



Washtenaw County Road Commission

Roads in Review

Spring/Summer 2017

wcroads.org



Playing Catch Up: Road Funding in 2017

Washtenaw County will receive a needed increase in road funding in 2017. Between the state's new road funding package and the recently approved four-year county road millage, the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) expects to receive ~\$7 million in additional revenue in 2017.

While the new revenue is welcomed, the amount falls short of WCRC's true funding needs if we want to bring our road network into good condition.

Prior to the passage of a new road funding package in 2015, nearly two decades had passed with no increase or adjustment to state funding levels. During these years, WCRC's revenue failed to keep pace with the rate of inflation and the rising cost of materials. WCRC was forced to cut back services and many roads fell into a state of disrepair.

New state-level funding brings a modest revenue increase, but an unknown future

Effective January 1, 2017:

- 20% increase in vehicle registration fees
- 26.3¢ per gallon of gas (+ 7.3¢)
- 26.3¢ per gallon of diesel (+ 11.3¢)

In November 2015, state lawmakers approved a road funding package which is expected to add \$1.2 billion annually into Michigan's road system over the next six years.

Half of the funding outlined in the package (\$600 million) will come from increases in fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees. The second half is slated to come from shifts in the state's general fund which have yet to be determined.

The revenue generated by the road funding package will go into the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF). The MTF is WCRC's primary source of revenue.

MTF funds are distributed to municipalities, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and county-level road agencies based on a formula which is calculated based on miles of public roads and population size. WCRC's share of MTF works out to 1% of the total MTF revenue generated state-wide in a year. In 2017, increases to the MTF are expected to generate \$400 million in new revenue and WCRC expects to receive \$4 million.

While \$4 million may sound like a large figure, the average cost to pulverize or mill and repave a road in poor condition costs approximately \$200,000 per mile. With 197 miles of primary roads rated in poor condition, it would cost nearly \$40 million to bring these roads into good condition. This figure does not include the needs on WCRC's 1,060 miles of local roads, nor does it include the cost of repairing or replacing the county's deteriorating bridges and culverts.

Washtenaw County's four-year road & non-motorized path millage adds an extra boost

On Nov. 8, 2016, Washtenaw County voters approved a four-year road and non-motorized path millage by 71%. The millage will generate approximately \$7.4 million annually. WCRC expects approximately \$3.3 million each year. To learn more about this year's millage projects, visit wcroads.org/millage.

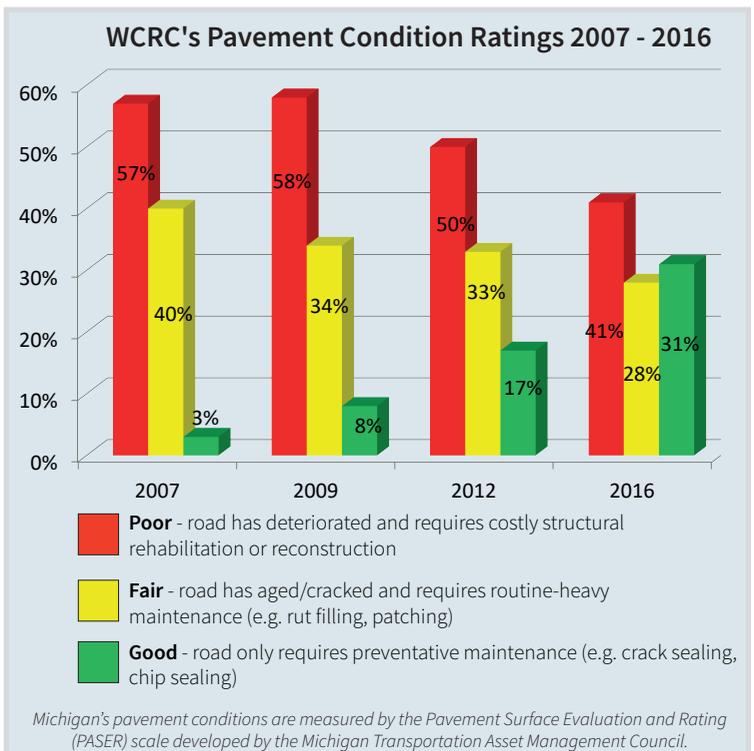
In 2017, WCRC's millage projects will rebuild or resurface 10 miles of roadway in "poor" condition. The millage will also fund 28 miles of chip sealing this summer. Chip sealing is a cost-effective preventative maintenance treatment that extends the service life of a road in "good" condition.

