



# connexions

*Large Firm Resources. Personal Attention.* SM

## I-75 is Greener with Planting of 4,000 Trees

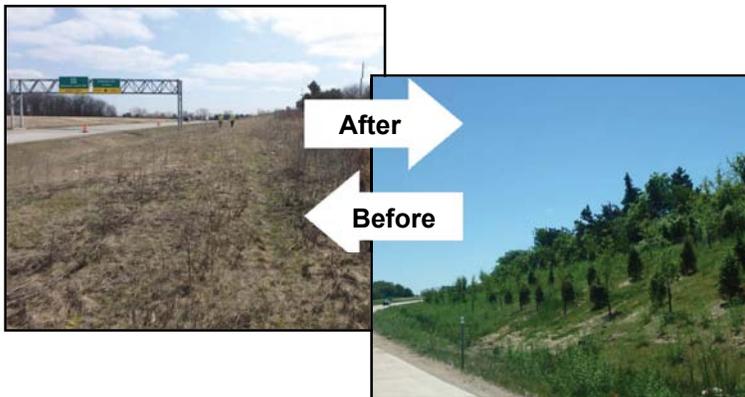
ROWE completed landscape design for tree replacement along three miles of I-75 in Oakland County, MI utilizing an innovative contract manager / general contractor format that allowed direct communication with the contractors. The project area spanned Coolidge Highway in Troy to South Boulevard in Auburn Hills. The \$2.7M MDOT-Metro Region project is part one of three phases (17.1 miles) of the I-75 modernization project.

ROWE worked directly with a pre-selected contractor (The Davey Tree Expert Company) and small business firm (Value Engineering) to prepare a fast-track mitigation plan in response to the design-build effort that was used to reconstruct Phase 1 of the modernization project. Design challenges included placement of approximately 4,000 trees outside of clear zone / clear vision limitations and utility and drainage conflicts.

ROWE worked with Davey to select a variety of native trees that would be hardy in highway conditions and available based on the large quantity needed. There were many adjacent properties along the corridor that required extensive buffering as well; native wildflower seeding was necessary for accent in some areas. ROWE also assisted Davey with a strategy for phasing and maintaining traffic that would allow safe and efficient planting and watering along this peak traffic section of I-75.



Several trees can be spotted in this aerial view of the spring planting looking north on I-75 at Square Lake Road interchange.



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## Redeveloped Brownfield Site Now Home to Job-Producing Business

ROWE was excited to contribute services for transforming a portion of a former Buick factory site in the City of Flint, MI into a property suitable for a job-producing business. Staff completed civil drawings for a 156,000-square-foot light manufacturing facility for the Lear Corporation, the first new automotive supplier manufacturing facility constructed in the city in more than 30 years.

The scope included preparation of the site plan and construction drawings for the fast-track design/build project. Weekly meetings with City of Flint staff took place during site plan preparation. Coordinating with various city departments was required to obtain site plan approval parallel to preparing construction drawings. ROWE also performed a topographical survey of the site.

In July, Lear Corporation began limited production of seats for General Motors. The staff is expected to grow to more than 600 in 2019; some will be people that transferred from other facilities, but more than 400 will be new employees.



Shown are front and back views of the completed Lear facility where seats are being produced for local GM trucks. When fully-staffed, it will include more than 600 workers.

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## I-696 Project Keeping Construction Services Staff Busy for Two Years

ROWE is part of the construction engineering team for a Michigan Department of Transportation project on I-696, from I-275 to I-94 in Oakland and Macomb counties, MI. Construction along this corridor includes concrete inlay, pavement repairs, shoulder reconstruction, bridge repairs, and drainage improvements. The total project length is 28.12 miles with an approximate construction value of \$90M. Improvements along I-696 are scheduled for completion later this year. Upgrades to the service drives along the corridor will continue in 2019.



