



Harris Road Improvement Project

Project Overview

During this project the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) and its partners will:

- Reconstruct Harris Road between Michigan Avenue (US-12) and Holmes Road.
- Install “complete street” infrastructure including bike lanes, concrete curb, driveway approaches, sidewalk, and street lights.
- Install new green infrastructure, including rain gardens, to help with drainage.
- Install new utility infrastructure, including water main and storm sewer.

Project Timeline

Preliminary work has already started. A contractor for DTE Gas is currently installing new gas main. In addition, the road construction contractor has completed the required tree removal.

Harris Road is scheduled to be closed starting Monday, March 26 and will remain closed until the project is completed by the end of July, weather dependent.

Contact Information

- Questions concerning the project should be directed to:
 - Matt MacDonell – Assistant Director of Engineering, phone: (734) 327-6688, email: macdonellm@wcroads.org
- Project webpage: <http://www.wcroads.org/wcrc-project/harris-road-2/>
- Sign-up for project updates online: <http://www.wcroads.org/road-work-construction/projects/project-updates/>

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does the project include a roundabout?

A: No. The initial design concept included a roundabout at the intersection of Harris Road and Cross Street. After listening to concerns from the community and reviewing the plans, the roundabout was removed from the project.

The intersection will be reconstructed as it exists today, a T intersection with stop control on Cross Street. Sidewalk, sidewalk ramps and pedestrian crossings will also be constructed at the intersection as part of the project.



Q: What is the estimated cost of construction for the road improvement project?

A: \$1.58 million

Q: How is this project funded?

A: WCRC is using federal funds from the Surface Transportation Program – Urban (STU) to fund the road project along with matching funds from the Four-Year County Road Millage passed by Washtenaw County voters in 2016.

The Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) is funding the water main improvements.

Q: When will construction begin and when will it be completed?

A: Preliminary work has already started. A contractor for DTE Gas is currently installing new gas main. The road construction contractor has also completed the tree removal.

The road is scheduled to be closed on Monday, March 26 and will remain closed until the project is completed by the end of July, weather dependent.

Q: Will Harris Road be open to through-traffic during construction?

A: No, only property owners and residents, who live or own property within the project limits, will be permitted to drive in the construction work zone.

All others must follow the posted detour routes listed below:

- Harris Rd traffic use Burbank Rd to Cross St to Prospect Rd to Holmes Rd
- WB Forest Rd traffic use NB Ford Blvd to WB Holmes Rd to SB Prospect Rd
- EB Forest Rd traffic use NB Prospect to EB Holmes to SB Ford Blvd
- EB Cross St traffic use Burbank Rd to Michigan Ave

Q: Will I have access to my property during construction?

A: Access will be maintained for all property owners and residents, who live or own property, within the project limits (Harris Road from Michigan Avenue [U.S.-12] to Holmes Road).

Q: Will my lawn be restored once construction is completed?

A: Yes, the contractor is responsible for growing grass wherever the ground has been disturbed as part of the project.



Q: What is green infrastructure and why is it being installed on this project?

A: Green infrastructure, such as rain gardens, use vegetation, soil, and other elements to help manage storm water runoff.

Storm water is created when rain falls on roads, driveways and other paved surfaces that do not allow water to soak into the ground. Storm water can contain pollutants which can “runoff” into traditional storm sewers and local waterbodies.

Green infrastructure is a cost-effective way to reduce and treat storm water at its source by letting plants and soil absorb and filter the runoff. WCRC partnered with the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission to include green infrastructure in this project as a way to help reduce flooding and pollution concerns in this community.

Examples of rain gardens can be seen on the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner’s website: <http://bit.ly/raingardenexample>

Once the project has been completed, the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission will maintain the rain gardens along Harris Road.

Q: What will happen with mailboxes and mail delivery?

A: Mail service will continue during construction. However, mailbox locations will likely be temporarily relocated to outer ends of the project limits during construction. The U.S. Postal Service typically does not deliver mail inside active construction work zones.

At the conclusion of construction, mailboxes will be relocated as close to their current locations as possible.

Q: Will accommodations be provided for school bus pickup during construction?

A: WCRC staff has contacted the school district to discuss details concerning student pickup and drop off within the project limits while school is in session.

Q: How will trash pickup be affected?

A: The contractor will coordinate garbage/recycling services throughout construction.