



ALLEGAN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

William L. Nelson, Mgr. Director
James S. Rolfe, Vice Chair

Bruce D. Culver, Chair
John Cravens, Commissioner

ISSUE NO. 30

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FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

The state legislature has just approved their 2006 Budget Bill and sent it to the Governor. Part of this approval was HB4082 which shifts an additional 10.5 million of the Michigan Transportation Fund (gas and weight taxes) to the Secretary of State General Fund Budget for FY2005, and 10.9 million for FY2006. This means our revenues for 2005 will be reduced by an estimated \$46,355 within the next two months and another \$46,355 in 2006. This is in addition to the fact that gas sales in the state have been going down due to its high cost, so the gas taxes collected, which is 19 cents per gallon, are decreasing. We are anticipating at least a five percent reduction in revenues in 2005 and 2006. This is combined with the higher fuel cost we must pay also, which we project to be an increase of \$150,000 in 2005.

10TH STREET BRIDGE CLOSED

Due to extreme deterioration, the 10th Street bridge over the Norfolk Southern Railroad was closed September 29, 2005, until further notice. The detour will be on 124th Avenue and 129th Avenue (M-179) west one mile to 12th Street. This bridge was inspected earlier this summer and its weight limit was reduced to eight tons, and some temporary supports were scheduled to be installed this week. As work began, more extreme rusting of the beams was discovered and it became impossible to do temporary repairs. The bridge will be closed until it can be replaced. The structure had been submitted to the State Critical Bridge Program for 2007 replacement. We will now submit for emergency funding to see if funds can be awarded sooner.

This bridge was originally built by the Michigan

State Highway Department when it was part of US-131 in 1939. The estimated cost of replacement is \$900,000.

PRIMARY ROAD CLASSIFICATION CHANGES APPROVED

After a review of the County Road Classification between Primary and Local Roads in 2004, the following changes have been approved by the Michigan Department of Transportation. These Local Roads are now Primary Roads:

Laketown Township

140th Ave. from 64th St. to 60th St.

Ganges Township

62nd St. from 124th Ave. to S Twp Line

Casco Township

62nd St. from N Twp Line to 109th Ave.

Cheshire Township

42nd St. from 104th Ave. to 102nd Ave.

104th Ave. from 42nd St. to 40th St.

Trowbridge Township

26th St. from 108th Ave. to 102nd Ave.

26th St. from N Twp Line to M-89

Allegan Township

118th Ave. from Babylon Rd to 24th St.

24th St. from 118th Ave. to 114th Ave.

114th Ave. from Allegan City Limits to 24th St.

26th St. from 114th Ave. to S Twp Line

Otsego Township

12th St. from M-89 to 102nd Ave.

Hopkins Township

12th St. from 135th Ave. to 129th Ave.

Martin Township

122nd Ave. from 2nd St. to Patterson Rd

These Primary Roads are now Local Roads:

Ganges Township

63rd St. from M-89 to 122nd Ave.

64th St. from 122nd Ave. to S Twp Line

Casco Township

64th St. from N Twp Line to 109th Ave.

Cheshire Township

40th St. from 104th Ave. to 102nd Ave.

Trowbridge Township

28th St. from 108th Ave. to 102nd Ave.

Two requests for Local Roads to be made
Primary Roads were not approved:

Otsego Township

106th Ave. from M-89 to Otsego City
Limits

Valley Township

42nd St. from 112th Ave. to Monroe Rd

The net result of these changes increased our
Primary Roads mileage to 512.38 miles, an
increase of 18.29 miles. Our Local Road Mileage
is now 1278.84 miles.

LOCAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION

These projects were constructed, or are in
progress, this year for future paving, or paved
immediately after construction with township
funding.

1. Allegan Township – 122nd Ave. from 25th St. to
east township line.
2. Watson Township – 122nd Ave. from west
township line to 23rd St.
3. Cheshire Township – Baseline Rd from 36th St.
to 38th St. including paving.
4. Overisel Township – 139th Ave. from 38th St.
to 36th St.
5. Salem Township – 25th St. from 146th Ave. to
Ottogan St.
6. Monterey Township – 32nd St. from 127th Ave.
to 128th Ave.
7. Saugatuck Township – 133rd Ave. from Old
Allegan Rd to 60th St. including paving.

These two projects are being designed for
construction in 2006.

1. Martin Township – 4th St. from 120th Ave. to
122nd Ave.
2. Ganges Township – 119th Ave. from Blue Star
Hwy to 66th St.

We have also received three other Work Orders
for Local Road projects for 2006. If any other
townships are planning any local road
construction projects, they need to submit their
work orders within the next month to assure 2006
construction. Many times we must obtain permits
from the Department of Environmental Quality,
or additional grading permits, and these all take
time, once the design is completed.

BRIDGE PROJECTS

These two Local Bridge Replacement
projects are being funded with 80% Federal, 15%
State, and 5% Road Commission, plus the
engineering costs.

112th Ave. over Minor Creek is between 20th St.
and 22nd St. on the border of Otsego and Watson
Townships, and has been awarded to Milbocker
& Sons at their bid price of \$357,384, and work
should begin the last week of October.

23rd St. over Red Run Drain is between 142nd
Ave. and 144th Ave. in Dorr Township with an
estimated cost of \$434,845 and should be bid in
the spring.

WINTER SEASON

Winter is not far away and motorists are
reminded to be alert, slow down, and stay back
from the vehicle in front of you. Especially if it
is a snowplow, as they throw a lot of snow in the
air and they frequently have to stop and back up.
NEVER pull up tight behind them as they cannot
see you there.

