



KEARSLEY STREET CORRIDOR OPENS IN DOWNTOWN FLINT

EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AFTER 8:30 A.M.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2008, FLINT, MI) After lengthy planning and months of construction, the new Kearsley Street Corridor opened this morning during an 8:30 a.m. press conference on the west side of the University of Michigan-Flint campus. Representatives from U of M-Flint, the Flint Cultural Center, Kettering University and the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce were on hand to help kick off the grand opening, which included a ribbon cutting and an inaugural drive in classic vehicles.

The 1,000-foot-long corridor runs east and west on Kearsley St., connecting the road between Wallenberg Street and Caesar Chavez Drive. The passageway serves as a link between Kettering University, downtown Flint, U of M-Flint, the Flint Cultural Center campus, Mott Community College and the Applewood Estate the home of the late C.S. and Ruth Mott, now operated by the Ruth Mott Foundation. The project was funded by a nearly \$1.9 million grant to the University of Michigan-Flint from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

The concept of reopening Kearsley Street dates back to the downtown and University of Michigan-Flint strategic plans, which were completed in 2003 by Sasaki Associates, Inc., an interdisciplinary design firm based in Watertown, Mass.

“This new corridor is a major asset to the community,” noted Tim Herman, CEO of the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce. “Not only does it link together the east and west sides of Flint, and the colleges and cultural institutions, but the new Kearsley Street is symbolic

of the road on which the Flint community is headed—a road that I am confident will continue to bring about positive change and development.”

Development includes extensive landscaping and seating areas, and accented crosswalks and bike lanes to help recognize the priority of non-motorized use along the corridor. LED street and pathway lighting is planned to provide proper visibility for safety and efficient energy use. Three U of M-Flint logos are embedded in the pavement along the corridor. Vibration dampening measures were also taken to protect research equipment housed in the William R. Murchie Science Building, located adjacent to the roadway.

Angelo Lafrate Construction, Inc., of Warren, was the contractor and Flint engineering firm Rowe Incorporated designed the corridor. Surveyors, engineers and landscape architects from Rowe, Inc., worked closely with U of M-Flint staff to facilitate design and completion of the project.

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