



**INGHAM COUNTY**  
ROAD DEPARTMENT

# NEWSLETTER

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## Upcoming Events

### May 16 - Public Meeting

*Holt Rd.: Dietz Rd over Red Cedar*

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Locke Township Hall  
3805 Bell Oak Rd,  
Williamston, MI 48895

*Open House Format*

### June 5 - Public Meeting

*Holt Road over Doan Creek*

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Leroy Township Hall  
1685 N. M-52,  
Webberville, MI

*Open House Format*

### July 10 - Public Meeting

*Waldo Road & Hoxie Road Bridges*

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Wheatfield Township Hall  
985 Holt Rd,  
Williamston, MI 48895

*Open House Format*

## This is Your Sign



## to Slow Down

Orange barrels, cones and signs are popping up across the state like flowers in springtime, signaling the start of a new construction season. For Michigan drivers, orange cones are a signal to be extra cautious when navigating work zones. Patience can run thin, or drivers can be tempted by distractions. Both can lead to crashes, injuries and deaths for road workers.

The Ingham County Road Department encourages motorists to follow these safe driving tips provided by the Michigan Work Zone Safety Task Force:

- **Expect Changes** - Work zone speed limits are usually reduced. Traffic lanes may change, and workers, vehicles, or equipment may enter the traffic lane unexpectedly.
- **Minimize Distractions** - Don't use cell phones or engage in distracting activities. Lives are at stake.
- **Obey Workers and Signs** - Road crews know what is best for moving traffic safely. Follow all signs and instructions to merge, slow down or stop.
- **Don't Speed or Tailgate** - Fines double for speeding in a Michigan work zone. Slow down! Keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle ahead of you.
- **Pay Attention** - Vehicles may slow, stop or change lanes unexpectedly. Watch for brake lights and be prepared to react to traffic.
- **Be Patient and Calm** - Work zones are a necessary step to improve our roads and make your future drive better.

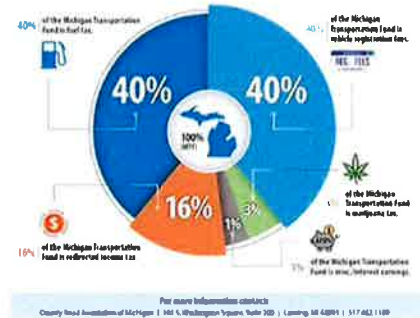
It only takes a split second of distraction to change a road worker's life forever. Don't become a statistic. Give work zones your undivided attention. Slow down and obey all road signs.

# A Message from the Director

As we gear up for another bustling construction season, I wanted to take a moment to share with you how our work and construction projects are funded, as there is often a misconception that resident property taxes cover road expenses.

Funding for Michigan's roads primarily comes from the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF), which is allocated to entities such as the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), County Road Commissions/Departments, and local municipalities (Cities/Villages). However, these revenue streams have failed to keep pace with the escalating costs of infrastructure upkeep.

For decades Michigan's roads have faced chronic underfunding, posing significant challenges to maintaining and enhancing transportation infrastructure. Similar to what many are experiencing with their own personal finances, the Road Department has encountered the escalating costs of materials, labor, and equipment essential for road construction and maintenance, further increasing the funding shortfall. The state's aging infrastructure has endured years of wear and tear, exacerbated by severe winters and heavy traffic. Consequently, numerous roads and bridges are in a state of disrepair, necessitating substantial financial investment.



## So, what can we do to combat this issue we face?

**Grants** play a crucial role in our efforts at the ICRD to secure additional funding for road improvements. This year, we diligently applied for grants from various sources to bolster our initiatives. Some grant applications include\*:

### LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM

- ▶ Dennis Rd over the West Cedar Drain (Leroy Twp)
- ▶ Noble Rd over Deer Creek (Wheatfield Twp)
- ▶ Kinneville Rd over Grand River (Onondaga Twp)

### SAFETY GRANT

- ▶ Columbia Rd and College Rd Intersection (Aurelius/Vevay Twps)
- ▶ Willow Road (Lansing Twp)

### OTHER GRANTS

- ▶ Economical Development Grant for Farm Lane and Forest Road (Meridian Twp)
- ▶ Congressional Funding Grant for Okemos Road (Meridian Twp)

\*Please note, these applications have been submitted to competitive grant programs, but have not been awarded funding at this time, nor is a funding award guaranteed.

