

FOR: Giffels-Webster Engineers

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Giffels-Webster's Corktown-Mexicantown-Southwest Detroit Greenlink Begins Construction Phase

Detroit's largest concentrated network of bike lanes to be completed mid-September

DETROIT, Aug. 31, 2011 – The Corktown-Mexicantown-Southwest Detroit Greenlink, 16 miles of bike lanes connecting the three Detroit neighborhoods, has begun construction.

Giffels-Webster, a civil engineering and surveying firm specializing in infrastructure needs for public, private and institutional clients, worked with the Greater Corktown Development Corporation and the Southwest Detroit Business Association to design the Greenlink and secure the funding to build it. The Michigan Department of Transportation provided 80 percent of the construction funding for the project through the Transportation Enhancement Activity program.

The project connects the Southwest Detroit Greenway using W. Vernor Highway with bike lanes and signed roadways. It is the city's largest concentrated network of bike lanes and will be completed mid-September.

"Linking Corktown, Mexicantown and Southwest Detroit will provide Detroiters and visitors with convenient, safe access to three of the city's most historic and vibrant neighborhoods," said Scott Clein, PE, LEED AP, executive vice president at Giffels-Webster Engineers.

The Corktown-Mexicantown-Southwest Detroit Greenlink is part of the City of Detroit's Urban Non-motorized Transportation Master Plan, which was also designed by Giffels-Webster. The master plan includes many components of non-motorized transportation and more than 400 miles of bike lanes. The Corktown-Mexicantown-Southwest Detroit Greenlink is the first large scale segment of Detroit's master plan to come to life.

Last summer, Michigan lawmakers passed Complete Street legislation encouraging communities to incorporate non-motorized modes of transportation into road designs.

Municipalities across the state are adopting ordinances to recognize the needs of all users, regardless of age or ability.

“Communities all over Michigan are jumping on board with Complete Streets and non-motorized initiatives,” said Clein. “Keep an eye out for more and more bike lanes, sidewalks and other alternative uses of roadways. By getting people out of their cars and safely on sidewalks and bikes, we can breathe new life into a city or town.”

About Giffels-Webster Engineers

Giffels-Webster is a collection of people—civil engineers, landscape architects, planners and surveyors—who choose every day to make communities better. The Michigan-based firm serves public, private, and institutional clients throughout the United States with their infrastructure needs.

Since its inception in 1950, Giffels-Webster has evolved to offer a broad scope of services centered on helping clients achieve their project or programming goals, including civil engineering, municipal consulting, planning, land development consulting, landscape architecture, and environmental consulting. www.giffelswebster.com.

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