

Important Road Funding Proposal on March 10th Ballot

Dear Residents,

January, 2020

At the December 11, 2019 Township Board meeting, the Board voted to place the following language on the March 10th, 2020 ballot to ask residents if the Township should borrow funds for Township local road improvements.

TOWNSHIP OF WILLIAMSTOWN ROAD IMPROVEMENTS BOND PROPOSAL

Shall the Township of Williamstown, County of Ingham, Michigan, borrow the principal sum of not-to-exceed Seven Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$7,500,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds in one or more series, payable in not to exceed ten (10) years from the date of issuance of each series, to provide funds, including any premium from the bond sale, to pay costs to improve, replace and reconstruct roads in the Township, including related site improvements, appurtenances and attachments?

Yes

No

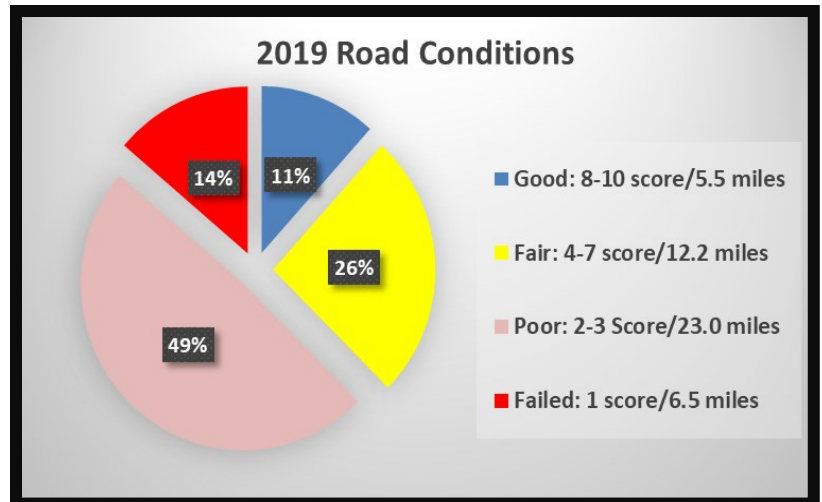
If approved, the estimated millage to be levied in 2020 is 2.97 mills (\$2.97 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds is 2.97 mills (\$2.97 per \$1,000 of taxable value).

Despite the efforts of the Township to maintain and improve our local roads, the condition of our local roads continue to decline. Currently, the State provides \$45,000 annually through Ingham County for improvements to our 47 miles of local roads. This will reconstruct approximately 1/8 of a mile of a failed road. In 2013 about 1 mile of local roads had failed. There are currently 6.5 miles of failed roads noted by red in the map (See back page). This is approximately 14% of our local roads.

Engineering report

At the request of the Township board, the engineering firm of Mannik & Smith Group developed the 2019 Roadway Improvement Plan for Williamstown Township. The full report and Addendum can be found on the Township website (<http://www.williamstowntownship.com/>) under Departments/Roads.

The report indicates that the current level of State funds received through the County and matched by the township are insufficient to maintain and improve our local roads. Without additional substantial funds, over half of our local roads (28 miles out of 47 miles) will fail during the next 10 years.



The Township spent over \$893,000 on local roads this past decade which is more than 4.5 years of property taxes received by the Township.

Roads have historically been maintained with State Funding through the joint efforts of Ingham County Road Department (ICRD) and Williamstown Township. The ICRD has provided maintenance by filling potholes for local roads, mowing roadways, etc., while additional road improvements have been provided through a combination of State Act 51 funding and Township matching funds.

Since 2010 the State has provided \$330,000 and the Township has invested over \$893,000 in improvements to the Township local roads. The Township has spent more than the total revenue the Township received last fiscal year in property taxes and revenue sharing (\$663,496.00). A list of the road improvement projects is located on the Township website.