Above, left, contractor Florence Cement Company removes concrete for concrete pavement repairs. They utilized slab crab attachments on their wheeled excavators to load the concrete into semi end dumps to be hauled offsite. This work occurred during one of 12 weekend freeway shutdowns of I-696; this particular one is between Telegraph (US-24) and I-75. Right, Florence Cement Company workers place concrete via open-top agitating trucks. Once the concrete is smoothed with a screed, it is immediately finished and then covered with a curing compound. This work also occurred inside of the freeway shutdown along eastbound I-696, between Telegraph (US-24) and I-75.

## Surveyors Provide Realtime Culvert Data for New MDOT Database

ROWE's Survey Department was selected to collect culvert information for MDOT's new Transportation Asset Management System (TAMS). When the program began, MDOT did not have complete and current information about state trunkline culverts. To create updated records, and keeping efficiency in mind, MDOT is creating a comprehensive online database of information about all state trunkline culverts. They can then give online access upon request to agencies needing the data, such as county road commissions.

Culverts are often not visible from aerial images since they are off the road, covered with vegetation, etc. ROWE's surveyors walked approximately 600 miles of state highways in Clare and Mecosta counties (both sides of roads and medians). Their GPS antennas transmitted a global position via Bluetooth to a tablet with an app that provides MDOT the data in real-time. They also entered size, type, and other culvert attributes into the system. If surveyors discovered a culvert was in poor or critical condition, MDOT could respond quickly with the data already in hand.

Approximately eight ROWE staff began working on the TAMS project mid-June and completed the work by the end of September.



Above, ROWE's Bob Church records data about a culvert off US-131 near Standwood with a Trimble R-1 GPS antenna connected via Bluetooth to a Samsung tablet.

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## ROWE Doesn't Let Concrete Overpass Block Ithaca's Sidewalk Wish



ROWE ensured nothing could stand in the way of the City of Ithaca, MI's plans to construct a sidewalk to connect to a Mid-Michigan Community Pathway trailhead along US-127.

One of the city's sidewalks was within a quarter mile of a trailhead constructed by the Mid-Michigan Community Pathways group in 2016, so it made sense to make a connection to the popular pathway that, when finished, will thread its way through several Mid-Michigan communities. However, the 1,114-foot-long sidewalk extension would have to go under and along the concrete piers of a highway overpass.

The location of the proposed sidewalk was also entirely within the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) right-of-way. ROWE worked with MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to receive the necessary approvals to utilize the area.

ROWE also obtained a soil erosion and sedimentation control permit and permits from MDOT, FHWA, and Gratiot County. Staff performed staking, completed the project design to integrate the sidewalk along the piers of the overpass, and provided construction engineering. The sidewalk was constructed by Crawford Contracting from Mt. Pleasant.

## Expert Traffic Engineers/Planners are Ready to Help Your Projects

ROWE's team of six transportation specialists provide a myriad of services to clients ranging from small villages to county road commissions and state departments of transportation. The group includes Senior Project Manager Michael J. Labadie, PE, who has nearly 40 years of transportation engineering experience, two engineers with Professional Traffic Operations Engineer® certification, and a planner with transportation planning experience.

ROWE's traffic engineering services include:

- Completing and reviewing traffic impact studies
- Designing signal modernization
- Assisting with signal coordination and optimization
- Completing a variety of parking studies, including shared parking
- Developing long-range plans
- Completing corridor studies
- Developing school traffic management plans
- Completing interchange studies



M. Labadie

Our transportation specialists can also help clients apply for, and secure, funding from such sources as Michigan Main Street, FHWA Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, and Safe Routes to School. For more information about how we can help with your project, please contact Michael J. Labadie, PE, at 800-837-9131 or [MLabadie@rowepsc.com](mailto:MLabadie@rowepsc.com).



