

New Eastern Michigan Rail-Trail Appeals to Many

The \$3 million, 10-mile-long Southern Links Trailway welcomes walkers, bikers, and equestrians, and has been enjoyed by many people since it opened just weeks ago.

ROWE provided design and construction engineering services for the entire trail. Phase I runs from Columbiaville to Otter Lake, MI; Phase II will extend it from Otter Lake to Millington, and will be complete in 2009.

More than 100 trail enthusiasts celebrated the opening of Phase I at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in September. Dave Dorr, chair of the Southern Links Trailway Management Council, estimates that more than 100 people use the trail each weekend in nice weather.

“The residents are thrilled,” said Rachel Phillips, an engineer in the Michigan Department of Transportation’s (MDOT) Cass City Transportation Service Center. “There were a lot of equestrian groups in the area looking for a place to ride. And the kids now have a way to ride their bikes to school.”

“It was a pleasure to be a part of the team that made this project possible for future generations to enjoy,” said Project Manager/Landscape Architect Doug Schultz, RLA. “It was a precedent-setting arrangement between the Southern Links Trailway, MDOT, and the Department of Natural Resources.”

Members of the Southern Links Trailway group removed much of the abandoned railroad tracks, resolved land ownership

issues, and raised funds to manage and maintain the trail. Old steel rail and timber bridges were also retrofitted with railing and other safety features and incorporated into the trail. The effort preserved the character of the old structures and spared the cost of tearing them down and replacing them, Schultz said.

Phase II will tie into the M-15 Heritage Route that runs from Clarkston to Bay City, MI.

A DNR grant funded the purchase of the property; an MDOT enhancement grant funded the cost of design and construction.

More information is available at: www.southernlinkstrailway.com.



Many families enjoyed the trail's grand opening in September.



Firm is “Green Focused”

Creating new facilities in harmony with nature is one of Rowe Incorporated’s guiding principles. The firm has been applying “green” concepts in its work for years, recognizing that cost-effective protection of the environment is the best way to serve clients and the public.

ROWE continues to lead the way in green technology by:

- Becoming involved in redevelopment of blighted areas, a key way to protect what remains of the natural environment;
- Incorporating wind technology into a downtown Flint “placemaking” project, in what would be another “first” for Genesee County;
- Designing systems to remove arsenic from drinking water; and
- Broadening the use of permeable pavement to help reduce flooding and water contamination.

By incorporating the latest technology into its designs, ROWE embraces low-impact development that aims to reduce and mitigate adverse impacts to air, water, and land.



Green-Focused: Yesterday. Today. Tomorrow.™



Example of housing rehabilitation in the Presidential Town Center Neighborhood, Bay City, MI.

Neighborhood Plan Makes a Difference

ROWE’S development of a neighborhood preservation plan captured the Michigan Association of Planning’s *Outstanding Planning Project of the Year* award.

The Presidential Town Center Neighborhood Preservation Plan, prepared for the Bay Area Housing Authority, identified and prioritized strategies to increase home ownership, reduce crime, and improve the appearance of a 23-block Bay City neighborhood. The plan serves as a model for future Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) Neighborhood Preservation Planning projects. MSHDA spends millions of dollars each year funding housing rehabilitation.



New sump pump installed in Davison, MI home.

Overloaded Sanitary Sewer System Gets Fix

During heavy rainfall, inflow can raise sanitary sewer flows to critical levels and cause back ups in home basements – as was the case in some areas of the City of Davison for decades. When this occurred, the city had no choice but to discharge effluent from the sanitary sewer into the Black Creek, a violation of environmental standards. Even with these relief discharges, many homes continued to suffer from back ups.

ROWE devised a plan to address the problem by disconnecting private storm water connections from the sanitary sewer and reconnecting them to the storm sewer. The work, currently being completed in about 300 homes, involves installing sump pumps that discharge groundwater into storm sewers rather than sanitary sewers.

Engineers have been meeting with homeowners since June 2007 to explain the steps necessary to correct the problem. The City of Davison is covering costs for the sump pumps, drainage pipes, and installation. Homeowners are responsible for electrical upgrades, if needed, maintenance, and optional features not covered by the city.