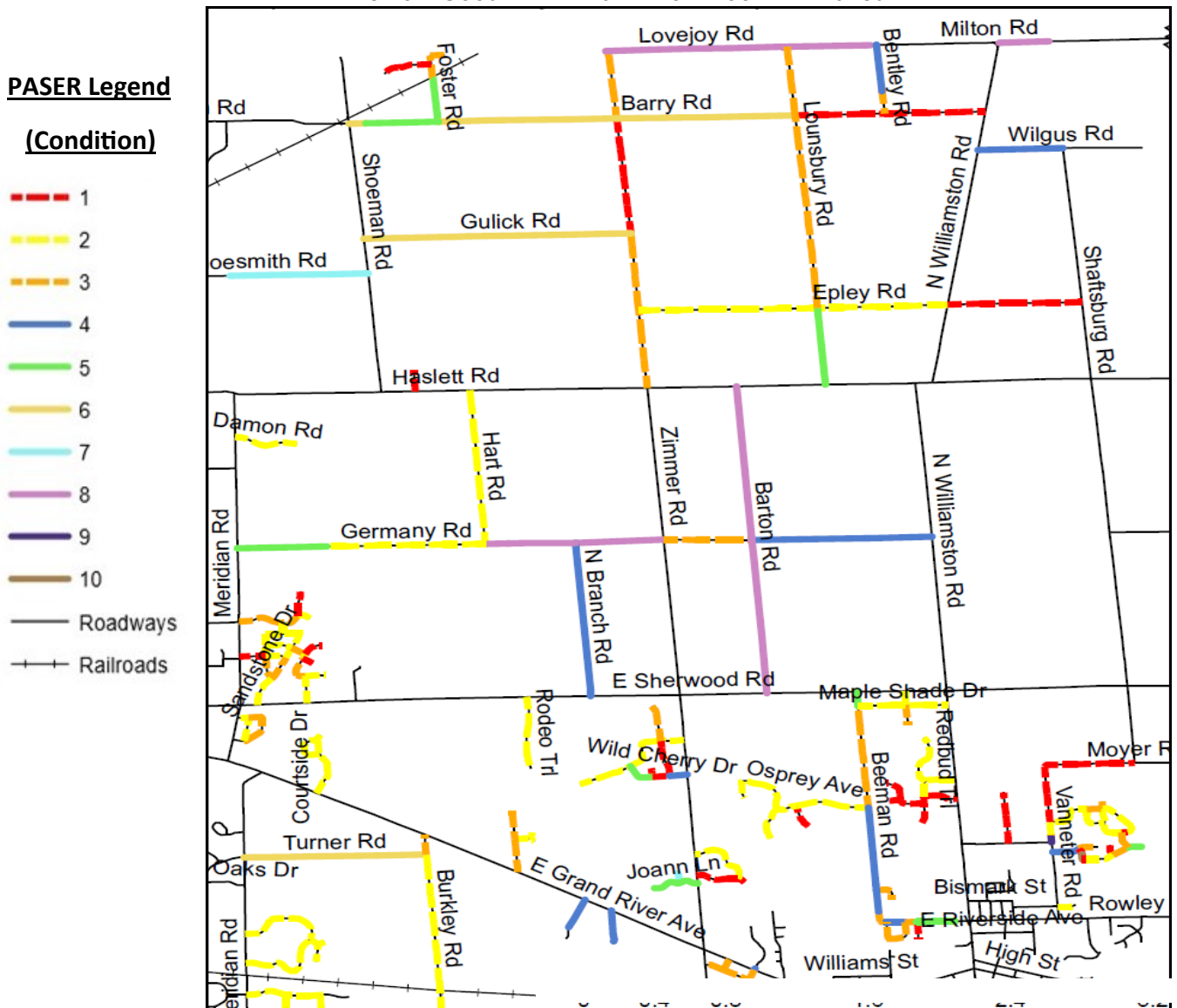
The 2019 Plan for Future road improvements

To reconstruct all failing roads and improve and preserve all Township local roads during this decade, the addendum to the engineering report indicates we need an additional \$7.5 million added to the State road funds and Township matching funds. The plan would call for improvements to be made on all Township local roads, with the majority of the improvements to be completed in the first six years and road preservation mainly occurring during the remaining four years.

The Township Board is requesting authorization to sell bonds for \$7.5 million and repay the bonds over the next 10 years through an average 2.97 mills each year (\$2.97 per \$1000.00 of taxable value). The proposal requires the funds to be used only for improvement of Township roads. The Township would not have the ability to divert the funds for other projects.

2019 Williamstown Township Local Road PASER (Condition) Ratings

8-10 = Good 4-7 = Fair 2-3 = Poor 1 = Failed



This issue is important for **you**, your neighbors, and our community. The Township will be hosting two public forums to present the findings of the report and answer any questions you may have on **Wednesday, February 5th and Tuesday, February 25th at 6:00.**

The full report is available on the Township website along with a FAQ sheet that may answer many of your questions. You are encouraged to review the report and to call the Township with any additional questions.

To ensure your voice is heard, please vote in the March 10th, 2020 election. You are able to vote absentee without a reason and be placed on the permanent absentee voter file by contacting Robin or Mark at the Township. 517-655-3193