



SHAKER HEIGHTS

For Immediate Release

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VAN AKEN DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT PHASE ONE: FINAL PIECE FALLS INTO PLACE

\$4.4M Award Completes Roadway Project Funding

SHAKER HEIGHTS (February 8, 2012) – Decades of dreaming, years of planning, months of collaborative efforts among national and local agencies, and countless hours of hard work by Shaker Heights officials have resulted in the completion of funding, in the amount of \$18.5M, for the first stage of redevelopment of the Van Aken district: the reconfiguration of the Warrensville/Van Aken intersection.

The last piece of funding was secured at the end of January when the District One Public Works Integrating Committee accepted the staff recommendation and approved an Issue One grant of \$4.4M.

The City leveraged its own investment of \$2.3M into an extraordinary patchwork of funding from sources sold on the City's conviction that a transit-oriented redevelopment will transform the district into a vibrant, mixed use downtown destination. Funding sources include:

- \$4M Ohio Department of Transportation
- \$7M Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
- \$500K Federal 2010 Appropriation
- \$500K Federal Highway Administration
- \$500K Cuyahoga County Public Works Department

In late 2013, Shaker residents can expect to see the first changes planned for the Van Aken district. The intersection, where six roads now converge, has long been the bane of area drivers. The reconfiguration will create a standard four-way intersection, reducing wait times, confusion and congestion.

To achieve improvements to the intersection, construction will entail the relocation of Northfield Road to the south and closing Van Aken Boulevard at Farnsleigh. Also planned in the first phase are upgrades to roads, pedestrian facilities, and streetscapes, including tree planting. Prominent crosswalks will improve the pedestrian experience, making a once dangerous intersection easy to navigate and facilitating easy access to all corners of the district.

Future phases of the redevelopment include a .3 mile extension of the RTA Blue Line through the intersection to a new Intermodal Transit Center, which will position the area as a transportation hub. The City's recently adopted Economic Development and Marketing Plans further map out a strategy for attracting businesses and developers to the new Van Aken district.

For additional information, please contact Planning Director Joyce Braverman at 216-491-1432.

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About the City of Shaker Heights:

Just eight miles from downtown Cleveland, Shaker Heights is a tranquil, yet cosmopolitan and distinctive suburb. It has a national reputation for excellent schools, extraordinary natural beauty, architecturally exquisite homes and superior city services. Shaker Heights is Cleveland's premier suburb – with tree-lined neighborhoods and miles of sidewalks that invite residents to stroll, chat with each other, and stay for a lifetime! Visit shakeronline.com for more information.