

Keeping Our Promises

Four-Year Road and Non-Motorized Millage 2020 Year-End Report



Grass Lake Road in Sharon Township was regaveled in 2020 thanks to millage dollars.



Four Years of Progress

Four years ago, the voters of Washtenaw County approved its first County-Wide Roads and Non-Motorized Millage.

This historic 0.5 mill property tax provided much needed funding to the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC), the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC) and the seven cities and villages within the county to improve roads and build non-motorized facilities.

Overall, thanks to this millage, Washtenaw County's road system is improving and the county's non-motorized system is stronger than ever.

In summary:

21 miles of the worst roads across the county were pulverized and resurfaced or reconstructed into good condition.

WCRC milled and resurfaced **20 miles** of road across the county to help extend the life of pavement in fair condition.

WCRC preserved **100 miles** of roads in good or fair condition through its Seal Coat Program. This treatment helps extend the life of good pavement.

28 miles of unpaved roads across the county were regaveled thanks to the millage.

The millage helped fund **11 B2B projects** throughout the county, helping the Border-to-Border (B2B) trail system to reach its first border (with Wayne County) in 2020.

Follow the Money

This 0.5 mill property tax was levied in winter tax bills in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. Money collected funded road and non-motorized projects in the construction season that immediately followed.

- The Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) received a total of approximately \$13.2 million for road work in the county's 20 townships.
- Cities and villages collectively received a total of approximately \$10 million. Allocations were based on the amount raised within a municipality's borders. They invested in road and non-motorized improvements selected by that community.
- The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC) received a total of approximately \$6 million to support the expansion of the county's non-motorized path network.



The City of Ann Arbor improved Boardwalk Drive with county millage dollars in 2020.

Something Good from 2020

2020 was quite the year. Despite all the challenges facing the world, the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) successfully finished the final year of millage projects. This included 22 road projects in 15 townships across the county. In total, 40 miles of county road improvements were made in 2020 using money generated by the millage.

In addition to the road work completed by WCRC, the City of Ann Arbor completed two major road projects and one large non-motorized improvement. The other cities and villages within Washtenaw County used millage dollars for preventative maintenance and non-motorized improvements.



The last section of Willis Road in Augusta Township was pulverized and resurfaced in 2020 with millage funds.



8 Mile Road in Salem Township was in failing condition until it was pulverized and resurfaced in 2020 with millage funds.

Building Connections in a Tough Year



In 2020, WCPARC used millage, grant and private funds to construct another section of the B2B along M-52 in Lyndon Township.

As the pandemic drove many people outdoors, including a record number to the county's Border-to-Border (B2B) trail system, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC) had a banner construction year on the B2B. This progress was made possible with funding from the millage, federal/state grants and private donations.

