



# Road Millages in Washtenaw County

## FAQ about the Nov. 8 Road & Non-Motorized Path Millage How Washtenaw County has used millages to improve local roads

On Tuesday, November 8, Washtenaw County voters will have the opportunity to vote on a four-year road and non-motorized path millage that would fund approximately 200 miles of road improvements at an average cost of \$35 per year for homeowners.

If approved, every municipality and township would see road repairs. The millage would also provide funding to expand the County's pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure.

Washtenaw County levied a similar 0.5 mill road tax (using Public Act 283) in 2015 and 2016 which funded approximately 140 miles of road improvements and allowed the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) to rebuild some of the worst roads in the county, such as Scio Church Road, Golfside Road, and North Territorial Road.

### Did you know...

Millages are one of the only tools that local governments have to raise money to fund road improvements. Counties cannot increase sales or fuel taxes, but rely on the state for revenue to improve roads. Only recently has the State acted to increase road funding, after nearly twenty years with no increases or adjustments.

## Potential Projects



### East Shore Dr

**NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP**

When: 2017

Repair Type: Pulverize & Rehabilitate; Mill & Resurface  
Project Limits: Main St to Seven Mile Rd; Seven Mile Rd to the County Line  
Estimated Cost: \$520,000



### Textile Road

**PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP**

When: 2018

Repair Type: Pave Gravel Road  
Project Limits: State Rd to Platt Rd  
Estimated Cost: \$200,000 from the millage, remaining funding to come from federal aid



### Miller Avenue

**CITY OF ANN ARBOR**

When: 2017

Repair Type: Mill & Resurface  
Project Limits: M-14 to Maple Rd  
Estimated Cost: \$250,000



### W. Liberty Road

**CITY OF ANN ARBOR**

When: 2017

Repair Type: Reconstruction  
Project Limits: Main St to First St  
Estimated Cost: \$650,000



### Saline-Milan Road

**YORK TOWNSHIP**

When: 2017- 2020

Repair Type: Pulverize & Rehabilitate  
Project Limits: Saline City Limits to Moon Rd  
Estimated Cost: \$945,000



### Willis Road

**AUGUSTA & YORK TOWNSHIPS**

When: 2017- 2020

Repair Type: Pulverize & Rehabilitate  
Project Limits: Warner Rd to Platt Rd (2017); Whittaker Rd to Rawsonville Rd (2018-2020)  
Estimated Cost: \$1.26 million

To view a full list and map of millage projects: [wcroads.org/millage](http://wcroads.org/millage)

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Which roads would be repaired?

WCRC has put together a draft four-year road improvement plan that outlines what projects could be completed each year the millage is levied. WCRC plans to use millage revenue to improve the primary road network. Primary roads are designed for collecting traffic from local roads and connecting motorists to state highways, freeways, cities, and villages.

## If the millage is approved, when would road work begin?

If approved, the millage would appear on Washtenaw County resident's winter tax bill and road improvements will begin in Summer 2017.

## How would the revenue generated by the millage be divided?

All revenue generated by the millage would stay in Washtenaw County.

- WCRC would receive \$3.3 million per year to fund road work in the county's twenty townships.
- Cities and villages would receive \$2.5 million per year, with specific allocations based on the amount raised within a municipality's borders. For example, the City of Ann Arbor would receive approximately \$2 million.
- The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission would receive \$1.5 million per year to support the expansion of the county's non-motorized path network.

## How is this millage different from Ann Arbor's street millage?

The four-year road and non-motorized path millage will fund road improvements in every city, village, and township throughout Washtenaw County. Ann Arbor's street millage, approved by voters during the August 2 primary, only funds improvements within the City's borders. The City's millage does not fund improvements to the 1,649 miles of county roads, including many commuter roads into Ann Arbor, such as Huron River Drive, Pontiac Trail, and Geddes Road.

## Why not levy a third year of the one-year P.A. 283 road millage?

While the Public Act 283 road millage has been successful, a four-year millage allows for better long-term planning and coordination. Additionally, it allows the citizens of Washtenaw County to decide if road funding is a priority for our community.

## I understand that the State recently approved a road funding package. Why isn't that enough to fix Washtenaw County's roads?

Between 1997 and 2015, there were no increases in state road funding which comprises a majority of the WCRC's revenue. During these years, no adjustments were made to the fuel taxes to keep pace with inflation or to balance the reduction in gas tax revenue due to cars' increased fuel efficiency.

In November 2015, state lawmakers approved a package that will increase road funding. Unfortunately, road agencies will not receive the full amount of funding until 2021 and half the funding outlined in the package is not guaranteed. The proposed millage will help fill the funding gap while Washtenaw County awaits the full phase-in of new funding. Additionally, the millage will provide the County with a funding mechanism to continue improving county roads if state lawmakers do not fully actualize the road package.

## How would the non-motorized funds be spent?

The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission would receive 20% of the revenue generated by the millage (approximately \$1.5 million per year) which would go towards completing the remaining 11 miles of the 35-mile Border-to-Border Trail (B2B) along the scenic Huron River. The Parks Commission would also use millage funds to reenergize the Connecting Communities Program which has funded a number of important pathways throughout the county, such as the Lohr/Textile Greenway, the loop-path around Ford Lake, the Barker Road path in Whitmore Lake, and the Geddes Road Greenway.

## Who supports this millage?

The following municipalities, townships and organizations have written letters of support or approved resolutions in support of a four-year road and non-motorized path millage: City of Ann Arbor, City of Dexter, City of Saline, York Township, Washtenaw County Road Commission, Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission, Friends of the Border-to-Border Trail, Washtenaw Bicycling & Walking Coalition, and the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative.