Primary road conditions are steadily improving

WCRC has steadily made progress improving the county's primary road system with available resources, but the work is far from over.

The charts below show the improvement in pavement conditions between 2007 and 2016. Between 2012 and 2016, WCRC's primary road system saw a 14% increase in the number of good roads and an 9% decrease in poor roads.

As we enter the 2017 construction season, 41% of our roads remain in poor condition. Again, these figures only measure primary roads, not the conditions on our 1,060 mile local road network.



Construction Season Preview

2017 will be another busy construction season on Washtenaw County roads. We have included profiles of some of WCRC's larger projects for the season. Projects that are funded by the four-year road and non-motorized path millage are indicated with "Paid for by the Residents of Washtenaw County" signage.



Scio Church & Wagner

LODI & SCIO TOWNSHIP

To alleviate peak-period congestion, this intersection will be converted into a single-lane roundabout. Construction will start in June and last through August. The intersection will be closed to all traffic during construction.



East Shore Drive

NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP

East Shore Dr between Main St and Seven Mile Rd will be pulverized and resurfaced. During construction, the segment will be closed to through-traffic. A second segment, between Seven Mile Rd to the county line, will be milled and resurfaced. This segment will remain open with lane restrictions.



Willis Road

YORK TOWNSHIP

Willis Rd will be pulverized and resurfaced between Warner Rd and Platt Rd. The road will be closed to through-traffic during the project. The millage also funds improvements on three additional segments of Willis: Whittaker to Tuttle Hill (2018), Tuttle Hill to Bunton (2019), and Bunton to Rawsonville (2020).



Shield Road & Bridge

SCIO TOWNSHIP

Shield Rd Bridge, located between Parker Rd and Baker Rd, will be replaced and the road segment pulverized and resurfaced. The bridge replacement project will last from June through October. The road will be closed to all traffic during construction.



Clark Road

ANN ARBOR/PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP

Clark Road will be milled and resurfaced between Hogback Rd and Golfside Rd. The road will remain open to traffic during construction, but lane restrictions and delays are possible.



Goss & Woodbridge

ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP

Goss Rd and Woodbridge Dr, located outside the Toyota campus, will be milled and resurfaced. The road will remain open during construction, but delays are likely. The project was funded with a state economic development grant and contributions from surrounding businesses.



MacArthur Boulevard

SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP

MacArthur Blvd will be pulverized and resurfaced between Harris Rd and Wiard Rd. This project will include the addition of bicycle lanes. The road will be closed to through-traffic during the project.



Parker Road

LIMA/SCIO TOWNSHIP

Parker Rd will be pulverized and resurfaced between Jerusalem Rd and Jackson Rd. The road will be closed to through-traffic during the project.



Stony Creek Road

YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP

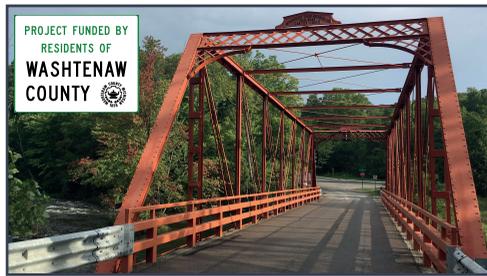
Stony Creek Rd will be milled and resurfaced between Textile Rd and Bemis Rd. The road will remain open during construction, but lane restrictions and delays are likely.



Ridge Road Bridge

YORK TOWNSHIP

Ridge Rd Bridge, located between Hack Rd and Arkona Rd, will be replaced. The project is expected to start in July and last through October. The road will be closed to all traffic during construction.



East Delhi Bridge

SCIO TOWNSHIP

The four-year millage will fund preventative maintenance work on historic bridges, including East Delhi Bridge over the Huron River (2017) and Maple/Foster (2018). During preventative maintenance, bridges will remain open, but delays are likely.



Geddes Rd Culvert

SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP

The Geddes Road culvert, located between Leforge Rd and Prospect Rd, will be replaced. Construction is expected to last from July through August. The road will be closed to traffic during construction.

