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PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Announces \$3.75 Million MassWorks Award for Shrewsbury

Award funds road improvements on Route 20, supports Edgemere Theater site redevelopment

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SHREWSBURY — Today, the Baker-Polito Administration announced a \$3.75 million MassWorks Infrastructure Program grant for widening and other improvements to Route 20. The award will fund the reconstruction of approximately 3,300 linear feet of roadway and related intersections along Route 20 and will facilitate the planned redevelopment of the former Edgemere Drive-In Theater site.

Road improvements will include expansion to four lanes, a new four-way signalized intersection at Route 20 and Lake Street and several Complete Streets improvements, including new sidewalks, curb ramps, turning lanes, and on-road bicycle accommodations.

The project will unlock an estimated \$45 million in private investment to redevelop the former Edgemere Theater site and will directly increase access to the 68-acre parcel, enhancing traffic flow for its new commercial and residential uses. The redevelopment project will include 40,000 square feet of new retail space, up to 250 new housing units, and a state-of-the-art 80,000 square-foot Market Basket. The Market Basket alone is expected to create 75 full-time jobs, 300 part-time jobs, and 200 construction jobs.

“Our Administration is committed to investing in programs like MassWorks that support local infrastructure and play a critical role in strengthening businesses and the communities that surround them,” **said Governor Charlie Baker.** “MassWorks is one of this Administration’s many initiatives that enable local communities to tap into private investment and accelerate local economic growth across the Commonwealth.”

“We are excited to award \$3.75 million in MassWorks funding to support the much-needed widening of Route 20 and the redevelopment of the Edgemere Theater property,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.** “Governor Baker and I are pleased to continue to make the investments in the public infrastructure our cities and towns need to create sustainable growth.”

The Shrewsbury MassWorks project will also leverage about \$5.7 million in local funding for construction of a new sewer main and pump station along Route 20, which will extend sewer service from the project site into Worcester. The widening of Route 20 is also consistent with MassDOT's long-range plan for the state highway.

“Through the flexibility of MassWorks, we have been able to drive over two million square feet of new commercial space, made possible by listening to individual communities’ needs and by responding with individualized programs that benefit many stakeholders, such as this project in Shrewsbury, which strengthens the Route 20 area and supports business and residential expansion,” **said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash.** “Our office saw another competitive round of MassWorks for 2018 and we are happy to keep the momentum going across the Commonwealth in the year ahead.”

“The Town of Shrewsbury is grateful for the \$3.75 million grant that will facilitate much needed traffic improvements at the intersection of Lake Street and Hartford Turnpike (Route 20),” **said Shrewsbury Assistant Town Manager Kristen Las.** “The improvements will facilitate the redevelopment of Route 20, and more specifically, the construction of a mixed-use development at the site of the former Edgemere Drive In, consisting of 143,500 square feet of commercial retail space and 250 apartments. We look forward to working with the land owner and developer on this very important project that will be a gateway into Shrewsbury from the City of Worcester.”

“The strategic long-term vision for the Town of Shrewsbury has been carefully crafted to preserve open space and recreational resources while also pursuing targeted, sustainable investments in growth and development,” **said Senator Michael O. Moore.** “This grant funding will assist the Shrewsbury community with expanding its economic potential, and with exploring new opportunities for job growth and an expanded housing stock. I commend the Administration for recognizing the significant benefits that will result by awarding this grant.”

“The redevelopment of the former Edgemere Drive-In Movie Theater site and revamping of the Route 20 corridor at large has long been a priority of mine, as well as the Town of Shrewsbury. I am grateful to the Baker-Polito Administration for supporting our vision of significant economic development and new growth along Route 20, and helping to bring

this ambitious project to fruition by providing a \$3,750,000 MassWorks grant to supplement the project’s existing \$45 million in private investments and additional local and private funding,” **said Representative Hannah Kane**. “This comprehensive infrastructure and economic development project marks an exciting time for the Shrewsbury community, as the project will provide new commercial tax revenue and new employment opportunities with 75 new permanent jobs, as well as 350 construction jobs.”

Since 2015, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded about \$275 million in MassWorks grants to support 138 projects in 106 communities. MassWorks funding has been critical to the addition of over 2 million square feet of commercial/retail space, approximately 10,000 full and part time jobs, more than 7,000 immediate housing units, at least 7,000 square feet of new public space and 1,200 new hotel rooms.

Through the 2018 MassWorks round, the Administration will award more than \$82 million in new grants for 40 projects that intend to leverage \$2.9 billion in private investment, and drive an anticipated 4,000 units of new housing and more than 9,000 full time jobs. 37 communities across the Commonwealth will benefit from this round’s investments.

Governor Baker signed economic development legislation in August that includes substantial new funding for municipalities, including another \$250 million for MassWorks awards. The legislation builds on the Baker-Polito Administration’s work to partner with communities to catalyze economic development and create new opportunities for residents across the Commonwealth, including the [2016 Job Creation and Workforce Development act](#) (</news/governor-baker-signs-economic-development-legislation>), which authorized \$1 billion to support economic development efforts across the state, including \$500 million authorization for MassWorks Infrastructure Program, enhanced tools and the introduction of new strategies for job-readiness efforts.

Learn more about MassWorks at mass.gov/service-details/massworks-2018-round-opens.

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