ROWE prepared construction plans and specifications for reconstruction of the Hill and Belsay roads intersection (shown at left) with a roundabout configuration for the Genesee County Road Commission. The project, located in Grand Blanc Township, MI, was 0.3 mile in length and included removal of all existing pavement. New aggregate base was placed along with storm sewer, curb and gutter, concrete pavement, HMA approaches, signs, and pavement markings. AutoCAD Civil3D modeling was used to verify grading and ensure proper drainage and accurate earthwork quantities. Rodel traffic simulation software was utilized to maximize the roundabout capacity and efficiency. The roundabout opened July 2018, and traffic flow has greatly improved at the intersection.

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## ROWE Completes Certification for Operator Qualification Program

ROWE has completed the certification process to have a fully accepted Operator Qualification Program for construction management of natural gas pipelines. ***This makes ROWE one of the few companies in Michigan with a fully-certified program and staff that can provide these services.***

For those not familiar with work in the energy sector, federal regulations require an individual to be trained in job-specific tasks to perform work on either gas or liquid pipelines. Furthermore, individual companies (operators) may require additional training to perform work on their facilities. Our program and staff have been fully accepted by a local utility provider to perform this work, and our program is valid with most of the energy providers in the State of Michigan as well as through mutual agreements between the companies.

This training includes obtaining more than 40 individual certificates of completion through a nationally-recognized training/education organization and covers tasks ranging from abnormal operating conditions to excavation, line locating, and prevention of accidental ignition.

If you have any questions regarding our experience and availability for these services, please contact Project Manager Kent A. Edwards, PE, at 800-837-9131 or [KEdwards@rowepsc.com](mailto:KEdwards@rowepsc.com).

## ROWE Part of Design Team for Segment 2 of I-75 Modernization

ROWE is performing design services as part of the design/build team selected by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to complete reconstruction and other improvements to 8.5 miles of I-75, from north of 13 Mile Road to north of Coolidge Highway, in the Cities of Troy and Madison Heights. The project includes:

- Adding a new part-time high-occupancy vehicle lane in both directions
- Reconstructing existing freeway lanes
- Reconstructing the Corporate Drive, Big Beaver Road, Rochester Road, and 14 Mile Road interchanges (14 Mile and Big Beaver roads will be reconstructed as diverging diamond interchanges)
- Replacing 18 bridges
- Rehabilitating two bridges
- Constructing drainage improvements
- Installing intelligent transportation systems
- Incorporating community-developed aesthetic improvements

The schedule is an aggressive one that allowed construction to begin on the bridges and northbound lanes of traffic in October 2018; southbound lanes will be constructed in 2020.

ROWE's transportation and bridge teams have been working on this project since July and will be completing our work at the end of February 2019. We will assist with continuing tasks throughout the duration of construction, which should be completed in fall 2020.

Updates from MDOT about the project can be found at [www.modernize75.com](http://www.modernize75.com).

### The I-75 Modernization, Segment 2 Team

#### Design:

- Parsons Transportation Group, Inc.
- ROWE Professional Services Company
- Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc.
- SME

