



A NEW WAY FORWARD: MODERNIZING INFRASTRUCTURE IN DEARBORN HEIGHTS

Dearborn Heights,

I'm prepared to assume the mayorship on day one and provide the City of Dearborn Heights with the concrete leadership it needs to address our crumbling infrastructure, embody fiscal discipline, and provide transparent and cooperative governance. Our residents cannot afford further delays or fragmented solutions—we must act decisively and with purpose.

Our city's roads are cracked, our sewers are overwhelmed, and our water systems are outdated. Yet, we've watched city decision-making favor short-term fixes over long-term infrastructure planning—leaving major funding opportunities underused or misdirected. The time has come to turn the page. As your candidate for mayor, I'm offering not just a vision, but a detailed plan rooted in the concerns expressed by our city's residents.

This policy platform presents our campaign's action plan to tackle the following three infrastructure issues affecting our daily lives:

- (1) flooding and stormwater mismanagement;
- (2) faulty and outdated water meters; and
- (3) crumbling local roads.

This plan is grounded in careful review of public budgets, funding records, and infrastructure contracts from 2022 through 2025. It reflects your concerns—and it respects your tax dollars.

As the only campaign with a clear vision and plan to address our crumbling infrastructure, I welcome your feedback and hope to earn your support to be Dearborn Heights' next mayor.

Let's build a city infrastructure that works. Let's move *A New Way Forward*, together.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hussein Anani". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Hussein Anani

1. FIX FLOODING: STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE & ECORSE CREEK

The Problem:

Flooding continues to devastate neighborhoods along Ecorse Creek and throughout our city. Public records show over **\$480,000 in one month** alone paid to the Wayne County Department of Environment for emergency sewage management (April 2023). Meanwhile, vital detention basin projects and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant applications remain incomplete.

How We Pay for It:

We will reallocate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds already in the budget, such as the **10% Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant match** council committed to in May 2023. Instead of issuing piecemeal sewer contracts, we will prioritize capital line items for phased upgrades. Additionally, we will expand our use of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and apply for Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) stormwater funds and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)'s State Revolving Fund.

Our Solution:

1. Complete and expand the Inkster & Powers detention basin.
2. Finalize Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s 4607-10 DR mitigation project with full transparency.
3. Publish a **floodplain audit and climate resiliency plan**, aligned with zoning reforms.
4. Expand green infrastructure citywide beyond NBEC's pilot—using bioswales, rain gardens, and permeable pavement as implemented in cities like [Portland](#) and [Philadelphia](#) – with a goal to implement at least 5,000 sq. ft. of green infrastructure in key flood-prone zones.

2. MODERNIZE WATER METERS & BILLING

The Problem:

Residents have reported fluctuating and unclear water bills for years. In July 2024, the city authorized an approximate **\$13 million water meter modernization project** to be carried out by Ferguson Waterworks and Wade Trim (GL 592-537-981.200). While the city has begun replacing meters, the effort could be improved in several respects, such as using smart, remote-read meters.

How We Pay for It:

We will pursue Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)'s

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). We will also end high-overhead project management contracts and reallocate in-house capacity for oversight.

Our Solution:

1. Complete citywide installation of smart, remote-read meters in 18-24 months, with quarterly benchmarks to track and publicly report progress.
 2. Launch a publicly accessible dashboard that shows neighborhood-level progress and meter readings, potentially using tools like OpenGov or ClearGov for transparency and ease of use.
 3. Reconcile Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) purchase volumes with internal data, preventing loss and overbilling.
 4. Hold monthly performance reports at council meetings to ensure rollout stays on track.
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3. REBUILD OUR ROADS: A DATA-DRIVEN PLAN

The Problem:

From Beech Daly to Gulley Road, residents drive over potholes and crumbling streets every day. In 2023, the city spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to fully repave five roads. But at the same time, it continues spending several hundred thousand more on short-term repairs like pothole patching and surface patchwork. These temporary fixes often don't last, and without a citywide map or clear priority list, there's no way for residents to know which streets will be repaired next or why some are chosen over others.

How We Pay for It:

We will propose a **dedicated road repair millage**, based on historical city precedent and modeled after Royal Oak's [successful ballot initiative](#). This would be an **approved millage by voters** and legally bound to Street Fund use – a 1 mill levy could generate approximately \$1.2 million annually, significantly boosting repair capacity. My team and I propose this solution with caution: we recognize our community's hesitation to vote-in yet another millage proposal – however, we do so with the understanding and aim to use currently available funds or to access redistributed funds. In the event that such funds are unavailable, a dedicated road repair millage will be implemented at the discretion of Dearborn Heights voters. This means that this proposal cannot be instituted without your votes to do so.

Our Solution:

1. Launch a **Pavement Condition Index (PCI)** map—rating each street from 0 (worst) to 100 (best)—used in [Ann Arbor](#) and [Royal Oak](#).
2. Publish a **5-Year Road Resurfacing Plan**, updated every quarter.
3. Require developer-paid **restoration bonds** for utility trenching or redevelopment.
4. Bundle small resurfacing projects to lower cost per mile through regional bids.

THE PATH FORWARD

Too often, our infrastructure spending has been driven by politics, not planning. Dearborn Heights residents deserve transparency, efficiency, and results.

With *A New Way Forward*, we will:

- Reallocate existing funds to where they matter most;
- Complete long-delayed projects with real oversight;
- Tap into every available state and federal grant; and
- Publish every decision for the public to track.

It's time we fixed the pipes below, the roads above, and the leadership in between.

Hussein Anani

Candidate for Mayor, City of Dearborn Heights