



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Penelope
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Tsernoglou
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.  
N/A
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
The City of St. John's
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
100 E. State St. St. Johns, MI 48879
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:  
N/A
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:  
Penelope Tsernoglou, 75th House District
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. The M-21 Utility Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project in the City of St. Johns is a strategically aligned infrastructure investment that seeks to improve the city's aging water and sewer systems in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Transportation's scheduled M-21 reconstruction in fiscal years 2029–2030. The purpose of this funding is to replace obsolete infrastructure—including a 1950s-era 4-inch watermain—with modern, compliant 12-inch piping that meets current fire flow requirements, enhances water system reliability, and supports community safety and development.

This project provides a significant public benefit by:

- Ensuring access to safe, reliable drinking water for residents and businesses;
- Eliminating potential lead service lines, improving public health outcomes;
- Strengthening fire protection capabilities, which can reduce insurance premiums through an improved ISO rating;
- Refurbishing deteriorated sanitary manholes and extending sewer access to underserved areas, ensuring environmental and regulatory compliance;
- Supporting planned utility agreements between the City of St. Johns and Bingham Township that will unlock economic development along the M-21 corridor, including new housing and commercial investment.

Leveraging the timing of the M-21 road reconstruction allows the city to undertake this project in a cost-effective manner, minimizing long-term disruptions to residents and reducing redundant construction costs.

The use of taxpayer dollars is appropriate because the project directly enhances critical public infrastructure that local governments are constitutionally and statutorily responsible for maintaining. The funding ensures long-term operational resilience and equitable service delivery, especially for currently underserved areas of the community. The \$4.5 million investment helps protect water quality, safeguard the environment, and foster economic growth—all core public functions.

In accordance with Article IV, Section 30 of the Michigan Constitution, this project does not provide aid or benefit to a private entity or individual. All funds will be directed to the public infrastructure owned and maintained by the City of St. Johns, a municipal entity, for the exclusive benefit of the public at large. No private appropriation or donation is involved.

This project represents responsible and future-focused infrastructure stewardship and is an appropriate candidate for legislatively directed investment.

**9. Attach documents here if needed:**

Attachments added to the end of this file.

**10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.**

4500000

**11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.**

["None"]

**12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:**

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Not applicable

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

N/A

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

As soon as possible once funds are allocated

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes