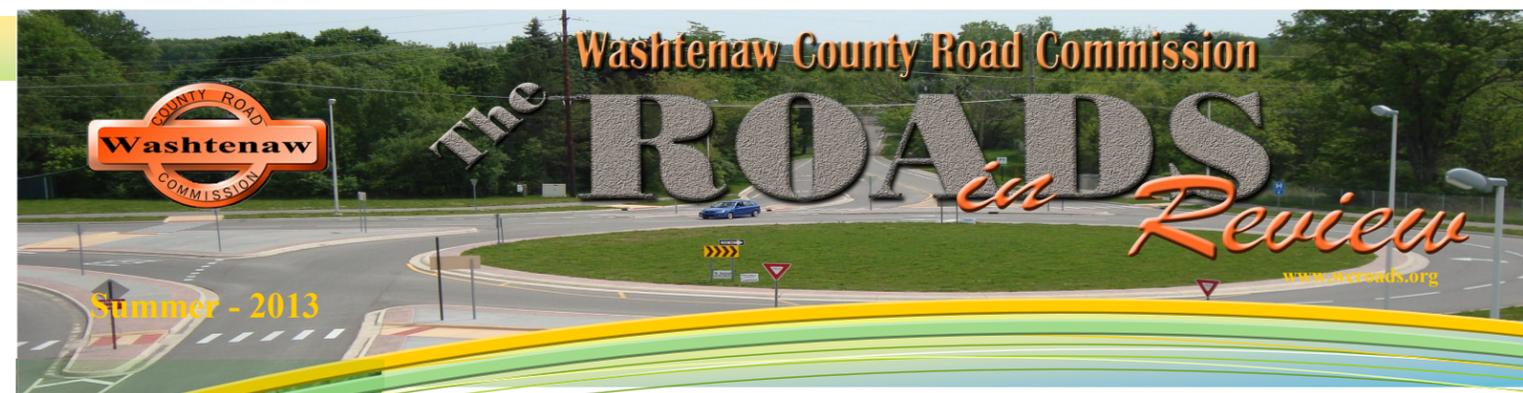




Washtenaw County Road Commission  
 555 N. Zeeb Road  
 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103



## TOWNSHIPS STEP UP WITH ROAD FUNDING DOLLARS!

The Washtenaw County Road Commission would like to recognize all the Local Elected Officials who have stepped up to fund a record amount of road work this year in Washtenaw County. For the 2013 construction season, nearly every township has increased their contributions for road improvements resulting in \$6.4M of local dollars towards road improvement projects.

### Enbridge Pipeline

The Road Commission also reached an agreement with the Enbridge Pipeline Company, which allowed them use of some gravel roads during spring time weight restrictions to continue and complete their pipeline project in Washtenaw County as quickly as possible.

Upon completion of the pipeline project, Enbridge Pipeline contributed over \$600k in gravel road improvements in the western portion of the County.

The net result of significant contributions from our Townships and Enbridge Pipeline is shown on the fold out map on pages 4 & 5 of this newsletter. Numerous roads are now getting some much needed attention. The Road Commission Board and staff are very appreciative of the contributions made this construction season to improve miles of local and primary roads in Washtenaw County. The Road Commission is also committed to working with our elected officials in Lansing to increase funding to help improve our deteriorating primary roads and bridges.



### This Issue

- Townships Step Up with Road Funding Dollars ..... P 1
- Smart Gas Tax ..... P 2
- 2013 Preventative Maintenance Program..... P 2
- 2013 Chip Seal Program..... P 3
- Special Assessment Districts .. P 3
- 2013 Road & Bridge Map.... P 4 & 5
- 2013 WCRC Major Roadwork Projects ..... P 6 & 7
- Legislative & Local Updates .... P 8

## As The Road Slowly Turns

As Lansing continues to wait for a compromise on the Medicaid expansion issue, the Governor and the four leaders of their respective chambers (Legislative Quadrant) continue a slow discussion on how best to increase funding for transportation. Senate Minority Leader Whitmer (D-Ingham) said, “We are talking” . . . “Obviously, it’s only just broad strokes, but at least some dialogue’s happening.”

