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City of Plainfield

Press Release

INTENSIVE ROAD REPAIRS

Plainfield Launches Intensive Road Repair Program

Plainfield, NJ July 10th, 2008:

One of the major community priorities for Mayor of Plainfield Sharon Robinson Briggs, and her administration has been the City's transportation infrastructure. To this end the administration directed the development of a coordinated plan for the improvement of city roadways. In 2004, the City ordered an assessment of over ninety-five (95) miles of roadway to determine their conditions. This assessment became the basis of the City's capital road improvement program, which recommended the treatment of roads by either resurfacing or reconstruction.

Taking an aggressive stance toward investing in the roadway infrastructure the Robinson-Briggs administration recommended the bonding of 2.4 million dollars more than was originally contemplated (5 million dollars) for the improvement program. In the last quarter of 2007, the City authorized 7.4 million dollars in bonds to finance the construction of year two of the Road Capital Improvement program.

"This administration is committed to providing its citizen with safe and well maintained roadways." Said Mayor Robinson-Briggs, "In previous years, other administrations neglected our transportation infrastructure, resulting in a decomposition of our city streets. We have taken serious steps to reverse this trend by developing a well planned roadway reconstruction and maintenance program."

As part of the long term strategy to improve road conditions, the City has begun work and will continue to move forward on its long range Road Capital Improvement

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program. Efforts to improve the roadway will be seen throughout the summer and fall of 2008, as the construction phases of projects begin.

On June 25, 2008, notice to proceed was given for the reconstruction of 2,760 linear feet of South Second Street running from Morris Street to Spooner Avenue. The construction on this road has become evident with the erection of construction signage and reconstruction of catch basins.

In efforts to reduce the burden on tax payers, this roadway reconstruction project will be partially funded by grants from Community Development Block Grant funds, and will require only \$73,074.00 in taxpayer funding.

On Monday July 14, 2008 the Plainfield City Council will consider a resolution to award construction contracts for the following roadways:

- (Phase I-Year 2 Construction) consisting of 3,884 linear feet of Netherwood Avenue running from the city line to North Avenue
- (Phase III-Year 2 Construction) consisting of 3,744 linear feet of Evergreen Avenue running from Park Avenue to Woodland Avenue; 1,218 linear feet of Stillford Avenue running from Thornton Avenue to Randolph Road; 297 linear feet of Fayette Place running from Hillside Avenue to dead end; 609 linear feet of Maplewood Terrace running from Hollywood Avenue to Woodland Avenue; 406 linear feet of Brook lane running from dead end to Cedar Brook.

By early September, the City Council can expect to see a request to award an additional construction contract for Phase III-Year 2 Construction. This contract will provide for improvements to the following roads:

- (Phase II Year 2 Construction) consisting of 653 linear feet of Court Street from Watchung Avenue to Roosevelt Avenue; 6,563 linear feet of West 8th Street running from Park Avenue to the City Limits; 5,449 linear feet of Kengsington Avenue running from East 7th Street to Park Avenue; Watchung Avenue and 2,460 linear feet of Watchung Avenue running from East 7th Street to Park Avenue.

By late September, the City Council can expect to see a request to award a contract for the reconstruction of 2,165 linear feet of West 4th Street running from City Limits to Halsey Street.

It is expected that all of the above reconstruction will be completed by January of 2009.

Although long term investment in road resurfacing and repair are extremely important, past experience has shown that short term preventive maintenance is just as important. Learning from past experience the Robinson-Briggs administration is committed to making prudent investments in the area of preventive maintenance. City Administrator Marc Dashield indicates the conditions of the City roads can only be explained by a lack of investment over a long period of time and the restoration of these roads will take a comprehensive approach that is focused on both, long term resurfacing/reconstruction and intensive preventive maintenance.

As part of the City's plans residents will see an intensive effort focused on preventive measures in the area of crack sealing, pothole maintenance and small area repairs. These preventive maintenance measures can be seen on roadways like Raymond Avenue (210 linear feet), Oak Lane (150 linear feet) and Belleview Court (180 linear feet) where the Department of Public Works has completed spot milling and resurfacing. Additionally, the city continues to evaluate other roadways to determine their suitability for spot milling and resurfacing. Other preventive measures are taking place which include crack sealing on Mytle Avenue (new Portion), Compton Avenue and Emma Street. Again, additional streets are being evaluated for these measures. The City of Plainfield has committed to and will stand behind putting its resources toward the restoration of City streets.