**Legislature Changes.** The growing popularity of electric vehicles (EVs), while wonderful for the environment, poses challenges for road funding, as they don't contribute to fuel tax revenue like traditional vehicles. Without alternative revenue sources, the rise of EVs could lead to a decline in funding for road maintenance and construction. Some states are already exploring solutions like mileage-based fees and road usage charges. In Michigan, proactive planning is vital to secure sustainable funding for transportation infrastructure amidst increasing EV adoption.

Until funding sources align with the needs required to repair our infrastructure, we'll continue to explore creative avenues for securing additional funds and maximizing the utilization of available resources. Our commitment remains steadfast in improving Ingham County roads for the betterment of the community.

Kelly Jones, PE  
Managing Director



# Employee Spotlight

Rylen Droscha,  
Highway Worker



This quarter, we're thrilled to spotlight Rylen Droscha, a valued member of our Western District Garage team. Despite joining the road department just over a year ago, Rylen has swiftly become an indispensable part of our workforce.

This summer, you'll find Rylen operating the screed on our paving team, diligently managing the depth at which asphalt is laid. His role is crucial in ensuring that our roads are not only repaired but also aesthetically pleasing. Described by his colleagues as the 'little brother' of the team, Rylen's charismatic personality fosters strong bonds with everyone he encounters, keeping morale high with his humor.

Rylen approaches his work with a drive for excellence, taking pride in maintaining the local roads, as he himself is a native of the area. Outside of work, Rylen cherishes spending time with his family, especially now as a proud new father.

## Did you Know?

The term pothole originated in the 15th/16th century when local potters would dig up clay from ruts in the roads created by coach wheels, these holes became known as potholes.

Nowadays potholes are the product of weather changes, trapped moisture, and heavy vehicle use. The ICRD uses multiple methods to temporarily fix road damage that is a result of our wonderful Michigan weather. This includes patching potholes with both cold and hot mixed asphalt, and applying preventative measures such as crack sealing and mastic applications.

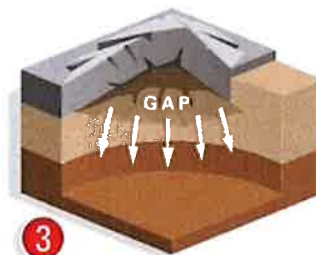
## The Birth of a Pothole



**1** Potholes begin after snow or rain seeps into the soil below the road surface.



**2** The moisture freezes when temperatures drop, causing the ground to expand and push the pavement up.



**3** As temperatures rise, the ground returns to normal level but the pavement often remains raised. This creates a gap between the pavement and the ground below it.



**4** When vehicles drive over this cavity, the pavement surface cracks and falls into the hollow space, leading to the birth of another pothole.

*Credit: County Road Association of Michigan*

# Local Road Program

Roads in Michigan have been chronically underfunded for decades. There are numerous reasons behind this fact, but no matter the cause, Michiganders see the results – many miles of poor roads. This is especially true for local roads, which connect people from the primary road system to their homes and businesses. Ingham County has 432.76 miles of primary roads and 822.27 miles of local roads.

The primary and local designations play an important role in how much the road department receives from the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF). Unfortunately, the MTF allocated for local roads barely covers the Ingham County Road Department's cost for routine maintenance such as snow plowing and pothole patching. In addition, under current state law (Act 51 of 1951), any improvements to a local road must have at least 50% of its funding come from a source other than the road agency. This alternate source of funding often comes from the Township, but it can also come from a millage, special assessment district, developments or other outside sources.

