

STATE SENATOR · JIM BARCIA · 31ST DISTRICT

Barcia Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-1777 • Fax: 517-373-5871
E-mail: senjbarcia@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.mi.gov/barcia



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Contact: Sen Jim Barcia
Phone: (517) 373-1777

SEN. BARCIA LAUDS \$3 MILLION PUBLIC/PRIVATE AREA INVESTMENT

LANSING - Sen. Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) applauded today's announcement of a \$3M investment partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Carbone of America-Ultra Carbon Division, an international leader and manufacturer of high purity graphite serving the electronics and solar industries.

The project will reconstruct Harrison Street between 32nd and 38th streets. Harrison is an all-season road that is currently in a very poor condition. The project will improve ride quality and enable the company to transport sensitive materials without damage.

"This is just outstanding news for our area," Sen. Jim Barcia said. "Carbone of America-Ultra Carbon Division is an example of a business that has committed to Michigan, invested in the area and created job opportunities for the entire region. Their efforts benefit the entire state."

The news came as part of an announcement by Governor Jennifer Granholm that 1,285 jobs, including 710 associated with alternative energy companies, will be created through an investment of more than \$4 million in state Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) grants in six Michigan counties. The transportation investments will leverage more than \$1.25 billion in private investment.

The TEDF "Category A" or "Target Industries Program" is aimed specifically at providing transportation improvements that encourage private investments in Michigan that will create or retain jobs. Other projects will break ground this year in Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Saginaw and Wayne counties.

Within the past five years, Carbone of America has invested more than \$5M in building improvements, and new machinery and equipment at its Bay City facility. Most recently, the company completed the second phase of a planned three-phase project, and invested \$2.5 million in a 10,000-square-foot expansion. The company currently employs 250 workers at its Greenville and Midland operations. After expanding its Bay City facility, the company will hire 10 new employees by 2009.

The proposed cost of these transportation improvements is \$1,183,229, including \$238,488 in state TEDF funds, with a local match of \$944,741 from the city of Bay City.

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