



## HISTORIC REHABILITATION/PRESERVATION PROJECT, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

# Transportation

### WILCOX ROLE

Wilcox served as the Prime Consultant for this unique rehabilitation/preservation project.

Through the efforts of our team at Wilcox, project partners and today's planners, this historic site has been honored with the help and cooperation of the communities, local associations, DDA's, and others willing to work together to create a context sensitive intersection reflecting stakeholder's desires, while providing a safe, efficient transportation element for the region.

*Detroit's Woodward Avenue was awarded the 2008 Historical Civil Engineering Landmark Award by the Michigan Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers.*



### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This unique rehabilitation and preservation project is a compact three-level interchange located at the intersection M-1 (Woodward Avenue) and M-102 (Eight Mile Road). M-1 is an eight-lane, north-south boulevard, a historic artery connecting Pontiac, Michigan to downtown Detroit and various suburbs in between. M-102 is an eight-lane, east-west boulevard that extends for 21 miles and carries three through lanes in each direction on the lowest level of the three level interchange. The "middle" or "at grade" level are the service drives that diverge from the main roadways and intersect.

In 1909, the first mile of concrete highway in the world was built on Woodward Avenue between Six and Seven Mile Roads by Wayne County. In 1916, the 27 mile length of Woodward to Pontiac was paved and in 1919 the nation's first three-color traffic light appeared on this thoroughfare.

Woodward Avenue and Eight Mile Road were part of the vision for Super Highways and a three level interchange. This vision became a reality with the completion of the first intersection of this type at Woodward and Eight Mile in 1956, another milestone in the history of "firsts" for Woodward Avenue.



### Project Highlights

- More than 20 meetings and Context Sensitive Solution workshops were conducted with the community and stakeholders throughout the process to develop the community's vision into the project's design.
- The project design was completed in high quality within four months. It incorporated findings from the design workshops, context sensitive solutions and three client reviews.
- Construction began in September 2006 and was completed in time for the annual Woodward Dream Cruise—the nation's largest one day automobile event—in August 2007.
- Six photos conveying the place in automotive and transportation history held by both Woodward Avenue and Eight Mile Road corridors were enlarged to 8 by 12 foot panels and chemically etched onto stainless steel plates and mounted in tamper proof frames on the abutments and retaining walls at the middle level of the interchange.
- Restoration of the historic galvanized steel railing panels between concrete posts on both the bridges and retaining walls were successfully achieved while complying with all current codes and standards.
- A vertical faced barrier wall solution was configured with historical integrity and safety where none previously existed in the median of Eight Mile Road.
- Decorative lighting, a replica of an ornate, cast iron, historic, light pole, previously used in Detroit was used along Woodward Avenue.