

## **\$12.5-million Miller Road project to smooth path to shopping**

FLINT TOWNSHIP  
THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION  
Monday, October 29, 2007  
Staff Report

FLINT TWP. - Just before the start of the 2008 holiday season, just after Halloween decorations come down, the Genesee County Road Commission will give merchants and their customers along one of the county's busiest thoroughfares a \$12.5-million gift, according to The Flint Township News' Web site, [www.mlive.com/flinttownship](http://www.mlive.com/flinttownship).

The gift: A new and improved Miller Road.

Construction on the 4.75-mile stretch of Miller Road, between the Flint city limits at Ballenger Highway west to the old Lansing Highway, should start sometime next spring, said John Daly, manager-director of the Genesee County Road Commission.

The project should be completed by late October, or early November at the latest, said Daly, who spoke at the October meeting of the West Flint Business Association.

"This project is kinda like a duck you see swimming in a pond," Daly said. While the duck may appear to be floating leisurely across the water, "you look underneath and the duck is paddling like hell."

The construction work will include not only rebuilding Miller Road, but the placement of curbside "cutouts" for buses that will enable them to pick up and drop off passengers without stopping traffic.

The logjam at the entry points onto I-75 will function more efficiently with the addition of dual turn lanes.

Traffic signals also will be replaced with a radio-controlled system that will respond "to traffic that is actually there, rather than the traffic we think is going there," Daly said.

The estimated price tag of \$12.5 million makes the Miller Road project the most expensive in the history of the road commission, Daly said.

On Nov. 2, bids will be accepted for the reconstruction, and on Nov. 7 bids will be accepted for the replacement of signal lights along the road, Daly explained.

"We started looking at this in terms of the initial look in 2002, and started putting the pieces together, how we were going to break the project into sections ... in '03, '04 and really starting putting it together in '06," Daly said.

While landscaping of the street would be a nice addition, Daly said there is no room in the current budget for cosmetic improvements.

During the business meeting, Larry Ford, deputy director of the Flint Downtown Development Authority, suggested that construction work on Miller Road continue at night.

But Daly ruled out that possibility, saying there's not enough local personnel and equipment, such as lighting, to support such an approach.