

DRAKE TO BE CLOSED AT MAPLE FOR HAWK PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL INSTALLATION

Beginning July 13, Drake Road will be closed at the north and south sides of the Maple/Drake roundabout in West Bloomfield Township so the roundabout can be modified slightly and “High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk” (HAWK) pedestrian crossing signals installed at each entrance to the roundabout. Maple Road will remain open throughout the project.

PROJECT DETAILS

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) will reconfigure the “splitter islands” (the islands separating the entrance and exit lanes on each “leg” of the roundabout) as well as adjust some of the roundabout curbs and install the HAWK signals.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Expected road closure: . . . July 13, 2009

Open to traffic: Approx. Aug. 14, 2009

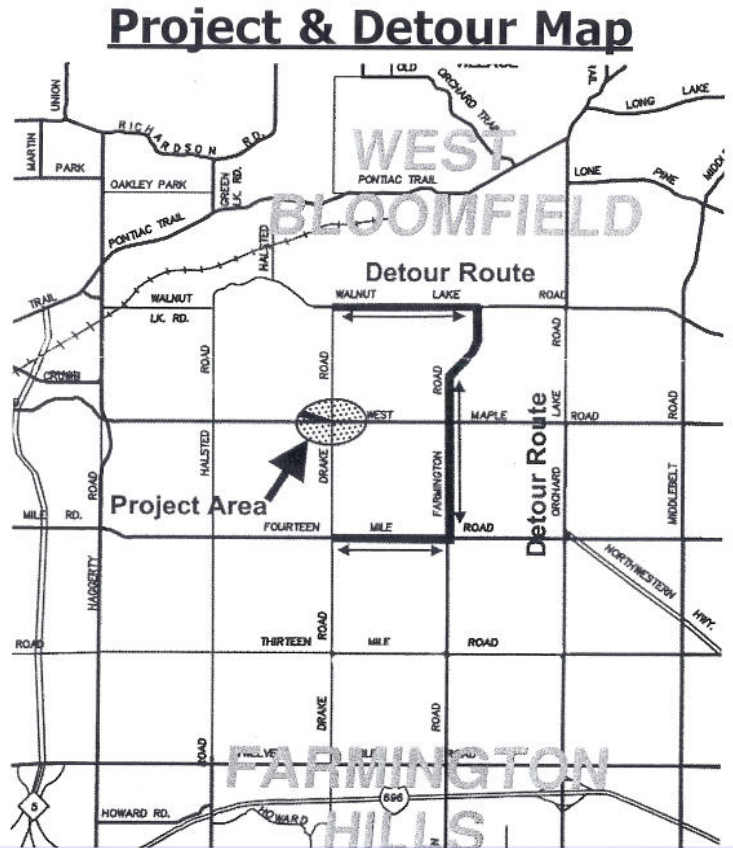
DETOUR ROUTE

During the project, while Drake Road is closed at the roundabout, the detour route for Drake Road traffic will be 14 Mile Road to Farmington Road to Walnut Lake Road and back to Drake and vice versa.

WHAT IS A “HAWK” SIGNAL?

HAWK signals are a new form of pedestrian-activated signals that will stop traffic entering and exiting the roundabout to allow pedestrians to safely cross the road. Unlike traditional pedestrian-crossing signals, the HAWK signal remains unlit unless a pedestrian presses the button.

At that point, there will first be a flashing-yellow light for approaching motorists, followed by a steady-yellow light, warning motorists that the signal is about to change to red. The signal will then switch to



a steady red to allow the pedestrian to cross.

Finally, at the end of the cycle, the signal will switch to a flashing red light, signalling the end of the crossing phase. The signal will then go dark until it is again activated by a pedestrian pushing the button.

Unlike traditional traffic or crosswalk signals, the HAWK signal consists of three bulbs, but configured two bulbs next to each other on top of one bulb (see image at right).



AN RCOC INNOVATION

While HAWK signals have previously been used at standard intersections in other parts of the country, RCOC believes this is the first application of the HAWK at a roundabout in the nation. The signals will be tested for one year at this roundabout.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call RCOC's Department of Citizen Services at (877) 858-4804 or send us an e-mail via the RCOC Web site, www.rcocweb.org.