



ALLEGAN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

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QUARTERLY NO. 24

JULY 11, 2002

VOTE AUGUST 6TH PRIMARY ROAD RESURFACING

FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

On August 6th ballot, the residents of Allegan County will be asked to vote on the Primary Road Resurfacing Millage. The voters last approved this one mill for five year period 1997 through 2002 and this request is to extend that millage for an additional five years. Prior to the last approval in 1996 this millage has existed for fifteen years, and in the past 19 years we have resurfaced 363.70 miles of County Primary Roads throughout the county. There are 18.54 miles scheduled to be resurfaced in 2002. This will bring the total to 382.24 miles since the beginning of this voter approved millage.

The ballot language also requests that the full one mill be restored to offset the reduction which has occurred due to the Headlee rollback to maximize the number of roads which can be improved.

The portion of this one mill which is collected within the cities and villages within the county is returned directly to them to be used on their respective road systems. The cities and villages may use these funds for any road or street related activity, either maintenance or reconstruction.

The need for the continuation is very evident if you consider that only 382 miles of the 494 miles of county Primary Roads have been resurfaced in the past 20 years. I would not like to imagine what these roads would look like today if this had not taken place. Within the last five years, we began to

resurface the roads for the second time, as road maintenance is never ending, demonstrating the continued need for this millage.

CITY AND VILLAGE MILLAGE PORTION

Cities and villages are also able to do many things with these funds. Here is a summary of their recent receipts for the year of 2001:

Allegan City	\$ 97,920
Fennville City	19,319
Holland City	356,133
Otsego City	100,564
Plainwell City	74,713
Saugatuck City	71,640
South Haven City	2,275
Wayland City	64,221
Douglas Village	66,549
Hopkins Village	7,437
Martin Village	7,248

WHICH ROAD WILL BE RESURFACED?

The money which is returned to the County Road Commission is evenly distributed for use throughout the county. The county is divided into six areas, consisting of four townships each. Each of these areas is allocated one sixth of the money to be spent on resurfacing the primary roads within their border. Every year a meeting is held between the Road Commission, County Commissioners, and the area township officials to decide which roads to resurface. Consensus has always been reached on which roads to do, and all money collected is used to

pay contractors to perform this resurfacing.
The Road Commission does not use this
money for any other maintenance activity.

MILLAGE PROPOSITION
ROAD RESURFACING AND RECONSTRUCTION

(This proposal will permit the County to continue its 1.0 mill levy for County Primary Road Resurfacing, and City/Village Road Improvement, which expires in 2001. This proposal would renew the 0.9542 mill not reduced by the Headlee Amendment millage rollback, and it would increase that millage by 0.0459 to restore it to its original 1.0 mill.)

Shall the currently authorized increase in millage rate limitation of imposed on all taxable property within the County of Allegan, Michigan, which last resulted in the levy of 0.9542 mills (0.9542 of each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for road resurfacing and restoration, be renewed, and shall said millage be increased by 0.0459 mills (0.0459 of each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) to offset the millage reduction from one mill as required by law, resulting in a total levy of one mill (\$1.00 of each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), for a period of 5 years, 2002 through 2006, inclusive, for purposes of providing a fund for the asphalt resurfacing of primary roads included in the Allegan County Road System and for reconstruction, resurfacing and maintenance of major and local streets within the incorporated limits of villages and cities within Allegan County (the renewal and the increase are estimated to provide total revenue of \$3,019,147.38 in the first year of the levy)?

TRAFFIC CRASH COSTS

Safe Driving and Maintaining good roads is a wise investment. A study by the University of Michigan shows that traffic crashes cost Michiganders twice as much as did violent crimes in 1993. The University of Michigan research included costs for victims' medical treatment, future earning potential and lost property.

Researchers found that traffic crashes cost more than \$12 billion in hospital bills, lost wages and property damage. Violent crimes, including murder, rape and assault, cost a little more than \$5 billion.

This study suggests that we need to put as much attention tackling the problem of reducing traffic crashes as reducing violent crimes. Monies spent for road improvements, traffic law enforcement and safety education is an efficient use of taxes.