



**Candice S. Miller**

Public Works Commissioner  
Macomb County

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Critical sewer project underway on 15 Mile Road in Macomb County**

Amid all of the talk in Washington about funding for infrastructure, a major sewer project is underway in Macomb County to prevent sinkhole disasters like the one that occurred in 2016. Excavation of a shaft has begun along 15 Mile Road, east of Garfield Road along the border of Clinton Township and the city of Fraser. The shaft being dug is 28 feet across and eventually will reach a depth of 40 feet, to allow crews to enter the Macomb Interceptor Drain for important rehabilitation of the concrete pipe, deep below the surface.

“We are investing in our critical underground infrastructure – at strategic locations – so we never have another sinkhole/sewer collapse again,” said Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice S. Miller, referring to the December 2016 sewer collapse and sinkhole along 15 Mile Road in Fraser that was one of the worst infrastructure disasters in state history.

The project underway is in an area known as “Segment 6” of the Macomb Interceptor Drain. Following competitive bidding, the Macomb Interceptor Drain Drainage District board last April awarded the Segment 6 construction contract to Ric-Man Construction of Sterling Heights for a total project cost of \$16 million.

The sewer carries sewage from nearly 600,000 people in 11 municipalities in Macomb County. The rehabilitation project will include the slip lining of approximately 2,100 feet of 5-foot-diameter concrete pipe along 15 Mile Road with a glass fiber reinforced polymer pipe to protect it from corrosion caused by hydrogen sulfide sewer gas.

During the project, two lanes of a one-half mile stretch of 15 Mile Road will be closed for approximately eight more months. The lanes are shut between Simon Drive and Bobcean Road (east of Garfield Road). Two-way traffic will be maintained along with a center left-turn lane.

Around the end of spring or early summer 2022, a second phase of Segment 6 sewer maintenance is scheduled to begin to the immediate west. It will include the slip lining of a 1,200-foot curved portion of the 11-foot diameter Romeo Arm Interceptor, at the 15 Mile-Garfield intersection. There will also be an installation of an “air-jumper” just west of the intersection which will be connected to the existing bio filter. This will help alleviate odor issues prevalent in this area for years.

The entire Segment 6 sewer rehabilitation project is scheduled to be completed by the end of spring 2023.

“There’s lots of talk about the need to maintain roads and bridges, and very deservedly so,” Miller said. “At the same time, we can’t forget our underground infrastructure. It may be out of sight to many, but it can’t be out of mind. At the Macomb County Public Works Office, we are focused on

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maintaining underground infrastructure. We simply cannot afford to have another infrastructure disaster like the one that occurred on Christmas Eve 2016.”

In addition to Fraser and Clinton Township, the communities in the MIDD include Sterling Heights, Utica and New Haven, and Chesterfield, Harrison, Lenox, Macomb, Shelby and Washington townships.

VIDEO: Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice S. Miller discusses critical rehabilitation of underground infrastructure. <https://youtu.be/SSuI0fr1aQQ>

PHOTO: Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice S. Miller at the Macomb Interceptor Drain/Segment 6 construction site on 15 Mile Road.