#### Construction:

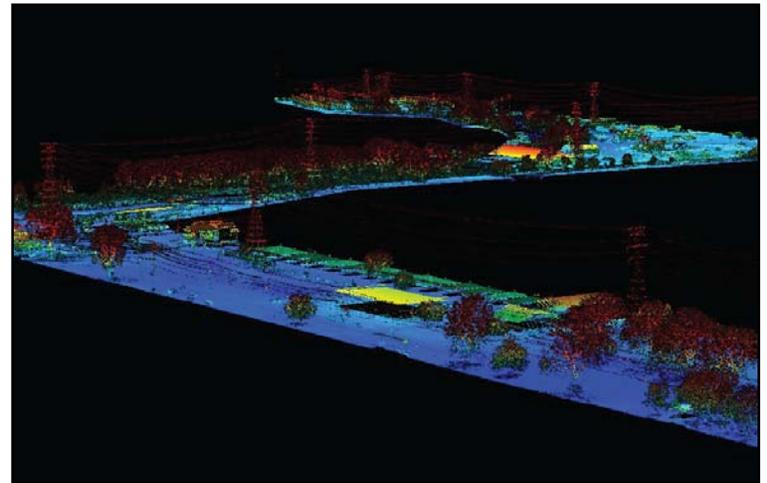
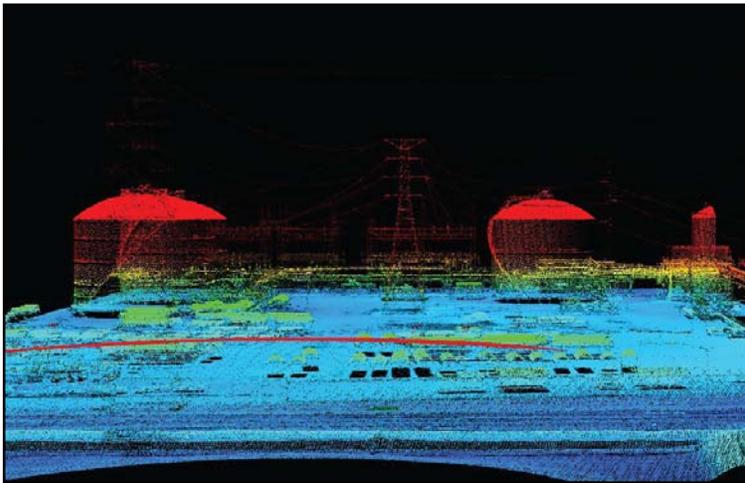
Walsh-Toebe Construction

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## LiDAR Technology Utilized for Electrical Transmission Survey

Staff from Air-Land Surveys, a ROWE company, recently utilized aerial imagery and aerial light detection and ranging (LiDAR) acquisition to complete an electrical transmission line survey. LiDAR is a detection system that works on the principle of radar, but uses light from a laser.

Topographic mapping of the terrain and man-made features in the transmission corridor were mapped. LiDAR point data was modeled to show the location of the overhead transmission and distribution structures and wires allowing the client to design improvements.



Pictured above are perspective views of LiDAR point cloud data. The colors of the points are arbitrarily assigned. Blue colors represent the terrain; yellow, orange, and red are above the terrain. Transmission towers and the wires they support are visible in both images. Above left is the distribution plant, above right is the transmission line heading away from the distribution plant.

# Engineers Work Quickly to Ensure Busy Freeway Closure is Brief

ROWE performed full construction engineering services for the asphalt resurfacing of US-131 in Kent County, MI as part of a project to address frequent impacts to the 100th Street bridge over the freeway. The Michigan Department of Transportation determined that improving the bridge's underclearance may lower the occurrence of high-load impacts. The bridge has sustained several impacts over a period of many years. US-131 was resurfaced from the Kent/Allegan county line northerly to 76th Street.

The work at 100th Street was performed in September and involved the closure of US-131 during one weekend. Several contractors worked around the clock from that Friday evening until opening the road Sunday evening. The enhancements and freeway closure at 100th Street included extensive coordination with many stakeholders.



At left and below, three pavers are utilized to complete the work within one weekend. It was important to keep the busy freeway closed for the briefest amount of time possible.



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## Free Seminar Offered for Overcoming Ordinance Enforcement Issues

Picture this: Your community worked hard to prepare a master plan and zoning ordinance that provides a road map to a bright future, but problems arise as you work to enforce your ordinances and implement the plan. You run into roadblocks, such as:

- You do not have the staff necessary to implement the new regulations.
- Residents and business owners push back on new regulations (or old regulations you begin enforcing).
- Your regulations are difficult to understand or are interpreted differently by enforcement staff, planning commission members, and the zoning board of appeals (ZBAs).
- Taking property owners to court is a drain on staff time and municipal finances.

In addition, you still face issues all communities must address to enforce ordinances, prompting questions like:

- Should we work proactively to enforce the ordinance or work on a complaint-driven process?
- How should we address complaints generated by unrelated neighbor disputes?
- How can we improve residents' knowledge of the local rules and requirements and reduce the number of requests for approval "after the fact"?

