

STATE SENATOR · JIM BARCIA · 31ST DISTRICT

Barcia Press Release

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\$35 Million in Funding For M-84 Passes Senate *State Senator Jim Barcia has pushed project since 1997*

(LANSING)—The Senate today approved \$35 million in funding, made available through the federal stimulus bill, for the expansion of M-84 in Bay County. In 1997, as a member of Congress, State Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) originally secured \$19 million in federal funding to begin reconstruction and expansion of M-84.

“This project is long overdue,” said Barcia. “The expansion of M-84 is a vital economic investment, bringing immediate jobs for road construction and long term benefits for area businesses. The continuing costs of delaying this project are too high and investing in our infrastructure has never been more essential.”

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) recommended funding the long planned expansion of M-84, along with three other expansion projects statewide, using \$155 million in stimulus funds earmarked for road expansion projects in Michigan. Barcia was grateful to MDOT leaders for their foresight in approving this project. “MDOT Director Kirk Steudle and the members of the Transportation Commission understand that expanding M-84 will provide jobs right now and will help contribute to the overall economic growth in the region long into the future.”

To date, millions of dollars have already been spent on the initial construction phase and businesses and residents have been moved off property acquired by MDOT for the project. Approximately, \$35 million will be spent to replace the interchange at I-75 and expand Bay Road from 2-4 lanes to Euclid Avenue. Barcia believes that along with this critical economic investment, public safety will be enhanced significantly.

“With traffic volumes expected to increase by roughly 25% over the next 10 years, failing to make the needed expansions will not only restrict economic activity, it will put motorists at risk. Safe, efficient and reliable transportation is essential to the growth of our region and the safety of motorists. I am extremely pleased that shovels should be in the ground this summer.”

State Representative Jeff Mayes (D-Bay City) was also thrilled with this money coming into Bay County.

“This is a great investment and will give a much needed boost to the economy in the entire region. Senator Barcia has been working on this for over 10 years and I am delighted to have been able to work with him on this effort.”

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