



2023 Annual Report to the Community

WCRC Board

2023 has been a year of change at the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC), from new faces to boosting our Local Road matching program and honoring the promises of the roads and trails millage.

WCRC welcomed Commissioner Jeff Smrz in April. Commissioner Smrz is serving the remainder of the six-year term previously held by the late Commissioner Doug Fuller. Last summer, Matthew F. MacDonell was appointed as the next Managing Director. Matt succeeds Sheryl Soderholm Siddall, who is retiring in December.

This year, WCRC covered the cost of dust control for our township partners, giving them more decision-making power and flexibility about investments in their local roads. During the construction season, we improved and preserved nearly 60 miles of roads across Washtenaw County. Also, our employees battled a historic winter storm last February with ice, wind, downed trees and massive power outages. Crews worked around the clock to provide safe and passable roads for emergency services and the traveling public. As first responders, WCRC is at-the-ready for whatever mother nature has in store for 2024!

Finally, the current Four-Year County Roads and Non-Motorized millage is ending in 2024. We have provided a year-end report of how WCRC is keeping the promise that was made to the voters when they overwhelmingly approved the 2021-2024 roads and non-motorized millage. First approved in 2016 and again in 2020, this modest millage has steadily improved the roads and non-motorized trails county-wide. Importantly, this millage returns the millage dollars to the communities where it came from!

I'm proud to be a part of the WCRC board and salute the dedicated team that works tirelessly to keep our roads safe for us all. I hope you find the following report a helpful overview of who we are and the services we provided to our community in 2023!

Sincerely,

Barbara Ryan Fuller



Barbara Ryan Fuller, chair



Rodrick K. Green, vice chair



Gloria Llamas, member



Jo Ann McCollum, member



Jeffrey Smrz, member

WCRC's Stats

1,650 miles

WCRC is responsible for 1,650 centerline miles of certified public roads throughout the county.

743 miles

743 miles of these roads are unpaved.

598 miles

In addition, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) contracts WCRC to maintain 598 lane miles of state highways within the county.

125 bridges

There are 125 bridges located on county roads under WCRC's jurisdiction.

30,000 signs

WCRC maintains more than 30,000 road signs located across the county.

170 signals

WCRC owns 105 stop-and-go traffic signals and maintains 65 additional stop-and-go traffic signals on behalf of MDOT.

136 employees

WCRC's dedicated employees work year-round, in every weather condition, to provide the best road system possible for the people of Washtenaw County. Employees and maintenance yards are strategically positioned across the county to provide quick response in support of the county's first responders and the traveling public.

Financial Report

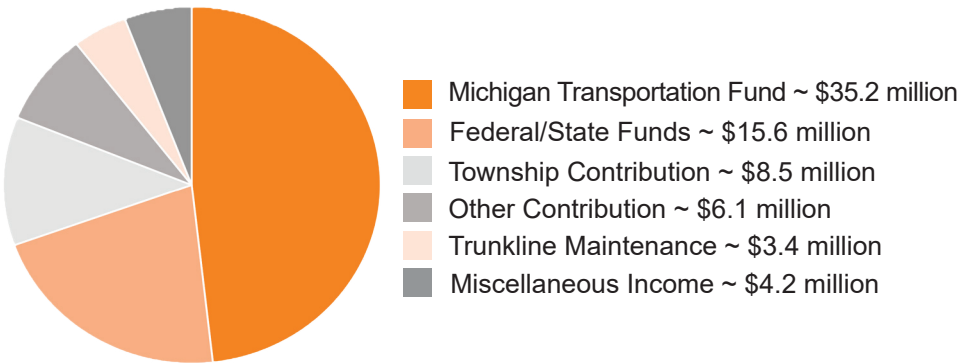
Revenues

As shown in the chart on the right, WCRC is projecting to receive approximately \$73.1 million in revenue in 2023. The Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) is the largest source of revenue for WCRC at approximately \$35.25 million. The majority of MTF revenue is generated by the Michigan state fuel tax and license/registration fees and then distributed to MDOT, county road agencies and cities/villages through the Act 51 formula.

Federal/state dollars are another important source of revenue for WCRC. In 2023, all of the revenue in this category was earmarked for specific projects funded by federal/state grants.

Townships are another important source of revenue for WCRC. Check out “Partnering with Townships on Local Roads” in this report to learn more.

