

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program



Michigan Placemaking in Action...

Downtown Houghton Streetscape and Brick Street Re-Installation



The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the city of Houghton partnered to reconstruct Houghton's downtown business route, US-41 (Shelden Avenue) from Franklin Street to Bridge Street, near the approach to the Portage Lake lift bridge. In addition to decorative sidewalks and historic-style light fixtures, the historic nature of Shelden Avenue was restored by turning the road back to a brick street. The work was part of a complete storefront to storefront reconstruction done in conjunction with a city water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer project as well as building façade improvements.

- Federal TE investment: \$999,877
- Federal, State, and Local Agency Collaboration: Part of a \$5 million storefront to storefront reconstruction. Other funding sources included USDA Rural Development Loan, CDBG funding from MSHDA's Vibrant Small Cities Initiative, CDBG funding from MEDC for façade improvements and signature building rehabilitation, MDOT Traffic and Safety funds, MDOT Road Preservation Program, and the city of Houghton.

Project Impact:

- 100 new jobs - Several businesses/employers (including Michigan Tech. University, Ford Motor Company, and General Electric) have located or expanded their operations downtown Houghton.
- One new retail/apartment building was built.
- Houghton is working with developers to provide 25-30 additional residential units to address a new interest in living downtown.

"This federal funding helps pay for improvements that make a real difference in economic development and quality of life. Transportation Enhancements like these make Michigan communities even more attractive to residents, visitors, and business investors." - Kirk T. Steudle, State Transportation Director

"The project became a rallying point in the business community, and inspired new involvement and cooperation with the city." - Steve Krug, President of Houghton Downtown Merchants' Association and owner of The Lunch Bag restaurant