Much of the talk revolves around some type of November sales tax increase ballot proposal to backfill any loss of revenue to the General Fund, should the state revert to a wholesale fuel tax, an increase in registration fees and eliminate the sales tax on fuel. The ballot proposal would raise the sales tax by one percentage point to recoup any revenue loss to revenue sharing and schools.

There has also been some discussion about increasing the sales tax by two percent in order to ensure local government and schools remain whole and recoup past revenue shortages. That option lacks major support, but is being discussed.

To meet the deadline for the November ballot, the Legislature would have to move quickly the first week of September – when the Senate potentially will be trying to wrap up the Medicaid legislation – and pass a transportation plan that week. Needless to say, that is asking a lot.

Thanks again to all the  
 Elected Township Officials!!

# “SMART GAS TAX”



Lawmakers are often criticized for not taking a long-term perspective on important issues. But when it comes to the gas tax, elected officials in four states this year (Maryland, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Virginia), as well as the District of Columbia, have done just that.

Collecting a “fixed-rate” gas tax (i.e. one that doesn’t change from year-to-year) leaves state transportation departments totally unprepared to deal with rising infrastructure construction costs and the consequence of growing vehicle fuel-efficiency cutting into gas sales. At the start of the year, only fourteen states handled this reality by levying gas taxes that gradually grow over time alongside either gas prices or the general inflation rate in the economy. That number has now risen to 17, with Maryland, Virginia, and now Massachusetts joining that group. There are currently 17 states that have “Smarter” Gas Taxes, but at this point, Michigan is not one of these states. Eight states have increased their Gas Tax on July 1 of this year, five were automatic increases. Michigan continues to fall further behind on road funding, between gas taxes and toll road revenues as shown on the table below.

SURROUNDING STATES GAS TAXES & TOLL ROAD REVENUES	
OHIO	28 cents/gal. + Toll Road Revenue \$300M
PENNSYLVANIA	32 cents/gal. + Toll Road Revenue \$500M
WISCONSIN	30 cents/gal.
ILLINOIS	19 cents/gal. + Toll Road Revenue \$700M

## 2013 PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

	PRIMARY ROADS		LOCAL ROADS
	Federal Aid	Local Funding	Local Funding
Crack Sealing		7.80 miles	25.55 miles
Sealcoat		47.85 miles	2.75 miles
HMA Resurfacing	20.98 miles	5.82 miles	12.47 miles
Limestone		5.73 miles	13.74 miles
Gravel		1.08 miles	11.86 miles
Ditching		40,000 lineal feet	90,000 lineal feet
Culverts		1,200 lineal feet	1,600 lineal feet

# 2013 WCRC MAJOR ROADWORK PROJECTS

**Geddes Road at Ridge Road roundabout construction project** in Superior Township consists of the construction of a modern roundabout and the installation of a new box culvert over the Fowler Drain. This \$1,500,000 dollar project is being paid for by the Road Commission and Heritage Academy Charter School.



Geddes & Ridge Road Roundabout Project looking east on Geddes Road from Ridge Road (7/30/13).



Geddes & Ridge Road Roundabout Project looking north on Ridge Road at Fowler Creek Crossing as Contractor installs storm sewer.



Border to Border Trail, Hudson Mills to Village of Dexter boardwalk

**Border to Border Non-motorized Path** in Dexter Township and the Village of Dexter consists of constructing a 3-mile paved path and boardwalk along the Huron River in the Hudson Mills Metropark. Once completed this will connect into existing trails and provide over 6 miles of path system along the scenic Huron River. This \$2.0 million project is being funded with a Federal Enhancement grant, State MDNR trust funds, in addition to Washtenaw County Parks, Huron-Clinton Metroparks and Road Commission funds.