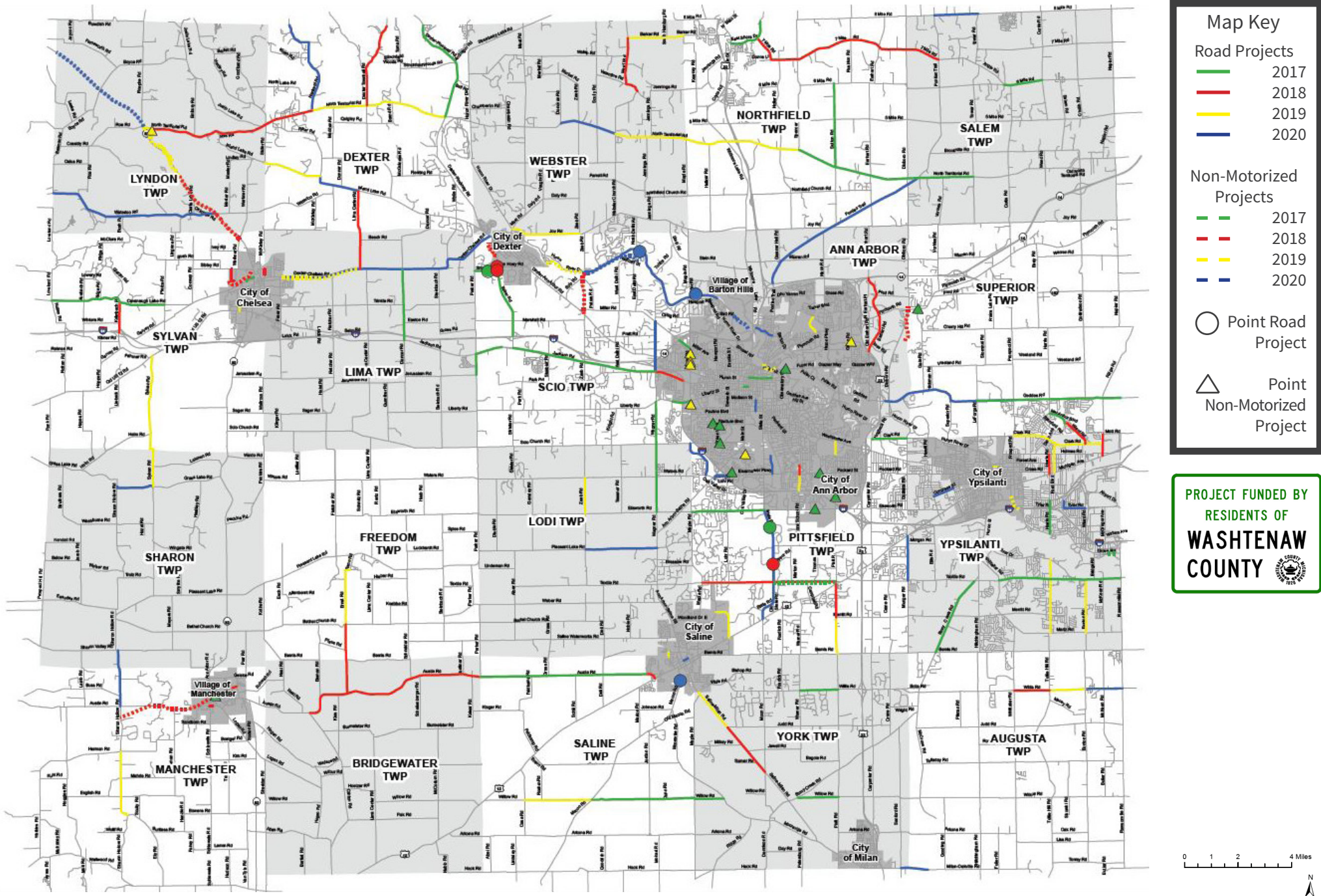


In 2020, WCPARC and its partners built five miles of new trail on six B2B trail segments located in Lyndon, Scio and Ypsilanti Townships and the City of Ypsilanti. In addition, they constructed a new trailhead and tunnel under M-52 in Lyndon Township and two new bridges over the Huron River in Scio Township.

WCPARC also used millage revenue to fund four Connecting Communities Grant Program Projects in Pittsfield Township, Superior Township, the City of Ypsilanti and the City of Chelsea. This program provides supplemental funding to assist municipalities with the development of locally important non-motorized projects.

Completed Projects

When the millage was approved by voters in 2016, they approved a very specific project plan. Thanks to the efforts made by the participating agencies, every promised project has been completed and a few were even added when the budget allowed. Visit wccroads.org to learn more about the specific work that was completed.



But Wait, There's More

While the 2017 - 2020 Roads and Non-Motorized Millage funded many improvements on Washtenaw County's road system and non-motorized networks, there is still much more work to do. Thankfully, voters recognized this continued need and voted in August 2020 to renew the millage for another four years.

The nine participating agencies have created another project plan for 2021 - 2024. The first projects will begin in the spring of 2021.

View the project plan and much more at bit.ly/washtenawroadsandpathsmillage



WCRC will use millage funds in 2021 to help pave Zeeb Road in Lodi Township between Pleasant Lake Road and Ellsworth Road.

Contact Us

Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC)

Learn more about upcoming and completed road work by visiting wcroads.org. Subscribe to receive road work alerts, newsletters and the weekly road work schedule via email.

Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC)

Learn more about the B2B and connecting communities program by visiting washtenaw.org/parks.



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