



City of South Haven

PRESS RELEASE

City of South Haven

539 Phoenix Street, South Haven, MI 49090

Fax: 269-637-5319

Web: www.south-haven.com

Local Media

DATE: February 12, 2013

CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL OF \$750,000 MEDC DIG GRANT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – (South Haven, Michigan) The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), through the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF), has notified the City of South Haven that it has been tentatively awarded \$750,000 for a Downtown Infrastructure Community Development Block Grant for the Phoenix Street Improvement project. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has committed to providing matching funds in the amount of \$1,644,839. The total cost of the project is \$2,394,839.

The City of South Haven is proposing to reconstruct Phoenix Street from Broadway Ave to Kalamazoo Street. This street reconstruction will be an infrastructure upgrade including replacement water, sewer, and storm drainage systems. The project also includes streetscape enhancements of new street furniture, expanded sidewalk areas, and urban green space.

The most dramatic improvement for the pedestrian experience will be the creation of expanded sidewalk areas woven into the street design. These expanded sidewalk areas will provide the opportunity for pedestrian gathering, public art, urban green space, and outdoor seating near the downtown shops and restaurants. The City is also planning to launch a public wireless internet system to further enhance the pedestrian experience in the downtown, and specifically within these expanded sidewalk areas. These pedestrian spaces will be located in areas which would otherwise be used for automotive purposes.

The Phoenix Street project is a result of the public input meetings held to create the 2010 DDA Streetscape Master Plan. Projects in the plan serve as a guide for improvements. The Williams

Street Improvement project and the construction of the parking lot, restrooms, and rain garden at Huron/Kalamazoo Streets are projects that have been completed from the plan.

The Michigan Strategic Fund was created by P.A. 270 of 1984 and has broad authority to promote economic development and create jobs. The MSF transfers the majority of its appropriated State funds and employees to the MEDC. In turn, the MEDC administers State economic development programs.

“This is great news. Being able to complete this project will give us a chance to correct a 75-year-old watermain. Rehabilitation of the watermain will assist in avoiding watermain breaks and therefore breaking up the street surface for repairs,” stated Mayor Bob Burr.

For more information, contact Deb Davidson, DDA Director, 269-637-0748 or ddavidson@south-haven.com

----- END -----

PRELIMINARY PLAN
FOR
PHOENIX STREET IMPROVEMENTS
FEBRUARY 6, 2013

