

Road FAQ

1. Is Ingham County responsible for Township Roads?

Yes. The State of Michigan provides road funds to the County to maintain the County Primary Roads and provides \$45,000 to the County for upgrading our local roads. The Township matches the \$45,000 and for ten years has been providing additional funding from our general operating fund. This level of funding is not adequate to keep our roads from deteriorating. The County does provide patching on all Township roads and streets along with striping and mowing along Township local roads at no cost to the Township.

2. What is the current condition of Township Roads?

Only 14% of the Township's local roads would be classified by the state as good or fair. In 2010 there were no failed local roads in our township. By 2014 1.6 miles of local roads had failed. Today there are 8.5 miles of failed roads. Many of the roads have not seen any maintenance for almost 20 years. Subdivision roads have not seen maintenance other than filling potholes since developed. The life expectancy of a new road without continued maintenance is 20 years. Looking ahead, when roads are allowed to deteriorate, the eventual cost of maintenance and repair go up.

If we continue with our current level of funding for road maintenance, in ten years it is estimated that there will be 28.4 miles of failed local roads out of the 47.3 miles of local roads. This is just under 60% of the local roads would have failed. Some roads would be left to return to gravel.

3. How much money does the Township need to maintain our roads in good condition?

To maintain high quality roads classified as "good" by the State it would take \$14,660,000 to repair, maintain and reconstruct as necessary the 47.3 miles of road. Cost range from \$6700/mile for Crack Sealing to \$927,000/mile for Reconstruction. The Township Board is considering a bond or millage issue for the March ballot in 2020 to raise funds for Township Roads.

4. How much money would it take to maintain Township roads in fair condition?

To maintain adequate roads in good condition classified by the State as fair would take \$8,411,274.00 or 3 mills.

5. How much does the Township allocate for road maintenance?

Over the last ten years, the Township has allocated over \$800,000 for maintenance on local roads and has spent over \$970,000. This is more than the total revenue the Township received last fiscal year in taxes and revenue sharing (\$663,496.00).

6. I pay a lot in taxes already. Why isn't there enough revenue for roads now?

While the Township bills and collects your taxes, of the total tax bill, the Township only receives 2.4% (\$241,000 collected in 2018). The balance is collected and dispersed to other agencies including schools and county agencies. For full details of where your tax dollars go, please see the chart on the Township website or use the link at the end of the FAQ sheet.

7. Who would decide which roads would be improved, the County or the Township?

If a bond or millage is approved by the voters, the Township would work with a consultant to determine which roads would be bid out for improvement in a given year. The County would review the consultant's recommendations and may be involved in a few projects as well. For the past 10 years the County has always approved the Township requested improvements.

8. Why are roads that are in fair condition now be higher priority than roads that are in poor shape now?

Just as it is cheaper to maintain and repair a roof on your home, rather than neglect it until it must be replaced, this principle applies to Township Roads. Freezing and thawing are hard on roads. By maintaining Township Roads and Streets at a good or fair level, while we improve our poor or failed roads, the Township will save money.

9. What assurance do we have that the revenues from a bond or millage will be used for roads?

The law requires it. A question on the ballot will dedicate the funds to the maintenance and improvement of the Township Roads. If the voters approve the ballot language, the Township will not have the ability to divert the funds for other projects.

10. Has the Township applied for federal or state funds for roads?

The Township is not eligible to apply directly for federal or state funds. The State sends funds to the Counties to be used for local roads. Our share of the State local road funds is \$45,000. To receive this allocation, we must match it with \$45,000 from Township funds.

11. What if the Governor receives the funding for roads as requested?

The funding requested by the Governor will be used for State highways, county primary roads and county local road improvements for economic development. If the State legislature and Governor do pass funds for county local road improvement resulting in additional funds for our local roads, the Township would be able to decrease the amount of millage funds necessary for road improvements.