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ROWE Assists with \$35 Million Summer I-69 Project

One of the exciting, fast-paced projects ROWE construction engineering and survey staff has helped MDOT with this summer is a \$35M road and bridge reconstruction project on I-69 in Genesee County, MI. The seven-mile project includes bridge widening and rehabilitation of five structures, storm sewer, freeway lighting, traffic signals, signing, and pavement markings, from M-54 (Dort Highway) easterly to M-15 in the cities of Flint and Burton, and Davison Township, MI.

ROWE is assisting MDOT staff with full-time inspection and survey responsibilities. Project challenges include expedited schedules and tight working conditions with four bridge crossings in a little more than one mile of freeway reconstruction with daily traffic of as many as 80,000 vehicles.

The contractors for this project are utilizing GPS-controlled equipment for all grading operations and robot-controlled stringless pavers to place the concrete roadway. This is in place of the string line that is traditionally used to guide paving equipment to ensure proper pavement thickness and alignment. During stringless paving, radio signals control the paver, feeding it information that enables operators to make small adjustments during the paving process.

ROWE's surveying contract for this project includes setting the control points, construction staking, and as-built records for all grading and paving operations. The project is currently on schedule to be completed in the fall of 2015.



Above is I-69 over Averill Avenue. Existing bridges were widened with micropile-supported foundations. At right is the Dort Highway (M-54) interchange. Complete reconstruction of both overpass structures will allow additional height for vehicles traveling on Dort Highway.



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Find us on the Web



Let ROWE Help with Your Next CDBG Application and Project

ROWE assists clients with consulting services related to the Michigan Economic Development CorporationSM Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) from start to finish. We understand CDBG requirements and have assisted many clients with identifying projects that qualify for funding and have completed several successful grant applications.

Once awarded the funds, ROWE can provide surveying, engineering, planning, and landscape architecture services to complete the project.

In addition, ROWE's Certified Grant Administrator (CGA) Steven M. Clark assists and guides communities through funding requirements. Using a CGA allows communities to be reimbursed for these administrative costs.

ROWE has a broad base of experience serving communities on a variety of projects. To learn more about how we can help you, contact your ROWE project manager or Jack T. Wheatley, PE, at 800-837-9131 or JWheatley@rowepsc.com.



ROWE can help with the following regarding CDBG funds.

- Performing Certified Grant Administrator duties
- Preparing narratives, concept drawings, and other supporting documentation for applications
- Completing application forms
- Providing civil engineering, construction engineering, and landscape architecture services adhering to CDBG requirements
- Ensuring projects stay on schedule to meet strict CDBG deadlines

Left, ROWE is performing certified grant administrator duties for this City of Greenville facade improvement project. The City of Lapeer, MI's project on page No. 3 was also funded by the CDGB program.

ROWE's Trail Funding and Engineering Expertise Shines Again

Check the air in your bicycle tires and make sure your tennis shoes have good soles – thanks to some hard work by ROWE staff and the City of Flint, MI, a 1.5-mile extension of the Genesee Valley Trail in the City of Flint should be complete by early August.

ROWE helped develop a successful Transportation Improvement Program application for the City of Flint to extend the trail, which originally ended in Flint Township, to Chevrolet Avenue. The new section crosses Corunna Road (M-21) just east of the west border of the city, where it meets Flint Township, then follows an abandoned railroad to Chevrolet Avenue where Chevy Commons, a new park, is being developed. ROWE's services also included fast-tracked (three-month) survey and design and negotiating easements for a High-Intensity Activated crossWalk (HAWK) beacon, which is a traffic signal used to stop road traffic and allow pedestrians to cross safely. ROWE is currently managing construction of the trail.

The goal for several organizations in Genesee County is to connect trails like the Genesee Valley Trail to the 774-mile Iron Belle Trail that stretches from Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood at the western tip of the Upper Peninsula. ROWE is also working with other clients to develop the preliminary designs for Iron Belle Trail connections.

ROWE is also working with other clients to develop the preliminary designs for Iron Belle Trail connections.



Above is the crossing at Court Street. At right, the red line shows the path of the trail. The dirt area at the bottom of the photo is where construction is taking place for the new Chevy Commons.



City of Lapeer Project Honored

The City of Lapeer's Court and Clay Streets reconstruction project was recently awarded an *American Society of Civil Engineers - Michigan Section Certificate of Merit*. The project included reconstructing portions of Clay and Court streets, and construction of a pedestrian plaza and rain garden.

This is the second award the project has won; it received an *American Public Works Association of Michigan Quality of Life Award* earlier this year.



At left is Court Street, including its new bike lane. At right is the new public space with stamped concrete, seating, and a rain garden.

Notes from the Field

by Lapeer Office Survey Staff

Our survey department took a call from a concerned property owner whose wife, earlier that morning, had an encounter with another company's survey crew setting corners of the parcel surrounding their property. Of course, the corners did not match their property. Of course, the corners did not match the occupation lines of their parcel, nor did they match their memory of where the property had been staked in the past. Apparently, the crew was rude to the owner's wife and told her their trees would be cut down and all of their "junk" would have to be moved or it would be thrown out.

The caller didn't know the name of the company that had upset his wife. Once we confirmed the crew was not from our company, the owner requested a price to survey his parcel. His reaction to our estimate was "no way it can cost that much" since a competitor had done a previous survey with more corners for much "cheaper." We explained our processes and reasoning for the price, but told him he may want to call the "cheaper" survey firm for a price as well and it would be good to get the name of the "rude" survey firm whose crew made his wife cry.

Oddly enough, the "cheaper" firm and the "rude" firm were one and the same. What a crazy world we work in!

Maps Win IRWA Awards

Two maps created by Survey Office Technician II Jason H. Plummer, CST I, received awards from the 13th Annual International Right of Way Association's International Surveying and Engineering Community of Practice Mapping Competition in San Diego this year. There were 29 entries in five categories in the competition.



J. Plummer

Jason's winning entry in the Pipeline Category was a detailed drawing for a Barr Engineering Company / Enbridge Inc. project that included boundary, easements, topography, and underground utility sweep information.

A crop damage drawing for the Consumers Energy Cross Winds Energy Park project won an award in the Other Category. The crop damage drawing was then judged as the "Best of Show" out of all winning drawings.

This is the second consecutive year and third time in five years Jason's submittals have won in an individual category and gone on to win the "Best of Show" title. These awards recognize the outstanding work that Jason, who works in ROWE's Lapeer office, completes every day for our clients.

Horton Chairs Committee

Senior Project Manager Henry B. Horton, PS, was appointed to a one-year term as chair of the International Right of Way Association (IRWA) Surveying and Engineering Community of Practice Committee.



H. Horton

The mission of the committee is to provide advice and assistance to the association regarding all matters related to methods or procedures for the survey of real property or interests in property for right-of-way purposes. Committee members examine, monitor, and report legislation or changes in legislation pertaining to such methods or procedures.

Henry is a ROWE associate (shareholder) in the Lapeer, MI office. He has been an IRWA member for seven years.

Staff Updates

Promotions Announced

- **Jill M. Bauer, PE, PTOE**, was promoted from senior project engineer to project manager. She is a 10-year ROWE employee who works in the Civil Utilities Division in the Flint, MI corporate office.
- **Amanda N. Hemeyer, PE**, was promoted from project engineer to senior project engineer. She is a 10-year ROWE employee who works in the Transportation Division in the Flint, MI corporate office.
- **Scott C. Hemeyer, PE**, was promoted from senior project engineer to project manager. He is a nine-year ROWE employee who works in the Civil Utilities Division in the Flint, MI corporate office.
- **Kevin P. Janes, EIT**, was promoted from graduate engineer to assistant project engineer. He is a two-year ROWE employee who works in the Special Services Division in the Flint, MI corporate office.
- **Tammy K. Phaneuf** was promoted from engineering technician II to engineering technician III. She is a 19-year ROWE employee who works in the Special Services Division in the Flint, MI corporate office.
- **J. Douglas Piggott, AICP**, was promoted from planner to senior planner. He is a 25-year ROWE employee who works in the Planning Department in the Flint, MI corporate office.
- **Justin A. Rhein, PS**, was promoted from assistant project surveyor to project surveyor. He is an eight-year ROWE employee who works in the Survey Department in the Lapeer, MI office.
- **Aaron J. Wendzel, EIT**, was promoted from graduate engineer to assistant project engineer. He is a one-year ROWE employee who works in the Special Services Division in the Mt. Pleasant, MI office.
- **Karen E. Wood, EIT**, was promoted from graduate engineer to assistant project engineer. She is a one-year ROWE employee who works in the Transportation Division in the Flint, MI corporate office.



J. Bauer



A. Hemeyer



S. Hemeyer



K. Janes



T. Phaneuf



J. Piggott



J. Rhein



A. Wendzel



K. Wood

The ROWE Team Expands

- **William (Tony) Barraco** joined ROWE as an engineering technician III in the Special Services Division in the Flint, MI corporate office.
- **Robin L. Barrie** joined ROWE as an engineering technician I in the Special Services Division in the Flint, MI corporate office.
- **Justin A. Dreffs** joined ROWE as a system support specialist in the Information Technology Department in the Flint, MI corporate office.
- **Jesse F. Kenniston** joined ROWE as a graduate engineer in the Civil Utilities Division in the Flint, MI corporate office.
- **Dakota P. Roberts, EIT**, joined ROWE as a graduate engineer in the Transportation Division in the Flint, MI corporate office.
- **Melissa A. Smiles, EIT**, joined ROWE as a graduate engineer in the Civil Utilities Division in the Flint, MI corporate office.
- **Matthew R. Wilson, EIT**, joined ROWE as a graduate engineer in the Special Services Division in the Flint, MI corporate office.



W. Barraco



R. Barrie



J. Dreffs



J. Kenniston



D. Roberts



M. Smiles



M. Wilson

For questions about these projects and more, contact Director of Corporate Marketing Jack Wheatley, PE, at JWheatley@rowepsc.com or (800) 837-9131.

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