Test Your Michigan Road Funding Savvy

1) Where do road commissions get their money? *Michigan Transportation Funds (MTF) are the primary source of funds for* ***all*** *of Michigan's transportation agencies, generated mainly by fuel tax and registration fees.*

2) How much is Michigan's "gasoline tax" and what year was the current rate set? *It went from 15 to 19 cents per gallon in 1997.*

3) How many gas tax increases in the last 26+ yrs? *The* ***ONLY ONE*** *added 4 cents/gallon.*

4) Does the amount of "gasoline tax" change as gas prices change? *No. It is a flat rate.*

5) Who gets the 6% sales tax on gasoline? *Schools.*

6) Who receives the **19** cents paid on every gallon sold? *The split is: MDOT, 6¢; Michigan 83 county road agencies,6¢ ; Cities & Villages, 3.5¢; Public Transit , 2¢; Michigan Economic Development Fund/Secretary of State, <1¢; Bridges, railroads and recreational areas,.5¢.*

7) Who sets the gasoline tax rate? *Your elected state officials.*

So, did this quiz help you understanding "Why Our Roads Are Falling Apart?" Trying to keep an acceptable level of service for Michigan motorists & tourists with **ONE** adjustment in **26 years** is a very hard task.

How Does the Once-in-26-Year Increase Affect You?

NET RESULTS—$518,500 less funds in 2009 compared to 2004. A total decrease of $1,473,500 since then.

GTCRC revenue's dropped 7.7+% in the last five years causing

REDUCTIONS IN SERVICES

Dust Control

Requires 75% match from other sources.

Snow Removal on Local Roads

No overtime removal of snow on local roads unless snow exceeds six inches.

Tree Trimming

Only trees representing an immediate hazard are removed. Preventative trimming is limited.

Local Match Requirements

Local projects require 75% (formerly 50%) of funds come from sources other than the Road Commission. GTCRC will contribute 25% if the budget will allow.

Match for Federal Funds

Federal funds available to the State of Michigan will be returned by millions, *literally*, because there are not sufficient funds in MDOT coffers for the 20% match required.

Delayed Capital Equipment Purchases

Slashed over $1.9 million in equipment purchases between 2007 and 2010 to fund maintenance services. Two plow trucks purchased in the last three years. Plow trucks last 10 years; our average truck is 7.5+ years old. Old trucks=more maintenance=less service . About 38% of snowplow fleet is due for replacement.

STEPS TAKEN TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY

Added Side-wing Plows to update plow trucks with 10' side wings to plow roads in fewer passes.

Crack Sealing Equipment waspurchased to place hot tar into cracks to keep moisture out to preserve the road until longer-lasting repairs can be done.

Specialized road patchers coming in 2010 to reduce costs associated with pothole repairs.

Twenty-five employees less than 2001, a 30.7% drop = major decreases in services.

Seasonal/Contracted Employees and Snowplow Contractors are on-call 24/7 for routine maintenance to assist in storm conditions.

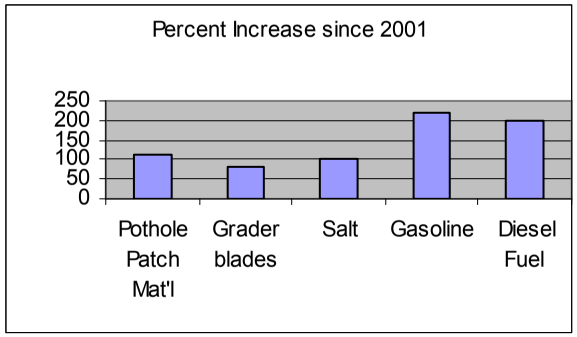
Snow Plow Routes are revised as fewer employees are available. State & primary routes will change to maintain service on these main roads. Secondary roads will experience a drop in response time

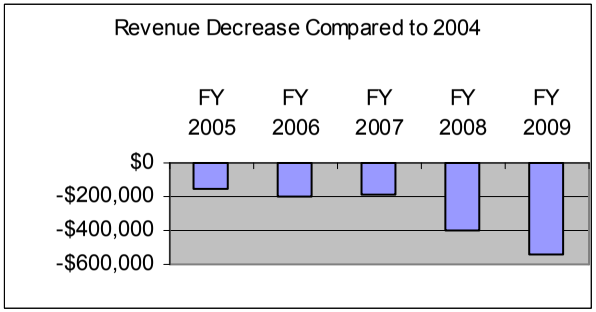
Extended Summer Layoffs of permanent employees to fund purchases of fuel, pothole patching materials purchases, etc.

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

Expenses are UP and Revenues are *down.*

A quick look at these charts will show the dual effect of increased prices and decreased revenue as we try to maintain an acceptable level of service.





WHO IS PAYING FOR THIS And WHAT DOES IT COST?

You are. The average Michigan driver pays $370 each year in car repairs and reduced fuel efficiency attributable to poor roads.

Michigan drivers pay an average $1/day for unlimited access to 122,000 miles of roads.

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 local and state officials are available on our website.

Grand Traverse County Road Commission
1881 LaFranier Road
Traverse City MI 49686
Phone: 231-922-4848 Fax: 231-929-1836
E-mail: gtcrc@gtcrc.org
Web: www. gtcrc.org

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

"Your County Road System Public Education Series"

Road Funding & Its Impacts

WHY ARE OUR ROADS FALLING APART?

Motorists and residents of Grand Traverse County want to know.

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