

In This Issue:

- Road Millage Need
- Road Millage Facts
- Great Ideas Challenge
- Safe Roads for Everyone
- Great Ideas Challenge Cont'

Important Dates:

August 7
9:00am Board Meeting

August 21
9:00am Board Meeting

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

7:30am – 4:00pm

14110 Lakeshore Drive
P.O. Box 739
Grand Haven, MI 49417
(616) 842-5400
www.ottawacorc.com

Commissioners:
Tom Bird
Tom Elhart
Tim Grifhorst
Jim Miedema
Tom Palarz

Managing Director:
Brett Laughlin

Road Millage Need

Why do we need a road millage?

Simply put, there is not enough money being generated to support the maintenance of the public road system in Ottawa County. The cost to maintain the road network significantly exceeds revenues, and the need continues to increase.

Just within the last 10 years, construction costs alone have increased over 200%.

The Michigan Legislature

last increased the gasoline tax, a primary source of funding to maintain roads in Michigan, in 1997 from 15 cents per gallon to 19 cents per gallon. The tax on diesel fuel was not increased.

Current revenues from the gas tax and vehicle registration fees have been generally just over \$21 million for the road agencies in Ottawa County. However, as it stands today, it would take over \$250 million to get all

the roads to a "good" condition, and an additional \$30 million annually to keep them in "good" condition.

A ½ mil per year for ten years for the purposes of providing a fund for the reconstruction, resurfacing, and preventative maintenance of roads in Ottawa County is being considered for the November 4, 2014 ballot.

The proposed levy would generate a little more than \$50 million over ten years.

Road Millage Facts

County Wide Road Millage Facts!

The proposed ½ mil equates to a property owner cost of \$25 annually per \$50,000 of taxable value (or \$100,000 of market value.)

The proposed road millage funds will ONLY be spent on the reconstruction, resurfacing, and preventative maintenance of roads in Ottawa County.

Road millage funded

projects will be selected by the Road Commission utilizing the Strategic Improvement Plan process with input from local government officials and the public. Pavement condition, traffic volumes, capacity and congestion issues, accident history, maintenance problems, and other funding sources are some of the criteria that will be considered for project prioritization and selection.

100% of the millage revenues generated within a Township over the millage period will be

utilized on roads within the Township.

The Road Commission will focus on primary roads for road millage funded projects. However, it may be determined during the Strategic Improvement Plan process to utilize the road millage funds on a local road.

A list of road millage funded projects will be published annually by the Road Commission.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact our office.



The picture above shows the first place "Grader Paver". This idea came from Assistant Equipment Supervisor, Randy Nagelkirk.

Great Ideas Challenge

Michigan's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), has an annual *Great Ideas Challenge* to help identify, share, and reward the great work that gets done by local road agencies in Michigan.

This year, 20 nominations were considered in the challenge.

The Road Commission took first place with a "Grader Paver".

It is very common for roads to deteriorate along the road edge.



Economical Solution: a wing was made that bolts to a road grader. The wing is controlled with a two-way cylinder that is

operated by using the front plow controls and hydraulics. This gives the operator control of how much hot mix asphalt is needed to keep a straight level edge.



Continued below.

Safe Roads for Everyone

The recent heavy precipitation and flooding event on July 11/12 led to a culvert failure on Garfield Street just east of 40th Avenue in Wright Township.

The Road Commission responded and immediately closed the road.

The surge of storm water undermined the culvert and created a sink hole in

Garfield Street.



The road could be closed for over a month, depending on delivery time for the new culvert and receipt of the

appropriate permits. The estimated cost for the repairs is \$30k.

The Road Commission maintains over 4,200 culverts and dedicates approximately \$200k to \$300k annually for repair and replacement of culverts.

An additional \$50k is estimated toward culvert repairs in conjunction with road improvement projects.



The picture above shows the second place "Hub Plug Retainer". This idea came from Assistant Equipment Supervisor, Randy Nagelkirk.

Great Ideas Challenge Continued

The Road Commission dominated the competition in the Great Ideas Challenge and also took second place with a "Hub Plug Retainer".

The tire fill plugs on the passenger side of plow trucks were getting pulled off as a result of being

rubbed against hard packed snow. This caused lubricant to drain out, and dirt and water to fill the wheel, which removed trucks from their routes for repairs.

Economical Solution: bolting a piece of flat stock steel over the plug. This

allows the fill plugs to cut through the snow when they rub against snow banks.

More information about the Great Ideas Challenge can be found at:

http://www.michiganltap.org/sites/ltap/files/GreatIdeas/2014_GreatIdeasEntries.pdf