Mill & Resurfacing Projects

Austin Rd between Schneider & Ernst

Carpenter Rd between Judd & Textile

Clark Rd between Hogback & Golfside

Cross St between Harris & the City of Ypsilanti

Dexter-Ann Arbor between Zeeb and City of Dexter

Eight Mile Rd between Tower & Currie

Goodrich/Arkona Rd between Hack & Jordan

Harris Rd between Grove & Ecorse

Huron River Dr between Mast & Brass Creek

N. Territorial Rd between Mast & Donovan

Old U.S. 12 / Fletcher Rd

Rawsonville Rd between Talladay & Joy

Six Mile Rd between Angle & Currie

2017 Chip Seal Program

WCRC crews will chip seal approximately 75 miles of roadway this summer. Chip sealing is a relatively low-cost surface treatment that prevents water from seeping into a road. A chip seal helps prevent potholes and protects a road's surface from the damaging effects of weather, sun, and traffic. A chipseal can help extend the life of a road by 3-7 years.

Remember to observe signage and drive 35 mph on recently chip sealed roads! This will help the road properly settle and keep loose stones from kicking up.



Stay informed this construction season!

WCRC's website has been updated to better serve residents

The Washtenaw County Road Commission will launch a new, redesigned website in March. The website (wcroads.org) will work on mobile devices and includes the following features to help you stay informed regarding summer road work:

- View an interactive map of projects and filter to view upcoming and completed projects: wcroads.org/road-work-construction/projects/
- Sign up via email to receive our weekly road construction schedule, distributed every Thursday morning. The schedule includes road and bridge closures for the following week wcroads.org/weekly-road-work-update/.
- Major projects will have their own webpage where you can view project details, detour maps, FAQs, and sign-up via email for project updates. To view a project's page, visit wcroads.org/road-work-construction/projects/ and click on the project to view it's individual page.

WCRC Completes Bridge & Culvert Inspections

The Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) has recently completed inspections of the county's bridges and culverts between 8 and 20 feet in span. These routine inspections examined degradation, cracks, corrosion, and other factors related to structural integrity. When a structure was deemed deficient, weight restrictions were imposed. When a structure was qualified as failing, WCRC closed the structure.

The bridge and culvert inspections have impacted residents across the county, but have been necessary to ensure a safe road system for the public. Over 400 structures were inspected between 2015 and 2016. In total, 17 structures were closed, 39 had weight restrictions imposed and nine have been repaired or replaced.

Timing Replacements

When a structure closes, residents want to know when the road will reopen. This can be a difficult question to answer and depends on the scope of the project and the availability of funding. Until funding and permits are secured, WCRC cannot schedule a replacement and must inform residents that the structure is closed until further notice.

The process to design, obtain funding, and secure permits for a new structure can take anywhere from 6 to 12 months. The steps to replace a structure include:

1. Design the new structure
2. Obtain funding
3. Secure a permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality & the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office
4. Order materials, fabricate and bid out construction work
5. Construction - small culverts can be replaced in a day, bridges can take between 2-5 months

Funding Repairs

WCRC will fund replacements and repairs of structures that are located on the primary road system. However, Michigan law requires that a "local source" match WCRC's contribution to a project on a local road; most bridge and culvert replacements require a 50% match. If a local match cannot be secured, the road will remain closed.

The majority of bridges and culverts that have been closed or restricted during recent inspections are on local roads. WCRC has been working with townships to identify and secure the funding necessary to repair or replace structures. There are currently 14 culvert replacement projects scheduled for the 2017 construction season.



Top: Failed Weber Rd culvert. Bottom: Failed Moon Rd Culvert

2015 Inspections:

inspected: 240
closed: 7
restricted: 12
repaired: 5

2016 Inspections:

inspected: 169
closed: 10
restricted: 27
repaired: 4

2017's Culvert Replacements

Bemis Rd *	Henzie Rd
Bethel Church Rd	Pleasant Lake Rd
Bunton Rd *	Saline Waterworks Rd *
Cherry Hill Rd	Scio Church Rd
Chubb Rd	Warren Rd (2x)
Currie Rd (2x)	Weber Rd
Geddes Rd	

* Project led by Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner

Spot a Pothole? Report it online!

WCRC Fix It allows you to report non-emergencies easily

With a few simple clicks, you can report non-emergency road issues directly to the Washtenaw County Road Commission. To report a road issue, visit wcroads.org/report or download the "WCRC Fix It" app on iPhone and Android.

When you report a road defect, your request will automatically route to the appropriate district foreman and you will receive e-mail notifications as we investigate and resolve the problem.

The WCRC Fix It platform is a tool for reporting non-emergency road issues. If you are reporting an emergency or potentially hazardous road issue, please call our office immediately at (734) 761-1500. WCRC will check and respond to service requests submitted via WCRC Fix It during business hours.



To report an issue, download the WCRC Fix It app in the iTunes or Apple Play store or visit wcroads.org/report