Come join us as we explore these issues and the role local elected officials, staff, planning commissions, ZBAs, municipal attorneys, and consultants can play. Our planners will offer tips to end and/or prevent these nightmares!

**For:** Local officials, planning commissioners, local government administrators  
**When:** 7-9 p.m. Tues., Oct. 30  
**Where:** The Rowe Building, 540 S. Saginaw St., Ste. 200, Flint, MI  
**RSVP:** By noon Tues., Oct. 23 to Rachel at (800) 837-9131 or RYankee@rowepsc.com; seating is limited to 50



## Surveyor Marvin Myers, PS, Elected President of National Association



M. Myers

In July, Project Surveyor Marvin E. Myers, PS, who is also the Roscommon County surveyor and Crawford County surveyor representative, began a two-year term as president of the National Association of County Surveyors (NACS), an affiliate of the National Association of Counties (NACo). NACS' objectives include to raise the level of service and character of the public and county governments; be involved in the legislative process when necessary; and participate in national committees regarding issues such as GPS. Marvin will serve on the NACo board of directors, an organization founded in 1935 for such purposes as bringing county officials together to collectively advocate on national policy, pursuing transformational county solutions, and enriching the public's understanding of county government.

## ROWE Photogrammetrist's Article Featured in POB Magazine

An article titled "The How's and Why's of Mapping with Drones" written by ROWE Project Manager Gregory N. Lemke, CP, was published in the September edition of *Point of Beginning (POB)* magazine. Click [here](#) to view the article.

*POB* magazine is a publication distributed throughout North America providing information for the survey industry. Greg's article includes such information as how and why unmanned aerial devices (commonly referred to as drones) are used for geospatial, the accuracies that can be expected, and who can legally provide these services. For more information about these topics, contact Greg at 800-837-9131 or [GLemke@rowepsc.com](mailto:GLemke@rowepsc.com).



## Ashley M. Smokoska, PE, Earns Professional Engineer License

Assistant Project Engineer Ashley M. Smokoska, PE, earned her Michigan professional engineer license. Ashley is a member of the Construction Services Division in ROWE's Flint, MI corporate office, where she assists with construction engineering for various road and infrastructure projects. She received a B.S. degree in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University and has worked at ROWE for four years.



A. Smokoska

## ROWE Announces Staff Promotions

- **Ryan D. Bair, PE, Kevin P. Janes, PE, Dakota P. Roberts, PE, and Aaron J. Wendzel, PE**, were promoted from assistant project engineers to project engineers.
- **Eric M. Bollaert, LSIT**, was promoted from graduate surveyor to assistant project surveyor.
- **Matthew A. Chrzan, CST II**, was promoted from survey office technician II to survey project coordinator.
- **Krista T. Church** was promoted from administrative secretary to administrative assistant.
- **Caitlyn L. Habben** was promoted from graduate planner to planner.
- **Jeremiah L. Harrington** was promoted from survey office technician II to cartographer.
- **Samantha M. Kalakay, Samantha P. Kenny, and Katie E. Lambert** were promoted from graduate engineers to assistant project engineers.
- **Andrew M. Miller** was promoted from survey field technician I to survey field technician II.
- **Justin A. Rhein, PS**, was promoted from project surveyor to project manager.
- **Guy A. Stickler, PS**, was promoted from assistant project surveyor to project surveyor.
- **Justin A. Westbrook, PE**, was promoted from project engineer to senior project engineer.

