

## Community Support

Numerous community organizations have endorsed the project including (partial listing):

- Southfield City Council & Mayor
- The Southfield Historical Society
- Southfield Parks & Garden Club
- Preservation Detroit
- Eight Mile Boulevard Association
- Southfield Public Schools
- Southfield High School Engineering Academy
- Boy Scout Troop 1667
- Washington Village Neighborhood Association
- Magnolia Neighborhood Association
- Twyckingham Valley Neighborhood Association
- Southfield Public Library Board
- Friends of the Southfield Public Library
- Southfield Downtown Development Authority
- Southfield Chamber of Commerce
- Green Dolphin Neighborhood Association
- Northland Gardens Neighborhood Association
- Southfield Community Foundation
- Beacon Square Neighborhood Association

## For Information or to Become a Donor, Contact:

- City Councilman Kenson Siver 248.796.5150
- City Councilman Donald Fracassi 248.796.5150
- City Councilman Jeremy Moss 248.796.5150
- Southfield City Planner Terry Croad 248.796.4154

City of Southfield  
26000 Evergreen Road  
Southfield, MI 48076

## Donations:

### Make Checks Payable to:

City of Southfield / Coasting the Baseline Fund  
(Donations are tax deductible)

## Send Donations to:

City of Southfield  
Attn: Councilman Kenson Siver  
26000 Evergreen Road • Southfield, MI 48076

248.796.5160

# Coasting the Baseline

## -- Southfield

### Southfield to Join Historic Link Across Michigan

The Coasting the Baseline Project is a series of commemorative markers located on Eight Mile or Baseline Road. Each marker is a ten foot tall obelisk that describes the significance of surveying in the settlement of Michigan and as the foundation for property ownership in the state.

Michigan was the first state in the nation to be fully, successfully surveyed using modern surveying practices. Known as the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) or the rectangular survey system, it is a mathematically designed and based method of measuring land.

After the United States acquired the Northwest Territory following the American Revolutionary War, Congress passed the Land Ordinance of 1785 to survey public lands in what would become the states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.



Sample of the Coasting the Baseline Obelisk as erected in Novi, Michigan.

Originally proposed by Thomas Jefferson, the PLSS employs a baseline (latitude or east-west line) and a Prime or Principal Meridian (longitude or north-south line) referenced to a designated starting point).

In 1815 federal surveys of land began in Michigan. The original baseline and the territory's "prime meridian" were established at six mile intervals. The baseline became known as Eight Mile Road and runs across Michigan from Wayne County on the east to Van Buren County on the west. The prime meridian was established at 84 degrees, 22 minutes, 24 seconds west longitude, a line drawn straight north from Defiance, Ohio. All subsequent land surveys in Michigan refer to these principal coordinates.



### Southfield's Commemorative Marker

The Southfield Coasting the Baseline Obelisk will join those of other neighboring communities along Eight Mile Road. It is envisioned that markers will stretch from Lake St. Clair to Lake Michigan along the baseline. The markers, designed by Michigan native and world-renowned sculptor David Barr, include engraved references to early surveying tools, land ownership in America and elements of each community's local history and are made from alternating blocks of black and white granite. The obelisk shape was chosen because it was commonly used by early surveyors to mark significant geographical points. The site selected for Southfield's Coasting the Baseline marker is at Eight Mile and Rutland on city owned property.

### Community Support

The Southfield Coasting the Baseline Obelisk will be erected through private and corporate sponsors. No public monies will be used for this community project. The Coasting the Baseline – Southfield Committee

is seeking community support and input for the project in addition to donors. The fund raising goal is \$30,000 to pay for the creation of the obelisk and for landscaping and hardscaping to encourage visitors to linger and learn part of their heritage.

Sculptor David Barr will provide the following services at no charge to Southfield:

- Monument Design
- Coordination with the stonecutters
- Coordination with monument engravers
- Advisory & consultation services as needed
- Meetings with community leaders, educators and media

The committee will raise funds estimated to be:

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| • Stone cutting & fabrication                       | \$8,000 to \$10,000 |
| • Shipping stone from Vermont to Michigan           | \$600 to \$800      |
| • Monument Engraving                                | \$3,000 to \$4,000  |
| • Landscaping (plants, shrubs, etc)                 | \$5,000             |
| • Hardscaping (pavers, decorative fencing, benches) | \$10,000            |



Conceptual drawing of Eight Mile & Rutland site for the Coasting the Baseline -- Southfield obelisk.