The Local Road Program is the Ingham County Road Department's solution to funding the much-needed maintenance work on our local road system. Every year department leadership meet with each township to see which roads they would like to designate for work. Based on funding available and projects designated as priority by the townships, we come up with our annual road maintenance list.

This year we are happy to share that every township has elected road projects to help improve their infrastructure and in total the Ingham County Road Department will be working to improve over 100 miles of road.

For a full list of maintenance projects please visit <https://roads.ingham.org>

## 2024 Road Maintenance Program



## Paving Projects

### **Aurelius Township**

- Thurlby Rd
- Plains Rd - Onondaga to Aurelius
- Barnes Rd - Meridian to Onondaga

### **Bunkerhill Township**

- Baseline Rd - Haynes to Freiermuth
- Haynes Rd - Baseline to Fitchburg
- Vicary Rd - Meridian to Nims
- Decamp Rd - Williamston to Haynes

### **Delhi Township**

- Howell Rd - Edgar to College
- Harper Rd - Onondaga to Edgar
- Gunn Rd - McCue to Holt Rd
- Spahr Ave - Phillips to Aurelius

### **Ingham Township**

- Barnes Rd - Meridian to Onondaga

### **Lansing Township**

- Homer St - Howard to 158' N of Woodruff
- Woodruff Ave - Homer to Chester
- Chester Rd - Grand River Ave to 155' N of Hopkins

### **Lansing Township (Cont.)**

- Macon Ave - Waverly to Morris
- Waverly Rd - Willow to Grand River
- Old Lansing Rd - Waverly to Lansing Rd

### **Leslie Township**

- Plains Rd - Eden to Hawley

### **Leroy Township**

- Webberville Rd - Grand River to Allen
- Van Orden Rd - Alchin to Wallace
- House Rd - Frost to Dennis
- Dennis Rd - Searls to 52
- Searls Rd - Howell to Dennis
- Meech Rd - Holt to Noble

### **Locke Township**

- Haslett Rd - Meridian to M52
- Milton Rd - Twp Line to Locke Rd

### **Meridian Township**

- Hamilton Rd @ Okemos

### **Onondaga Township**

- Plains Rd - Onondaga to Aurelius

### **Stockbridge Township**

- Chapman Rd - Obrien to 1 mile N of Obrien
- Obrien Rd - Parman to Chapman
- Dexter Tr - M-52 to Livingston

### **Vevay Township**

- Dexter Tr - M36 South
- Barnes Rd - Meridian to Onondaga
- Plains Rd - Eden to Hawley

### **Wheatfield Township**

- Meech Rd - Holt to Noble
- Dennis Rd - Bray to Meech
- Holt Rd - East of Williamston Rd

### **White Oak Township**

- Columbia Rd - Meech to Dietz
- Iosco Rd - M-52 to Brogan
- Searls Rd - Iosco to Howell
- Brogan Rd - Iosco to Dansville
- Dansville Rd - M-52 to Kane Rd

### **Williamstown Township**

- Zimmer Rd - Haslett to County Line
- Haslett Rd - Meridian to M52

## Chip Seal Projects

### **Alaiedon Township**

- Stillman Rd - Dobie to Meridian
- Dobie Rd - Sandhill to Stillman
- Lamb Rd - Hagadorn to Okemos
- Harper Rd - College to Okemos

### **Aurelius Township**

- Barnes Rd - Onondaga to US127

### **Bunkerhill Township**

- Nims Rd - Meridian to Fitchburg
- Holland Rd - Freiermuth to Parman

### **Ingham Township**

- Potter Rd - Dexter Trail to the South

### **Leroy Township**

- Webberville Rd - Grand River to Rowley
- Dennis Rd - Searls to Kane

### **Leroy Township (Cont.)**

- Pardee Rd - Webberville to Bridge
- Allen/Gramer Rd - Morrice to Grand River

### **Locke Township**

- Rowley Rd - Dietz to Webberville
- Morrice Rd - Lovejoy to Allen
- Moyer Rd - M52 to Webberville
- Herrington Rd - Royce to Mohrle

