



**For Immediate Release**

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## **City gives green light to Old Woodward Ave. Reconstruction Project at meeting on Jan. 8, 2018**

*Angelo Iafrate Construction is winning bidder; reconstruction work expected to start in March*

**BIRMINGHAM, MI.** January 10, 2018 – The 2018 Old Woodward Reconstruction Project took a vital step forward on Monday (1-8-18) when the Birmingham City Commission approved a Resolution awarding a contract for the project to Angelo Iafrate Construction Co, based in Warren, Michigan.

By unanimous consent, the seven member commission approved the contract, giving the green light to the project that will involve needed below ground infrastructure replacement as well as above ground improvements to Old Woodward Ave. between Oakland and Brown. Weather permitting, the project is expected to start in March with underground work.

“We are happy the project has been awarded given the need to replace the infrastructure in the downtown core, as well as make several improvements to the functionality of the above ground streetscape,” said **Birmingham City Manager Joe Valentine**. The City has extensive plans to keep the project moving quickly, to keep sidewalks, front doors and parking accessible as well as traffic and project updates flowing, Valentine noted.

The approved contract from Iafrate calls for 125 days of work with a targeted substantial completion date of July 27, 2018. The agreement includes significant financial incentives to Iafrate for early completion as well as substantial penalties if the work is not done on time.

Other caveats in the contract include a six-day a week work schedule, with extended hours encouraged. The project is budgeted at just over seven million, with the bulk of the money coming from the City’s Sewer Fund, Major Streets Fund and the General Fund. The bid from Iafrate is about \$180,000 lower than what was budgeted for the project.

“We are very confident that Iafrate Construction is qualified to perform the work of this contract,” said Paul O’Meara, City Engineer. O’Meara sighted Iafrate’s successful reconstruction of M-150 (Rochester Road) in 2012, a project with similar dynamics to the Old Woodward Ave. Reconstruction Project. He also noted their recent streetscape project for the new Little Caesars Arena and the Woodward Ave. Reconstruction for the Q-Line Transit system in downtown Detroit.

The 2018 Old Woodward Ave. Reconstruction Project is the latest salvo by the City to improve its aging infrastructure in the core of the Central Business District. In 2013, the City reconstructed portions of Pierce Street from Maple to Merrill and Merrill Street from Pierce to Old Woodward. In 2016, Hamilton Avenue was reconstructed from Old Woodward to Woodward Ave. These projects included new water lines, sewer lines and streetscape improvements.

“Downtown will not be closed. The public will be able to get to their favorite locations,” Valentine said. “We thank all of our stakeholders for their patience as we take this necessary action to improve our downtown core for the long-term.”

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