Border to Border Trail trail grading work.



Border to Border, Hudson Mills to Dexter grading and gravel base placement (7/30/13).



Border to Border, boardwalk construction (7/30/13).

## 2013 WCRC MAJOR ROADWORK PROJECTS

The **Ford Boulevard Bridge** project over MDOT railroad tracks in Ypsilanti Township consists of the removal and replacement of the existing multi-span bridge, which was first built in the 1940's in conjunction with the bomber plant facility. This \$3.0 million dollar project is being **paid for through Federal, State and Road Commission funds, and is scheduled to be reopened later this summer.**



Ford Boulevard Bridge, looking south during removals.



Ford Boulevard Bridge Replacement Contractor completed southern pier, starting work on MSE wall construction.



Ford Boulevard Bridge Replacement south pier & MSE wall construction (7/30/13)



Ford Boulevard Bridge, south pier & MSE wall construction (7/30/13).

The **State Road at Ellsworth Road** joint project with the City of Ann Arbor and Charter Township of Pittsfield Township consists of watermain replacements and construction of a modern roundabout. This \$2,300,000 project is well under way and scheduled to be completed later this summer. The project is jointly **paid for by the Road Commission, City of Ann Arbor, Pittsfield Township and the Costco Development.**



State Road/Ellsworth Road Roundabout Finishing storm sewer, starting on grading.



State Road at Ellsworth Road looking south on State Road (7/30/13).



## 2013 CHIP SEAL PROGRAM

The 2013 Chip Seal program will be the largest the Road Commission has done in the last 10+ years thanks in part to Enbridge Pipeline Company which signed an agreement in March granting them permission to use specific roads during springtime weight restrictions and in return they agreed to fund the chip seal of 24 miles of these roads. Also, the Road Commission Board approved \$500,000 to a chip seal and crack seal program at their first meeting in May, 2013 which resulted in an additional 30+ miles of chip seal and crack sealing of our primary roads.

The chip seal and crack sealing of our roads is a very cost efficient way of extending the pavement life of our system. Ideally we should be chip sealing and crack sealing nearly 100 miles of road system every year at an annual cost of \$2.0 M, which with additional funding from Lansing would be one the Road Commission's first priorities!!



## SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS

The number Special Assessment Districts (SAD's) for road improvements continue to increase each year, as property owners in subdivisions are educated on how very little of their tax dollars are collected for local subdivision roads (\$1,500/yr/mile rural and \$3,000/yr/mile urban). The Road Commission encourages initial informational meetings with property owners so they can make an informed decision if they are willing to pay for a Special Assessment to improve the subdivision roads within their community. This year, Road Commission staff has met with property owners in Scio, Dexter, Lodi and Northfield townships about potential SAD's.

The Road Commission and Scio Township will be partnering on four SAD's for 2013. In addition, Scio Township is considering a Township wide Special Assessment District to fund road improvements on their local collector gravel roads and to fund the preventive maintenance of the subdivisions that were already reconstructed through a SAD process. As we have experienced, most citizens of Washtenaw County, and probably every other County in Michigan, do not have a thorough understanding of how roads are funded and how very little money is available to maintain their subdivision roads. The SAD process allows the property owner to decide if they are willing to pay for road improvements in their neighborhood.