### **Meridian Township**

- Cornell Rd - Haslett to 5001 Cornell
- Green Rd
- Coleman Rd - Peacock to Green
- Lake Dr
- Towar Ave - County Line Rd to Biber
- Park Lake Rd - Lake Lansing to County Line

### **Onondaga Township**

- Barnes Rd - Onondaga to Waverly

### **Onondaga Township (Cont.)**

- Olds Rd - Old Plank to Hunt

### **Stockbridge Township**

- Chapman Rd - Obrien to Morton
- Milner Rd - Dexter Tr to M52
- Budd Rd - Milner to Oakley
- Kinsey Rd - Brogan to M36

### **Vevay Township**

- Barnes Rd - US127 to Meridian
- Rolfe Rd - Tuttle to Service
- Diamond - M36 to Dexter Tr
- Rolfe Rd - Hawley to Ives

### **Wheatfield Township**

- Burkley Rd - Linn to Twp Line

### **Williamstown Township**

- Zimmer Rd - Haslett to County Line
- Haslett Rd - Meridian to M52

## Gravel Road Projects

### **Ingham Township**

- Osborne Rd - Swan to M36

### **White Oak Township**

- Columbia Rd - M52 to Searls
- Kane Rd - Roberts to M36

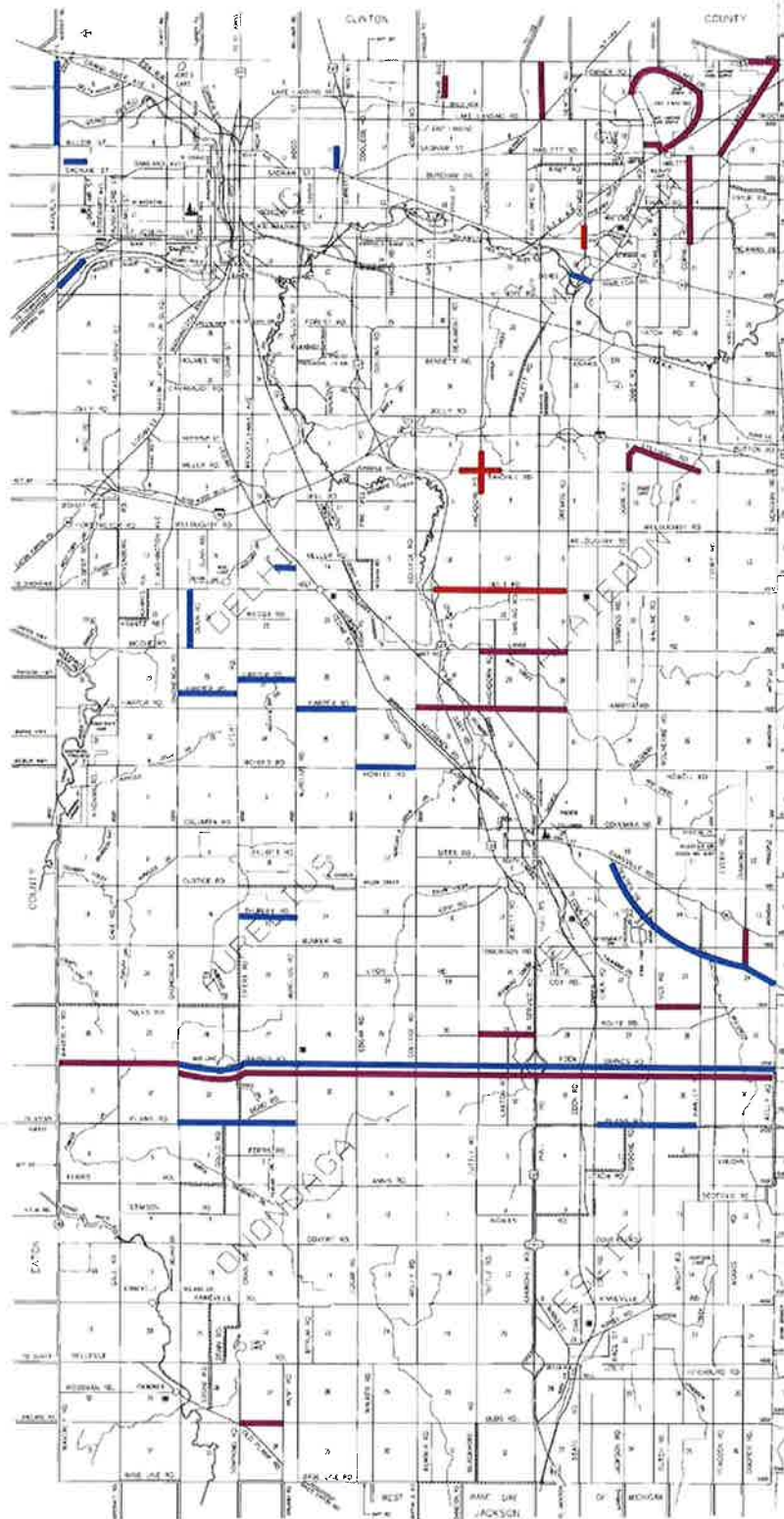
# 2024 Road Maintenance Map

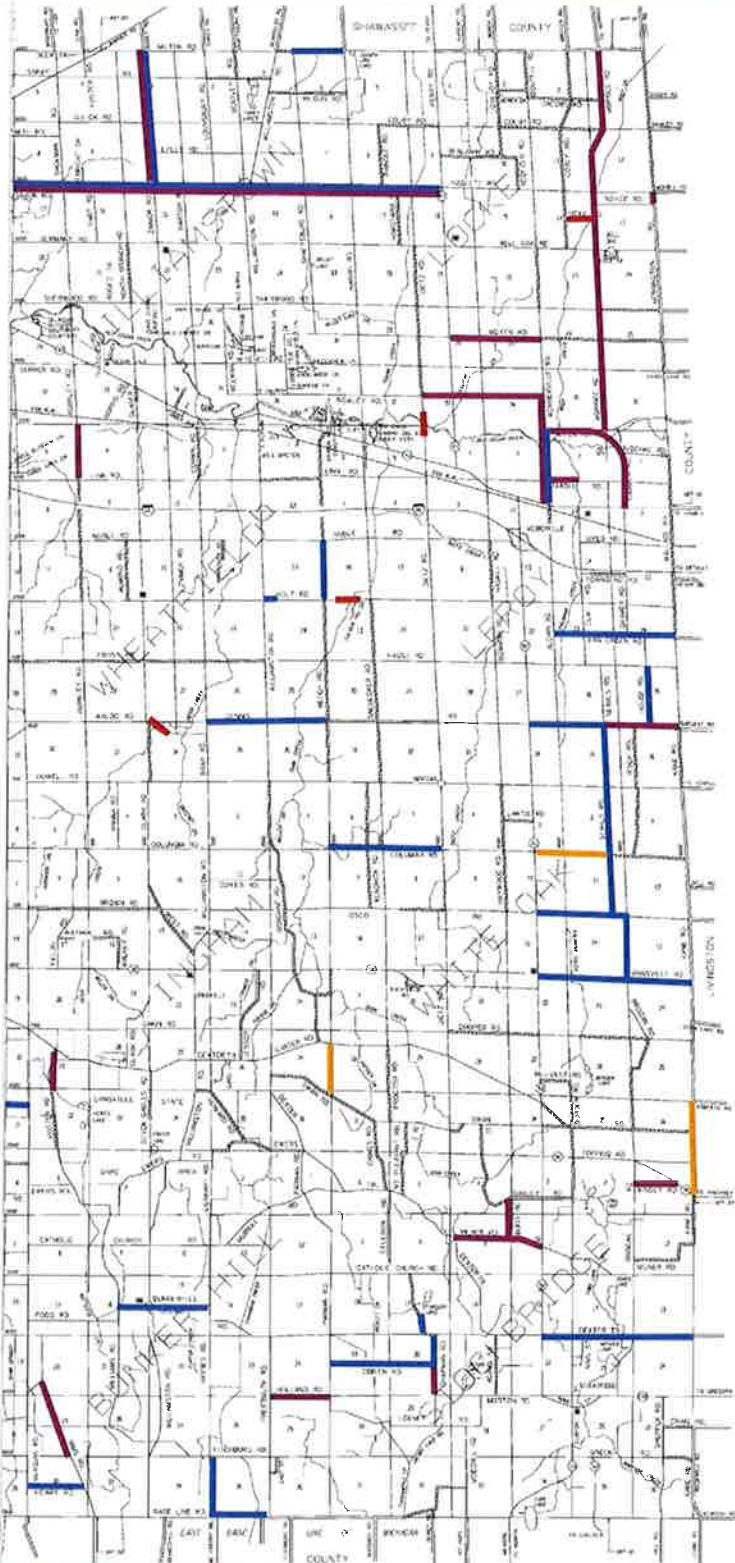
2024 Paving

2024 Chip Seal

2024 Gravel Improvement

2024 Major Construction







# 2024 Major Construction

In 2024, Ingham County is set for a transformation with the Ingham County Road Department's ambitious road construction projects across multiple townships.

## **Hagadorn Road and Sandhill Road Intersection (Alaiedon Township)**

- Construction of a roundabout and road approach work in all four quadrants of the intersection.