The Four-Year County Roads and Non-Motorized Millage, renewed by voters in 2020 and set to expire in 2024, is projected to generate approximately \$4.5 million for WCRC in 2023. Millage revenue is reflected in the “Other Contribution” category. Learn more about the road projects funded by the millage in the 2023 Year-End Millage Report insert.

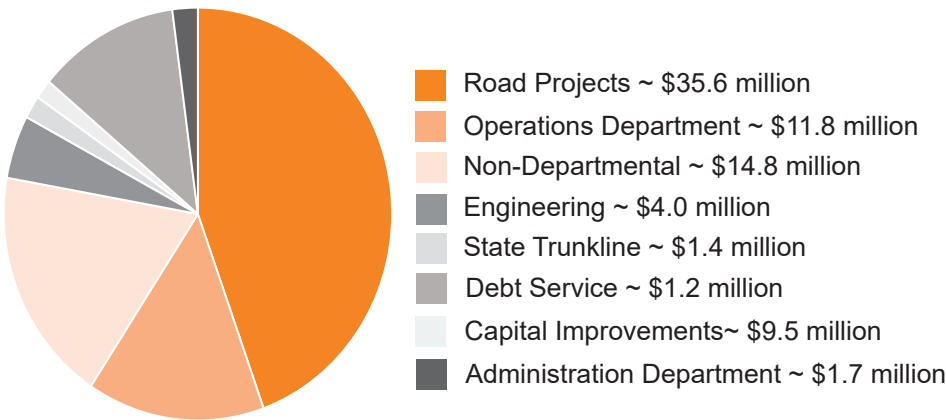


Expenses

The WCRC board and staff work hard to strike an appropriate balance between improving the road system while also investing in staff, equipment and facilities. WCRC had approximately \$80 million in expenses in 2023.

As is typical, a majority of WCRC’s spending went directly into road and bridge projects this year. The \$35.6 million “Road Projects” category is a combination of WCRC, township, county millage, state and federally-funded projects on both primary and local roads across the county.

WCRC is also investing almost \$6 million to build a new salt barn at the Main Yard with the help from MDOT. The largest expense, outside of road projects, is staff. WCRC has a total 136 authorized full-time positions split between the Operations, Engineering and Administration Departments.



Visit wcroads.org to see the full 2023 budget year-end report.

