroe is proud to announce a significant milestone in its ongoing efforts to enhance public safety and improve transportation infrastructure. The U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded the city \$23,964,400 in federal grant funds for the design and construction of a new underpass for West Elm Avenue at the CSX railroad tracks between Huber Drive and Roessler Street on the west side of the city.

This project will play a pivotal role in addressing the challenge of blocked railway crossings and ensure smoother traffic flow for residents, commuters and local businesses. Additionally, the underpass will help to improve response times for emergency vehicles and increase safety for pedestrians and motorists in this community.

"We are grateful for this direct federal investment award in local community infrastructure for a much-needed railroad grade separation on a primary artery through our city. Being one of only two projects funded in the State of Michigan, out of 63 nationwide, as well as being in the top ten for funding allocation, shows the need and importance of addressing road separation in southeast Michigan," Mayor Robert Clark, City of Monroe, said. "U.S. Senators Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow have been champions for infrastructure improvements and their support in advocating for this grade separation project in the City of Monroe is greatly appreciated. We look forward to partnering with our local, state, federal and railway partners in the completion of this important project."

The CSX route is an important transportation link for shippers in Western Canada and the auto industry in Metro Detroit. The Monroe railroad corridor is busy with approximately 13 trains crossing through per day. With long trains traversing through, drivers and emergency response vehicles — including first responders driving to the hospital — face traffic delays with no options for local detour routes.

"The City has long considered this project, having performed a comprehensive analysis of west side grade separation options in 2007-08," adds Patrick Lewis, Director of Engineering and Public Services at the City of Monroe. "Not only does this transformational project drastically improve safety for all modes of east-west travel in our community, it adds a significant degree of reliability for residents and visitors."

As the construction phases of this project begin and progress, all necessary measures will be taken to minimize disruption and inconvenience to local businesses and residents. Regular updates will be provided as the city gets closer to bringing this vision to fruition. Work is estimated to begin in late 2026 into 2027.

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Residents with questions about are encouraged to call the Engineering Department at 734.384.9126 or visit the city's website at www.monroemi.gov for further information.

About the City of Monroe, Michigan

Incorporated in 1817, the City of Monroe is a community that has a shared vision that seeks to balance the opportunities of economic development with the stewardship that is required for historic preservation. With a population of 20,733, Monroe is located about 17-miles north of Toledo, Ohio and about 35-miles south of Detroit. The City of Monroe is Michigan's third oldest community, and is also the county seat of Monroe County. Continually moving forward with innovative vision, the City of Monroe is Raisin' Expectations.

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