



City of Lathrup Village
27400 Southfield Road
Lathrup Village, MI 48076
www.lathrupvillage.org | (248) 557-2600

TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Mike Greene – City Administrator
DATE: December 15, 2025
RE: Southfield Road Improvement Project – Preliminary Engineering

Background Brief: As the Council is aware, for over two decades, discussions have been ongoing regarding a Southfield Road Improvement Project that would create a boulevard and other features along Southfield Road. City staff recently had a meeting with RCOC and our neighboring communities (Southfield and Beverly Hills) to discuss the status of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and funding for the Southfield Road Improvement Project, Mt. Vernon to 13 Mile.

RCOC believes that a way to move this project forward is to scale it back and proceed with planning for construction from Mt. Vernon to 12-Mile first, and then address the remaining sections. This would reduce the project cost from \$200 million to \$100 million. From what RCOC is seeing, in order to qualify for the necessary outside funding for this project, they need to complete the preliminary engineering (PE) before additional funding can be awarded/assigned. This PE cost would be split between RCOC/Southfield/Lathrup Village. Doing the PE does not guarantee the project moves forward, so it is a risk. Current estimate for the City's construction portion of this "scaled down" version of the project is ~\$3.75 million. RCOC notes from the meeting are attached.

Key takeaways from RCOC:

- To move forward with the Environmental Assessment (EA) by programming a project phase into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the best approach would be to start with the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase for Southfield Road, south of Mt. Vernon Street to Cambridge Boulevard (EA Segments 1 & 2), in Southfield and Lathrup Village.
- RCOC is requesting a resolution by the governing council or board confirming PE Phase project commitment and acknowledging responsibility for the required local share by January 6, 2026.
- Next, RCOC will include a project TIP list modification as an agenda item for the upcoming Oakland County Federal Aid Committee (FAC) on January 20, 2026. This request will be to reallocate FY 2027 federal funds for the RCOC 3R project on Southfield, Mt Vernon, to 11 Mile, to PE Phase (Segment 1 & 2).
- RCOC Tri-Party Program funding can be utilized for PE.

RCOC has a deadline of January 6th and the January FAC meeting (1/20) to get things rolling, as it gives FHWA time for review of the EA and for Public Hearing timelines, etc., next year. The Federal Aid Committee (FAC) only meets twice a year, and they won't have a second meeting in 2026 until ~August/September, which would potentially make RCOC have to move the entire PE portion of the project to 2027 for the timing/funding allocations. This timeline RCOC is requesting allows them the opportunity to bring it to the FAC in January to get the PE phase in the TIP to start the preliminary engineering in 2026.

If they pause and do not have an answer from LV until after the Master Plan update or other necessary meetings sometime next year, they will have to shift federal money and planning for future years, thus causing a shell game of funding projects. So, for them, the timing is key to this project, and getting the LV answer may affect the project in total.

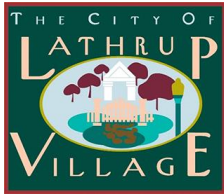
Bruce Kantor
Mayor

Kelly Garrett
Mayor Pro-Tem

Jalen Jennings
Council Member

Jason Hammond
Council Member

John Sousanis
Council Member



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They will need an answer by January 6, 2026, one way or another, with a resolution in support of the PE phase as discussed, or an email stating LV is not going to commit to the PE phase of the boulevard option as presented.

Previous Action: 12-1-25 – Study Session Presentation/Discussion

Economic Impact: LV PE Share of an estimated \$222,564.

The City currently has over \$370,000 of Tri-Party funds available to allocate to this project. Tri-Party funds can only be used on an RCOC road within Lathrup Village, which is 12-Mile Road & Southfield Road.

Recommendation: It is my recommendation to approve PE participation utilizing Tri-Party funds.

Recommended Motion:

Moved by _____ seconded by _____ to approve Resolution #2025-21, supproting the preliminary engineering (PE) phase commitment for the Southfield Road Improvement Project.

Bruce Kantor
Mayor

Kelly Garrett
Mayor Pro-Tem

Jalen Jennings
Council Member

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