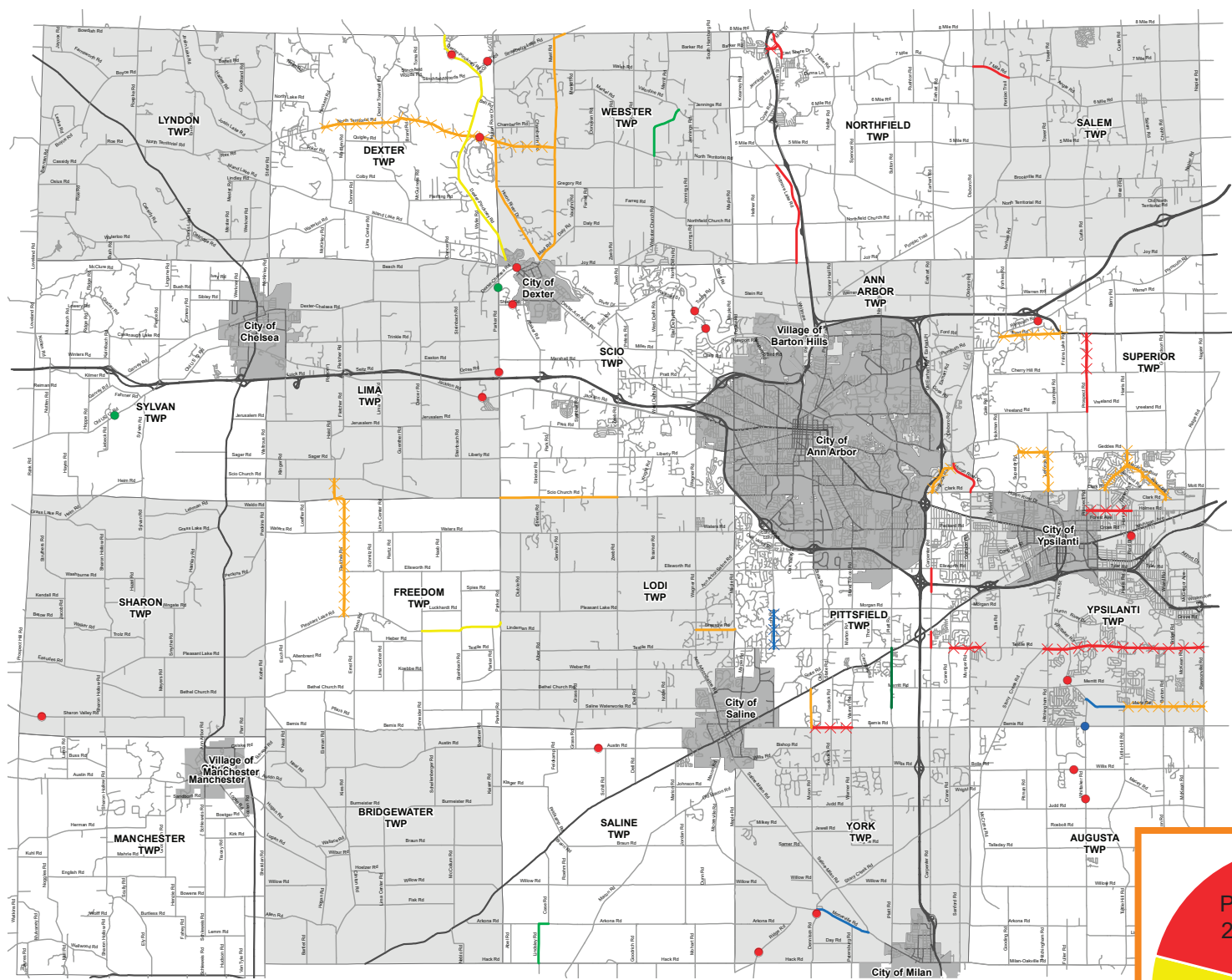
Pictured right is the new Bemis Rd and Whittaker Rd Roundabout constructed in Augusta & Ypsilanti Townships.



Primary Road and Bridge Construction

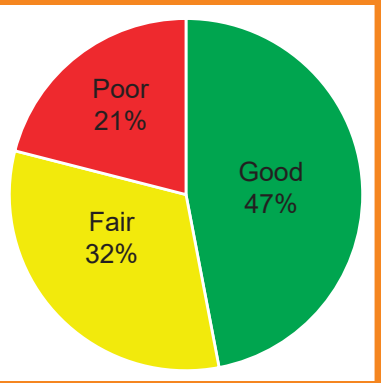
Completed 2023 Primary Road and Bridge Improvement Projects

- Mill/overlay
- Pulverize/
overlay or
reconstruct
- Seal coat
- Safety project
- Limestone/
gravel overlay
- Bridge/culvert
replacement
- Bridge/culvert
maintenance
- Intersection
project
- Denotes a
project funded
with county
millage dollars



Thanks to these investments, 79% of paved, primary roads under WCRC's jurisdiction are now in good or fair condition based on the latest data. WCRC rates its paved, primary road system every year and uses this data to plan future projects.

Check out WCRC's 2021-2023 Transportation Asset Management Plan at wcroads.org which has a goal of 80% of primary roads in good or fair condition.



2023 Primary Road Construction Numbers

33 Miles of Seal Coat

Includes chip seal and fog seal projects. Seal coat helps to extend the life of a road in good/fair condition.

19 Miles of Resurfacing

Includes reconstruction, pulverize/overlay and mill/overlay projects.

3 Miles of Unpaved Road Improvements

Includes drainage improvements and the addition of limestone/gravel to the road surface.

1 Intersection Project

Includes a variety of treatments including new roundabouts, traffic signals, turn-lanes and/or overhead flashing beacons.

3 Culverts Replaced

In 2023 WCRC replaced large culverts on Old US-12 in Sylvan Township, Parker Rd in Lima/Scio Townships and Prospect Rd in Superior Township.



