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New Road Connecting Forest Hill Ave. & Crahen Rd. Helps Alleviate Traffic

Anyone who has experienced the wait to cross Fulton Street (M-21) between Forest Hill Avenue and Crahen Road in the early morning or late afternoon is well aware that the jog on to and off of Fulton to negotiate the transfer was difficult

Construction of a connector road between Forest Hill Avenue and Crahen Road has been completed on schedule.

For several years Township officials worked toward a solution for the traffic congestion in that area, which was particularly troublesome during the school year.



The answer to the problem was connecting the two streets, eliminating the need to turn on to Fulton for those traveling north or south using both Crahen Road and Forest Hill Avenue.

It took a cooperative effort of governmental units from the state, county and township.

In late 2016, Grand Rapids Charter Township purchased the six acre triangular parcel on the northeast corner of Crahen Avenue and Fulton Street. And in April, signed access agreements with the Kent County Road Commission and Michigan Department of Transportation so they could build a street through that property.

The \$1.2 million spent by the Township to enable construction of the connector road is expected to be recouped by way of

reselling parcels for development. Developers have long eyed the property, which is zoned for office and bank uses.

With completion of the new leg of Crahen Road between Leonard and Fulton Streets, the next step is to remove the former section of Crahen Road.

Work crews are finishing up construction and removal of that portion of the road. When they pull out, the former traffic issues are expected to be alleviated, and the new parcels will have room for safer access drives, parking, and landscaping for potential development.

The two new parcels that remain for the township to market are a 1.6 acre site adjacent to Fulton Street and a 3.5 acre site on the east side of the newly constructed Crahen Road.

Township officials are looking at proposals from developers at this time.



The final layer of asphalt is one of the last steps in finishing the project

The Township has also been reimbursed by Kent County for the right of way needed for the new road.