# The ROWE Team Expands

## *New at the Flint, MI Corporate Office*

- **Dennis S. Banaszak** is an assistant engineer in the Design Services Division. He has a B.S. in civil engineering from Western Michigan University and five years' experience as a ROWE intern.
- **Maggie M. Barringer** is a graduate planner in the Planning Department. She has a B.S. in urban and regional planning from Michigan State University and experience from a planning internship at a Michigan township.
- **Ronald G. Donajkowski** is a senior engineering technician in the Construction Services Division. He has an A.S. in concrete technology from Alpena Community College, an A.S. in physical therapy from Baker College, and 15 years' civil engineering field experience.
- **Mackenzey R. Shega-Fox** is a graduate engineer in the Design Services Division. She has a B.S. in environmental engineering from Michigan Technological University and one year of experience as an environmental analyst.
- **Forrest W. Grenat** is a graduate surveyor in the Survey Department. He has a B.S. in surveying engineering from Ferris State University and experience gained from three years' surveying internships.
- **Heidi N. Koerber** is a survey field technician I in the Survey Department. She has a B.S. in geography from Central Michigan University.
- **Alec V. Kluck, EIT**, is a graduate engineer in the Design Services Division. He has a B.S. in civil engineering for the University of Michigan and four years' surveying experience.
- **Bradley S. Kotrba** is a planner in the Planning Department. He has a master's degree in urban and regional planning/urban design from the University of Michigan, a B.S. in urban and regional planning from Michigan State University, and 10 years' planning experience.
- **Laura B. Partyka** is an administrative secretary. She has an associates degree in administration from Alpena Community College and 13 years' experience.
- **Jerald L. Plunkett** is a survey crew chief in the Survey Department. He has 21 years' land surveying experience.

- **Joshua J. Roddy** is an engineering technician I in the Construction Services Division. He has a B.S. degree in sports management and marketing from Central Michigan University.
- **Troy A. Trevarrow** is an engineering technician II in the Construction Services Division.

## *New at the Farmington Hills, MI Office*

- **Michael J. Labadie, PE**, is a senior project manager in the Design Services Division. He has B.S. and M.S. degrees in civil engineering from Wayne State University and nearly 40 years' transportation engineering experience.
- **Mohamad Sabra** is a project coordinator in the Survey Department. He has a B.A. in history from Lebanese University and 42 years' mapping industry experience.
- **Karl H. Steffes** is an engineering technician II in the Construction Services Division. He has 20+ years' construction testing and inspection experience.

## *New at the Lapeer, MI Office*

- **Revin W. Magee** is a survey field technician II in the Survey Department. He has eight years' land surveying experience.

## *New at the Mt. Pleasant, MI Office*

- **Shane A. Bowman** is an engineering technician II in the Construction Services Division. He has an A.S. in concrete technology from Alpena Community College and two years' concrete testing experience.
- **Steven A. Ludwick** is a senior engineering technician in the Construction Services Division. He has an A.S. in construction technology from Mid-Michigan Community College and more than 30 years' construction/engineering technician experience.

## *New at the Myrtle Beach, SC Office*

- **Ryan E. Harvey, PE**, is a senior project manager in the Design Services Division. He has a B.S. in civil/environmental engineering from the University of South Carolina and 12 years' civil engineering experience.

*For questions about these projects and more, contact Director of Corporate Marketing  
Jack Wheatley, PE, at [JWheatley@rowepsc.com](mailto:JWheatley@rowepsc.com) or 800.837.9131.*

**Corporate Office:** 540 S. Saginaw St., Ste. 200, Flint, MI 48502, 810.341.7500

**Lapeer:** 128 N. Saginaw St., Lapeer, MI 48446, 810.664.9411

**Mt. Pleasant:** 127 S. Main St., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858, 989.772.2138

**Farmington Hills:** 27260 Haggerty Rd., Ste. A-7, Farmington Hills, MI 48331, 248.675.1096

**Grayling:** 2342 Industrial St., Ste. A, Grayling, MI 49738, 989.348.4036

**Myrtle Beach:** 511 Broadway St., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577, 843.444.1020

**Air-Land Surveys:** 540 S. Saginaw St., Ste. 200, Flint, MI 48502, 810.762.6800