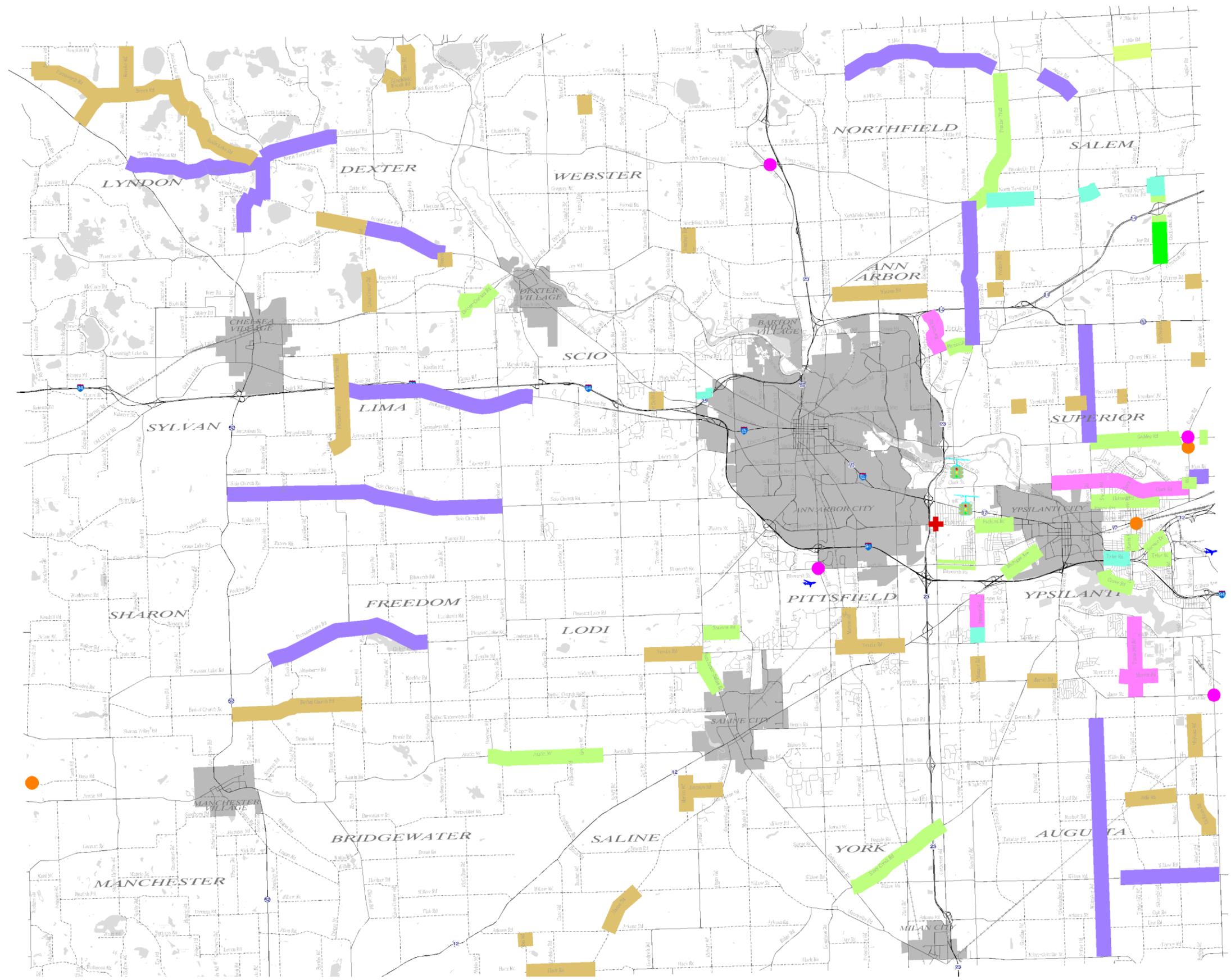
# Washtenaw County Road Commission 2013 Road & Bridge Improvement Projects



Not to Scale

## Legend - Proposed Projects

- Overlay
- Mill/Overlay
- Pulverize/Overlay
- Chipseal
- Crackseal
- Longitudinal Joint Repair
- Safety Project
- Limestone/Gravel
- Intersection Project
- Bridge/Culvert Replacement
- Signal Improvement



Date Prepared: rev. 07/22/2013  
Prepared By: Washtenaw Co. Rd. Comm.