

How Roads are Classified and Funded.

Roads receive road funding by being classified as state/federal highway, primary or local. Funds come from sales of diesel fuel, gasoline and vehicle registrations.

State/federal highway route names start with an "M," "I" or "US," such as M-37 and US-31. These roads provide a connection between major points of destination. They carry the highest traffic volumes and get a higher level of funding. Repair and improvement costs are paid by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Primary roads are county roads that also provide an internal connection between other major roads, carry high volumes of local traffic and receive the next highest level of funding and maintenance. Road commissions are responsible for 100% of the cost of maintaining these types of roads. Other sources may assist in funding certain improvements.

Local roads comprise the majority of roads within any county. Most residents live on and drive on local roads for their daily activities. By state statute, a *minimum* of 50% of the cost of improving these roads **MUST** come from other sources and by policy, road commissions may require that 100% come from other sources. Presently, the Grand Traverse County Road Commission requires 75% of improvement costs to be paid by other sources.

How Roads are Rated And What is Our Rating.

Road Condition Ratings

The Grand Traverse County Road Commission regularly collects and reports data on the condition of our county roads using an "asset management approach." A physical inspection of every paved road is done. As the condition of the road surface changes, a notation is made. Your township has a copy of its ratings, called "PASER" ratings.

The anticipated remaining life of the road surface can be estimated from these reports. With budget dollars entered, the program determines which method will optimize those dollars and when it should be done. Thus, "**THE RIGHT FIX AT THE RIGHT TIME FOR THE RIGHT CONDITION**" can be determined fairly.

Grand Traverse County's Road Ratings

In 2010, our overall county road ratings are:

Local: Good (2.8%) Fair (17.2%) Poor (80%).

To find how the roads in your township are rated, check our website (www.gtcr.org) under the "Road Info & Policies, Road Ratings" tab.

How Can These Rating be Improved?

Residents concerned about the condition of their road and other county roads they drive on have several options. They can 1) Work with their township and the Road Commission to improve conditions, by establishing a special assessment district (SAD) for a specific area, 2) Vote in the November 2010 county-wide road millage and 3) Contact elected state officials to update the 1997 road funding laws.

What do Fair & Poor Roads Look Like?



Road in

Good Condition

The first road's rating is "good" at 9.

The second road's rating is 3 and should be fully reconstructed.



Road in

Poor Condition

If revenues received in our County remain constant, expect 95% of roads to be in poor condition by 2020.

Currently, it would take \$113 million in order to make all our paved roads rated in "good" condition.

If the 1 mil/4 year proposal passes in 2010, 2014 projected road ratings would increase 24% overall.

Please note: Leelanau County has had a road millage for 24 years. It generates over \$1 million per year for snow removal. This allows the use of other funds for road improvement/maintenance activities. Leelanau County is one of 23 counties in Michigan that have some form of road millage.

In Conclusion . . .

The Grand Traverse County Road Commission, the other 82 Michigan county road agencies and the Michigan Department of Transportation have not received an increase in the base tax rate per gallon since 1997.

It may take many years to catch up. Michigan motorists may want to consider a few points:

- 1) The average Michigan motorists pays \$370 each year in car repairs and reduced fuel efficiency attributable to poor roads.
- 2) Action will be needed to make roads safe and convenient.
- 3) Elected officials need to review road funding options.



POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

Residents can:

- *Voice their position in the November 2010 election when a ballot proposal for a county-wide road millage is presented to the voters. Monies raised in Grand Traverse County will stay in Grand Traverse County.
- *Request legislators to adjust the gas tax. It is a user fee based tax that can fix roads.
- *Work with their township and us to establish a special assessment district (SAD). *Ask for our SAD brochure.*

Roads require the right fix at the right time for the right conditions.



CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact us. Links to our elected officials are available on our website.

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"Our mission is to upgrade and maintain a safe and efficient road system."



"Your County Road System
Public Education Series"
**Road Classification, Funding
and Ratings**

ROAD CLASSIFICATIONS ROAD FUNDING

ROAD RATINGS

How are roads classified and does it affect road funding?

What is the rating for my road?

What is overall rating of Grand Traverse County's roads?