

NEWS RELEASE

June 19, 2007

The 10<sup>th</sup> Street bridge over the Norfolk Southern Railroad between 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 129<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Wayland Township will be opened to traffic on Wednesday, June 20, 2007.

The bridge has been closed since September 25, 2005, when it was determined to be unsafe. Emergency funding was obtained from the Michigan Department of Transportation and Davis Construction Company was the low bidder for its replacement for \$1,085,010. Work began this January and will be completed on Wednesday.

The bridge was originally built by the Michigan Department of State Highways in 1938, when 10<sup>th</sup> Street was US-131. It became a county road in the 1960's when the freeway was built.

This project is just an example of the need for additional funding for roads and bridges in Michigan, as the actual construction took only six months, but it had to become unsafe and closed before being funded, resulting in it being closed for a total of a year and three quarters. It had been submitted for funding originally fifteen years ago, but never was approved until it actually had to be closed, resulting in more interruption to the public.