- All traffic will be detoured to alternate roads via a posted detour. Local traffic will be maintained to residents within the work zone.
- Work began in April and is expected to be completed in September.

## **Holt Road from US-127 to Okemos Road (Alaiedon Township)**

- Construction includes the reconstruction of the roadway by breaking apart the existing concrete pavement and resurfacing with an asphalt pavement.
- All traffic will be detoured to alternate roads via a posted detour. Local traffic will be maintained to residents/businesses within the work zone.
- Work began with the main stretch of Holt Road (U.S.-127 to Okemos Road) on April 25th. The contractor estimates that this will take roughly 1 month to complete.
- Future work for this project will focus on the Holt Road and U.S.-127 interchange, however, this work will not begin until MDOT has removed their detour signage over the bridge.

## **Holt Road Bridge over Doan Creek (Leroy Township)**

- Construction includes the replacement of the bridge superstructure (i.e., beams, concrete pavement and bridge railings), an adjacent large culvert and the road approaches to the bridge.
- All traffic will be detoured to alternate roads via a posted detour. Local traffic will be maintained to residents within the work zone.
- Work is expected to occur from July-November.

## **Hoxie Road Bridge over Wolf Creek (Locke Township)**

- Construction includes the replacement of the bridge deck and railings, guardrail installation and road approach reconstruction.
- All traffic will be detoured to alternate roads via a posted detour. Local traffic will be maintained to residents within the work zone.
- Work is anticipated to be scheduled for August-November.

## **Dietz Road Bridge over Red Cedar River (Locke Township)**

- Construction includes the replacement of the entire bridge and reconstruction of the road approaches.
- This road is currently closed and will remain closed to traffic throughout construction.
- Work is anticipated to be scheduled for June-November.

## **Okemos Road and Central Park Drive Intersection (Meridian Township)**

- Construction includes the replacement of the existing traffic signal.
- Traffic will be maintained throughout construction.
- Work is currently ongoing and should be completed in mid-May.

## **Waldo Road Bridge over Deer Creek (Wheatfield Township)**

- Construction includes the replacement of the bridge deck and railings, guardrail installation and road approach reconstruction.
- All traffic will be detoured to alternate roads via a posted detour. Local traffic will be maintained to residents within the work zone.
- Work is anticipated to be scheduled for August-November.

As these projects unfold, Ingham County residents can expect a more efficient and connected road network, showcasing the county's commitment to progressive infrastructure development. Visit our website [roads.ingham.org](https://roads.ingham.org) to sign up for more frequent construction updates.



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