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Resurfacing Massachusetts roadways one mile at a time

GARDNER _ The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is a massive national campaign that is investing \$150 billion in new infrastructure across the country. This is the largest increase in funding of the nation's roads, bridges and mass transit systems since the development of the national highway system in the 1950s.

P.J. Keating Company, whose primary business is quarrying stone, manufacturing hot mix asphalt, and the construction of asphalt paving projects, has been a facilitator in some of these ARRA projects for the state. Most recently the company was awarded the resurfacing and related work of a 1.7 mile section of Route 140 in Gardner, through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation-Highway Division.

“This section of road is in pretty bad shape and abuts a section of Route 140 that was paved a few years back,” said David Baker, manager of the Northern Construction Operations for P.J. Keating Company. “This is our fourth project that P.J. Keating Company has done which is funded through the ARRA.”

Work is expected to begin in April with a total of 12,000 tons of hot mix asphalt to be used. There will be a total of over 53,000 square yards of milling of the existing surface, with tree clearing to improve safety zones, installation of new guardrail and improved traffic safety systems (lane markings). Asphalt for the project will be produced at P.J. Keating Company's Lunenburg production facility.

According to Baker, the motoring public should not be too inconvenienced. During paving and milling operations, there may be a few detours, however, those would only be for those daily shifts.

“For the majority of work, we will be utilizing lane shifts or working off the road,” he added.

Work will be restricted to daytime work hours, and the project is expected to be completed late this summer.

Since 1923, P.J. Keating Company's primary business is quarrying stone, manufacturing Hot Mix Asphalt, and the construction of Asphalt Paving Projects. The company is headquartered in Lunenburg, MA, with locations in Dracut, Acushnet and Cranston, Rhode Island.

