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Thousands of New LED Lights Brighten Metro Detroit Freeways

November 2016 – 11, 971 new energy efficient LED lights have been installed along Metro Detroit freeways in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties making them brighter and safer for area motorists.

The new lights were installed by Michigan Freeway Lighting Partners (FLP), a private developer who entered into a public-private partnership (P3) agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Under this innovative 15-year agreement with MDOT, FLP is responsible for upgrading and maintaining freeway lights in Detroit's tri-county area. This P3 is the first in the country dedicated to freeway lighting improvements.



The MDOT/FLP agreement details a series of milestones. Milestone 1 (MS1) requires that 90% of the new and existing luminaries, totaling 11, 841 fixtures, be functioning as designed within the first year of the contract. Project construction began on November 24, 2015, and on October 18, 2016, FLP achieved this milestone more than a month ahead of schedule. Contract Milestone 2 requires substantial completion of the remaining luminaries to be on by August 2017. In addition to installing the new lighting, FLP will operate and maintain the freeway lighting system for an additional 13 years beginning at the close of year two of the construction period.

The LED lights represent the latest technological innovation in freeway lighting. They offer motorists increased visibility and brighter, safer environments, while also improving overall traffic safety. The new luminaries replace older high-pressure sodium and metal halide fixtures.

Taxpayers will save as the annual cost of service under the P3 agreement is expected to be lower than what MDOT would have had to pay for upgrades to the old antiquated lights. Savings are achieved because of the conversion to LED lights, economies of scale that lower equipment costs, and transferring certain risks to a private partner. In addition to savings, the P3 agreement ensures effective operations and maintenance for the remainder of the P3 agreement. Perhaps, most importantly, the P3 agreement allows MDOT maintenance to focus on other areas of importance that improve overall safety.

“Metro Detroit freeways provide critical links to jobs, commerce, economic development opportunities, education and entertainment”, Gov. Rick Snyder said. “Through this innovative public-private partnership we are providing state-of- the-art lighting, safer environments and improved service for the people and communities in southeast Michigan that depend on them.”

The private partner, Freeway Lighting Partners (FLP) is a consortium led by Star America with participation from Aldridge Electric, Parsons Brinckerhoff and Engie Services. The P3 agreement is over a 15-year timeframe and is expected to save taxpayers over the life of the contract.

As the freeway lighting project continues, all roads are expected to remain open with occasional lane closures scheduled and announced in advance.

About Star America

Star America is an independent US headquartered developer and manager of infrastructure assets in North America, backed by US pension funds and insurance companies. Star America focuses on partnering with states and public agencies in delivering infrastructure projects across the transportation, social and environmental sectors. Since its inception a few years ago, Star America has been awarded or become a partner in six public private partnerships, representing over \$4.2 billion in total capital value.