Parker Rd Culvert Replacement (Lima/Scio Townships)



Carpenter Rd Resurfacing (Pittsfield Township)



Jackson Rd Bridge Maintenance (Lima Township)



N. Territorial Rd Fog Seal (Webster Township)

Partnering with Townships on Local Roads



Chickory Ridge Rd Crack Seal (ScioTownship)



Braun Rd Stone Haul (Saline Township)



Rue Deauville Speed Humps (Ypsilanti Township)

Local roads connect homes and businesses to the primary road system. They are a critically important part of the county's infrastructure yet there is little federal or state funding available for their maintenance and improvement. Due to these funding challenges, financial partnerships with Washtenaw County's 20 townships are critical for the improvement of local roads across the county.

In 2023, WCRC allocated \$1.5 million of its MTF revenue into a Local Road Matching Program for townships to utilize. In addition, WCRC absorbed the cost of local road dust control to provide townships additional funds to put into local road projects. This year, townships collectively invested more than \$8 million into improvements on local and some primary roads, taking advantage of the Local Road Matching Program, other funding opportunities and more.

Despite these efforts, many local roads are in poor condition and are in desperate need of investment. WCRC remains committed to working with townships to invest in these roads within the funding limitations faced by all.

York Township
partnered with
WCRC to invest
in primary roads.
Pictured to the right,
is a newly resurfaced
Mooreville Rd.



Maintaining the Roads

No two days are the same when it comes to road maintenance. Throughout the year, often when the weather is at its worst, WCRC crews are out conducting a variety of road maintenance activities in every township of the county.

WCRC's Operations Department is tasked with conducting routine maintenance on public roads year-round, including grading unpaved roads, pothole patching, roadside tree trimming or removal, roadside brush mowing, etc. In the winter, this team becomes the snow/ice patrol. During a typical winter, WCRC will provide 50 - 75 days of winter maintenance services. Each winter presents a different set of challenges for WCRC. On average, WCRC spends approximately \$2.5 million a year dealing with ice and snow.

Road signs and traffic signals are maintained by WCRC's Traffic and Safety Team. These important safety features require year-round maintenance as well.

Managing third-party work within the public road right-of-way falls under WCRC's Permits Section.

2023 Maintenance Numbers

~ 3,900 Service Requests Closed

Residents can report road concerns via the WCRC Fix It App, by calling (734) 761-1500 or online at wcroads.org.

~ 3,800 Road Signs Serviced

Damaged or missing road signs were replaced or repaired throughout the year by WCRC's Sign Team.

~ 860 Right-of-Way and ~ 2,200 Transportation Permits Issued

WCRC's Permits Section is tasked with protecting the road and road right-of-way for the public through a detailed permitting process.

~ 1,500 After-Hour Call-Ins

WCRC crews respond 24/7 to reports of road hazards. These call-ins include snow/ice response, downed trees in the road, debris in the road, etc.

~ 350 Roadwork Notices & Project Emails Sent

Anyone can subscribe to receive email alerts from WCRC regarding planned road work and major road construction projects.



Dust Control



Sign Replacement



Guardrail Repair

WCRC Paint-A-Plow Participants



Community High School (Ann Arbor Public Schools)



St. Paul Lutheran (City of Ann Arbor)



Fortis Academy (Ypsilanti Township)



Salem Elementary (South Lyon Community Schools)



Dexter Cooperative Preschool (Scio Township)

Thanks to everyone who participated!

Connect with WCRC



Call (734) 761-1500

WCRC's Regular Hours:
Monday - Friday,
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

WCRC's Summer Hours:
Monday - Thursday,
6 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Call to report road-related emergencies such as a tree across the road or a missing stop sign.



Visit wcroads.org Online

Submit non-emergency service requests, apply for permits, see upcoming road work, subscribe to road advisory emails, learn about road-related topics and much more!



Download the WCRC Fix It App

Available for Apple or Android devices. Submit non-emergency service requests and receive notifications from staff during the resolution process.



Attend a Board Meeting

The WCRC Board meets at 1 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Members of the public are welcome to attend board meetings in person at WCRC's Administration Building, 555 N. Zeeb Rd or virtually via Zoom.



Follow @WashtenawRoads on Facebook, Instagram & X (formerly Twitter)

For road updates, construction project updates, helpful tips and much more!



Chat with the Road Commission

Join WCRC leadership every Wednesday between noon and 1 p.m. for virtual office hours. RSVPs are encouraged but not required. Learn more at wcroads.org.



Join the Team!

WCRC is currently hiring full-time CDL drivers. Year-round and seasonal positions are available. Apply online at wcroads.org.