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Important Dates:

March 5, 9:00am
Board Meeting

March 19, 9:00am
Board Meeting

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

7:30am – 4:00pm

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Tom Bird
Tom Elhart
Betty Gajewski
Tim Griffhorst
Jim Miedema

Managing Director
Brett Laughlin

Countywide Road Millage Projects

The Road Commission recently held a public hearing on February 5th to receive input and comments about the proposed Countywide Road Millage Project list.

The proposed list of projects was developed based on many factors including pavement condition, available millage funds, and other funding sources with an intent to focus on the primary road system.

In order to reflect future changes funding sources

and road improvement needs, the Road Commission will reevaluate, modify, and approve countywide road millage funded projects on an annual basis in conjunction with the Strategic Improvement Plan.

Since 100% of the millage revenues generated within a township will only be spent on road improvements within that township, there will be some carryover balances in order to properly fund a proposed project.

The County Treasurer anticipates the millage will be added to the winter tax bills, which means a majority of the 2015 millage revenues will not be disbursed until February 2016.

The Road Commission must request the County Board of Commissioners to approve the collection of the ½ mil road millage on an annual basis.

More information about the countywide Road Millage Projects can be found on our website.

Public Road Miles

Michigan has over 122,000 miles of highways, roads, and streets which are maintained by one of the following jurisdictions: the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT); a county road commission or other county agency; or a city or village.

Roadway classifications are divided into five "legal systems" for funding through the formulas of the Michigan Transportation Fund which are state trunklines, county primary roads, county local roads, city major streets, and city

local streets.

State trunklines, county primary roads, and city major streets carry most of the vehicle-miles of travel, while county local roads and city local streets relatively are lightly used.

The Road Commission is the jurisdictional authority over all public roads lying outside the incorporated cities and villages within Ottawa County, exclusive of any state trunkline highways.

At the end of 2014, the Road Commission

certified approximately 426 miles of county primary roads and 1,255 miles of county local roads.

MDOT annually certifies all public roads within the State of Michigan. Certification maps are maintained by the Road Commission and are the basis for determining the amount of money received from the Michigan Transportation Fund.

Generally, the Road Commission receives a higher level of reimbursement for primary roads than for local roads.

The five key principles for the May ballot proposal:

- 1) Provides needed funding for roads and bridges
- 2) Protects schools, communities, public transit, and rail
- 3) Ensures transportation taxes go to transportation
- 4) Maintains competitive prices at the pump
- 5) Gives tax relief for lower-income residents

If passed, the May ballot will provide the following results:

- \$1.2 billion for roads and bridges
- \$112 million for transit and rail
- \$300 million for schools
- \$94 million for local governments
- \$260 million in tax relief for lower-income Michiganders



Shown above is Max Boose who was recently hired as a Special Services Aide.

Will the Proposed May Ballot Fix Roads?

The Michigan legislature has announced a plan to help fix roads.

The plan as announced will provide \$1.2 billion in additional needed funding to maintain Michigan’s road network. In short, it would:

- Repeal the sales tax on gas
- Replace it with a new motor fuels tax that is dedicated to funding transportation
- Increase the state sales tax to provide funding for our schools

and local governments

- Provide tax relief to lower-income residents

For the plan to work, residents will be asked to vote on a ballot proposal in May 2015 that will enact some of these changes, including increasing the state sales tax by 1% (from 6% to 7%), raising \$1.34 billion in revenue and eliminating the sales tax on motor fuels, saving \$752 million.

The legislature is being asked to pass a series of laws as well, including a wholesale tax on motor fuels; vehicle registration changes; new transportation-related reforms; and the restoration of the earned income tax credit. However, these changes will not take effect if the ballot proposal does not pass.

Safe Roads for Everyone

Get Your Head Out of Your “Apps” and Drive to Arrive!

Road agencies across the state are joining together to remind motorists of the dangers of distracted driving.

More than 6,200 people were killed or seriously injured on Michigan roads last year, and most of these accidents could be avoided if drivers would

eliminate distractions.

According to FHWA, every \$100 million invested in highway safety improvements could result in 145 fewer traffic fatalities over a 10-year period. A higher rate of severe and fatal accidents occur on local roads because less funding is available for safety upgrades.

While many factors

contribute to fatal and serious traffic crashes, driver behavior plays a major role. Unplugging from distractions – especially mobile phones and other devices – will improve safety of all motorists.

The Road Commission is dedicated to providing a road system that is maintained to provide a reasonably safe condition for public travel.

Boose Joins Road Commission

Max Boose has recently been employed by the Road Commission as a Special Services Aide.

Max went to West Ottawa High School, and then earned his Bachelor of Science in Environmental Economics and Policy

degree from Michigan State University.

Locally, Max has gained valuable experience at both the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council and the Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway.

Max is a resident of Fennville and enjoys camping, fishing, hiking, golfing, skiing, exercising, and playing guitar.

Please welcome Max as he joins the Special Services Department of the Road Commission.