

Road FAQ

1. Is Ingham County responsible for Township Roads?

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 Township 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 Township 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?

Out of 47.3 miles of local township roads only 14% would be classified by the state as good or fair. In 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. Most 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. This is just under 60% of the local roads that will have failed. Without additional funding, some of the Township roads will eventually crumble.

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. Costs range from \$6700/mile for Crack Sealing to \$927,000/mile for Reconstruction. There will be a bond proposal on the March 10th, 2020 ballot to pay for improving Township local roads.

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

To maintain roads classified by the State as fair would take \$8,411,274.00 or 2.97 mills. There is a bond proposal on the March 10th, 2020 ballot asking residents to approve paying for improving Township Roads through a millage. The ballot language is available on the Township website.

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

Over the last ten years, the Township has allocated over \$970,000 for improvement and maintenance on local roads and has spent over \$890,000. This is more than the total revenue (\$663,496.00) the Township received last fiscal year in taxes (\$240,926) and revenue sharing (\$422,570.00).

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 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 on 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 the bonding 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. The question on the ballot will dedicate the funds to the maintenance and improvement of the Township Roads. If the voters approve the ballot language, future Township Boards 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 may be able to decrease the amount of millage funds necessary for road improvements.

Please visit the Township website for the full report, maps, break down of condition by road name, and ballot language.