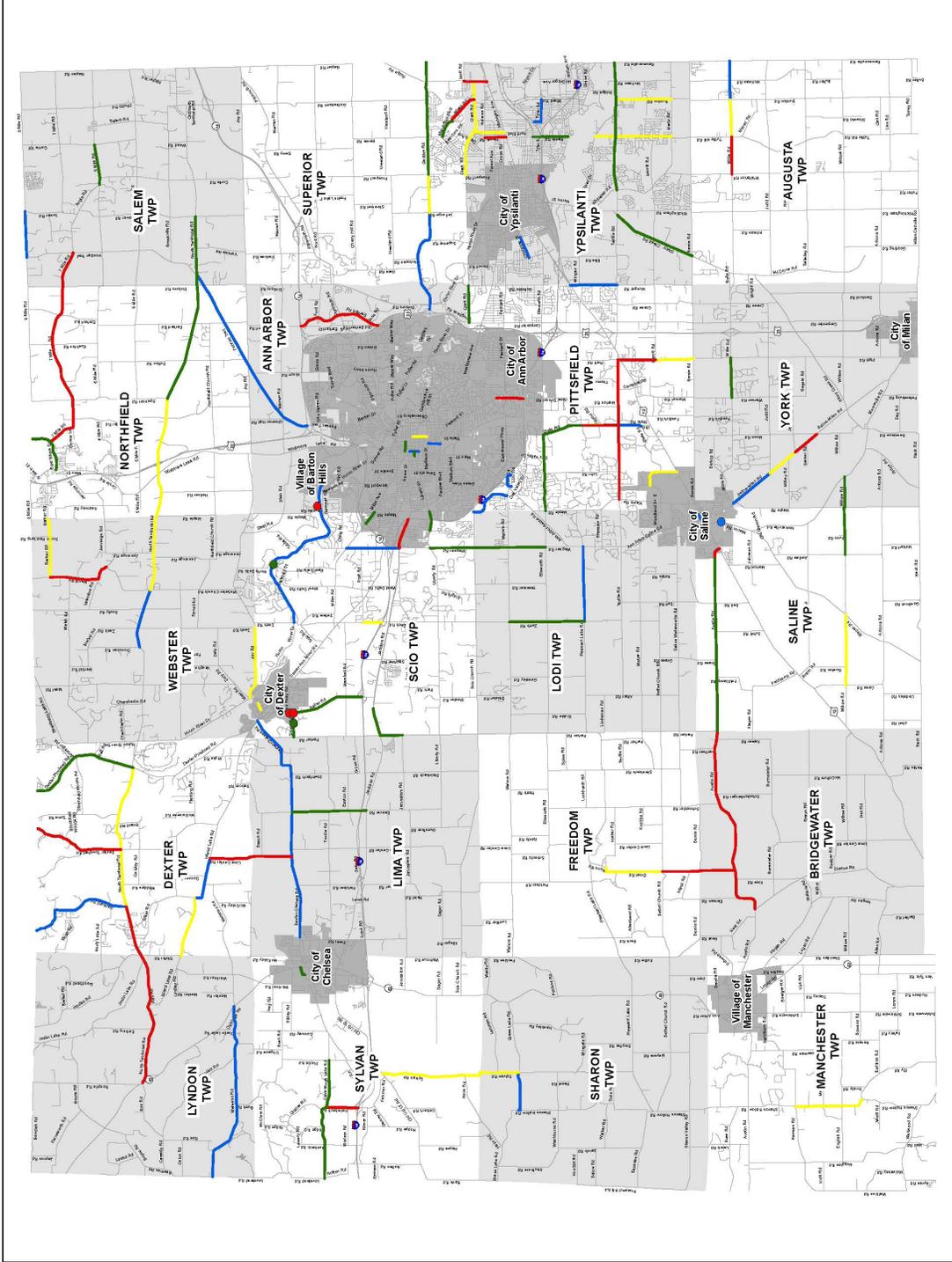
# WCRC's Four-Year Road Millage Plan



Washtenaw County  
Road Millage Projects  
2017-2020

**DRAFT**  
Road Millage Projects

- 2017 (Proposed)
- 2018 (Proposed)
- 2019 (Proposed)
- 2020 (Proposed)



Supporters:



# How Washtenaw County has used Road Millages

Since 2015 the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners used Public Act 283 (P.A. 283) to levy a one-year, 0.5-mill property tax to help address the county's failing road system at the local level. These funds allowed WCRC to plan an additional 32 road projects in 2015, improving 75 miles of township roads. P.A. 283 funds were used to pulverize and repave some of the worst pavement conditions in the county, including sections of Scio Church Rd, North Territorial Rd, Superior Rd and Golfside Rd.

Following a successful 2015 construction season, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approved a second year of the P.A. 283 millage which funded an additional 74 projects countywide in 2016 and allowed WCRC to improve 58 miles of township roads.

**74**  
projects

**58mi**

**40mi**

## ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

P.A. 283 funded an additional 74 projects in cities, villages and townships across the county.

## MILES OF IMPROVEMENTS

P.A. 283 funded 58 miles of additional road improvements on WCRC roads, which are located outside city and village limits.

## PREVENTATIVE CHIP SEALING

P.A. 283 funded 40 miles of chip sealing, a preventative maintenance road treatment that increases the life expectancy of a road by 5-7 years.

## Before & After - 2016 P.A. 283 Projects

### Saline-Milan Road

*Between Stony Creek Rd & Moon Rd*



### Moon Road

*Between US-12 & Bemis Rd*



### Parker Road

*Between Jerusalem Rd & Liberty Rd*



### Dexter Road

*Between Maple Road & City Limits*



### Dhu Varren Road

*Between Pontiac Trail and the railroad*



### Willis Road

*Between Stony Creek Rd & Pitman Rd*