When the project is completed by the end of 2008, flow into the wastewater system is anticipated to be reduced enough to meet the state requirements for a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event, said Project Manager Leanne Panduren, PE.

The project is funded by a low-interest loan through the State’s Surface Water Quality Initiatives Fund (SWQIF) program. Through this program, work may only be completed on private property, so no new storm sewer is being constructed at this time.

Road Reconstruction Marks First Project with New Client



Newly reconstructed 4th Street, Lakeview, MI

A project with the Village of Lakeview, a new client, involved reconstruction of 4th Street, and included 300 linear feet of road and utility improvements.

The project resulted in replacement of an eight-inch sanitary sewer, which was originally very shallow and subject to freezing, as well as replacement of an undersized storm sewer with two-inch reinforced concrete pipe. Work also incorporated several new design elements, including sidewalks and sidewalk ramps, concrete driveway approaches, drainage structures, and ornamental lighting.

The project required maintaining access to a nearby financial institution. In addition, work was coordinated with construction of a new emergency entrance at Kelsey Memorial Health Center.

The road project was completed two weeks ahead of schedule, and one ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrated the opening of both the roadway and new hospital entrance.

We're On the Beach!

In September 2007, ROWE acquired an aerial and land surveying firm in Myrtle Beach, SC, and is fortunate to employ a group of individuals whose skills enhance the ROWE team's talents.

Major clients include land developers, for whom engineers are designing the infrastructure for more than 500 single- and multi-family homes. In addition, surveyors are providing construction staking services to contractors, and the landscape architecture department is working with Horry County to design a community park through a \$300,000 state grant.



New traffic lights at Saginaw and Fourth Streets in downtown Flint

Downtown Navigation Made Easier

The maze of one-way streets in downtown Flint soon will be no more – none too soon for many drivers who find them confusing and hard to navigate.

Traffic engineers utilized Synchro software to model the city's streets and simulate a variety of traffic conditions. The computerized model was used to compare alternatives for lane and intersection configuration and evaluate strategies for signal timing and phasing. Conclusions from the modeling were used to develop the design and construction drawings for the conversion to two-way streets.

Twenty-nine downtown intersections need updated traffic signals, as cross streets are being converted from one-way to two-way thoroughfares. In the area south of the Flint River and north of I-69, only Beach and Harrison are remaining as one-way. The project, which adheres to Michigan Department of Transportation's traffic and safety practices and procedures, is being completed in two phases; 19 intersections are being resignaled this year, and 10 will be completed next year.

"The actual conversion of the first phase will take place by the end of November," said Senior Project Manager Rick Freeman, PE. "The result will be better traffic flow and accessibility to downtown businesses."

The project uses radio-control interconnect for total corridor and downtown traffic control, Freeman said. Signal design includes box-span, strain-pole, and controller layout at the intersections, along with electrical drop locations. ROWE coordinated with Carrier & Gable and the city's Traffic Engineering Department to conduct a traffic radio signal survey in and around downtown to identify the best location for a central radio-control device.

Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds are providing for 100% of the \$2.1 million construction cost.



Jeff Markstrom, PE

Staff Updates

New Talent Acquired

Project Manager **Jeff Markstrom, PE**, joined the firm in May. He brings 15 years of professional experience to the Civil Utilities Division.

Professional License Earned

Jonathon Rick, PS, assistant project surveyor in the Mt. Pleasant office, obtained his professional surveyor's license after passing the *Principles and Practice of Surveying Exam*.

Recent Promotions

The following staff members were promoted in August.

Corporate (Flint)

- Senior Engineer: **Jim Zeitler, PE**
- Project Engineer: **Dan Bartlett, PE, Scott Hemeyer, PE, Adam Mudge, PE, and Jill Bauer**
- Assistant Project Engineer: **Kevin Royston and Matt Seitz**
- Survey Project Coordinator: **Jim Fink, CST III**
- Graduate Landscape Architect: **Shaun Smakal**

Lapeer

- Assistant Project Engineer: **Tim Bradshaw**
- Survey Project Coordinator: **Steve Clifford, CST II**

Mt. Pleasant

- Assistant Project Surveyor: **Jon Rick, PS**
- Engineering Technician II: **Jason Strong**

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