

# Leroy Township

8156 4 Mile Road, East Leroy, Mi 49051

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March 5, 2019

Dear Leroy Township Resident:

A bond proposal was on the November 2016 ballot to repair every local road in Leroy Township and it was defeated by 11 votes. Due to the narrow margin of defeat and the number of calls our office receives regarding poor road conditions, residents were asked to complete a survey card voicing their opinion on road funding options and instruct the Board of Trustees how to proceed. Fifty-five percent (55%) of the cards returned indicated that they would like to see a comprehensive repair of local road funding back on a ballot. **This local road bond proposal will be on the Leroy Township ballot on May 7, 2019.**

Let me try to outline how this local road funding process would work if Leroy Township Residents vote 'yes' on the bond proposal and it passes in May:

1. Preparatory work would begin in the Fall of 2019: primarily tree trimming.
2. The bonds would be sold in the Spring of 2020. All \$8,180,000 (our 50% match of the road work plus cost of bonding) would be placed in a separate Leroy Township Bank Account. The Township would have a separate budget for the road funds and it would be audited every year.
3. Road work: de-berming, establishing shoulders, removing the canopy of tree cover, re-establishing the crown of the road and actual paving and line painting would start in the summer of 2020. All work must be completed in a 3 year time frame.
4. Your first payment (one of 15), would be on your 2020 winter tax bill. The amount you pay the first year would be 5.39 mills of your taxable value. The remaining 14 years of assessment average 5.37 mills.
5. As the Calhoun County Road Department (CCRD) invoices the Township for work completed, we pay them out of the 'Road Fund' budget. The \$8,180,000 will be paid to the CCRD as road work is completed during a three year timeframe. The entire amount of the \$8 million bonds will be paid back to the bonding institution over 15 years using the assessments collected on property taxes to each parcel.
6. Actual paving will not be done by the CCRD. The Road Department has three preferred vendors that will bid the projects: Lakeland, Reith Riley, and Michigan Pavers.

## Notes of interest:

1. Yes, this is a lot more than the 2016 proposal which is due in part to the Recommended Improvements of our Local Roads. A majority of them are a CSC3.5 which means the existing roadway will be crushed, shaped and compacted and then resurfaced with 3.5" of hot mix asphalt. This would be in addition to the tree canopy removal, any under the road culvert work, shoulder and berm work done.  
The cost per mile continues to escalate as our roads continue to deteriorate. And, a major portion of 6 Mile Road was not included in the cost estimate in 2016 (although the work would have had to be completed by the Road Department). That cost is now included.
2. The township does not receive any road funding money from the State of Michigan or the Federal Government. **Road monies from the gas tax and vehicle registration fees plus federal monies are distributed to Villages, Cities and County Road Departments but not to Townships.**

3. County Road Departments must have matching funds for Local Road Work. This is part of a State Statute (or law). Calhoun County requires a 50% match on local road projects if the Township collects at least 3 mills for local road work. Smaller road projects (less than 3 mills) require a 70% township match and 30% county match on local roads. County Road Departments are 100% responsible for the maintenance of Primary Roads.
4. No, road millages do not take into account the value or number of cars you own or drive, but neither do school millages take into account the number of children you have in school. School millages are based on the value of your property in the same way that a road millage or a public safety millage would be based on your property value. Millages are how township governments are allowed to raise money.
5. **Even if a State Government Official promises to fix our roads, the roads fixed will not be our local road system – they will be state or primary roads.** Currently, money does not flow to townships to fix their local roads and it would take changing Public Act 51 which dictates the disbursement of money for road repair. So far, there is no talk in Lansing about changing the formula nor is enough money collected to begin to pay out to the 1,280 townships in Michigan to pay for local road repair. **Additional gas tax will not provide funds to township governments to provide their matching dollars for local road repair.** We are left to raise the money outside of other road funding mechanisms.
6. Leroy Township has three classifications of roads: Primary, Local and State. These classifications are determined by the State and County. M-66 is a State Road and is maintained by State Funds. Primary roads are the total responsibility of the County Road Department including 100% of the cost to repair and maintain. **Local Roads are the responsibility of the County Road Department but require matching funds for repair projects.**

Attached you will find a **spread sheet covering the improvements to each local road.** At the bottom of the second page is a legend or definition of improvements plus the cost per mile of the work to be completed. You will also find a **Proposed Local Road Millage spread sheet** that will give you an estimate of what the Local Road Project would cost you the first year. For your exact 'taxable value', you can call me at the office to look up your property or refer to the Assessment Notice that Joyce Foondle, our assessor, mailed out the end of February. In addition, a **list of Primary and Local Roads** is included. Our money can only go to the maintenance of local roads. Primary roads are 100% the responsibility of the Road Department.

Please know that my position is to present you with the facts but I am prohibited along with every other Board Member from taking a stance on whether you should vote yes or no on this Comprehensive Plan to Improve each Local Road. Registered voters will determine if the local roads in Leroy Township will be reconstructed and repaired by voting on May 7.

While I may be contradicting the above paragraph, what each of us must consider is that we are part of a community where every First Responder in Leroy Township (fire, ambulance, police) along with school buses, mail and package delivery services and the majority of our residents are forced to travel our local road system on a daily basis. The one year millage rate in many cases compares to or is even less than one vehicle repair bill from hitting a large pothole. If the bond proposal is defeated, the Calhoun County Road Department will continue to fill pothole upon pothole in our local road system.

Please watch the Battle Creek Shopper and the Township website: [leroytownship.org](http://leroytownship.org) for updated information regarding this bond proposal. And as many of you know, I am available to take your phone calls to answer questions or you may stop and see me in my office.

Sincerely yours,



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Board Members: Trustee Jon Bolton, Trustee Doug Chapman, Treasurer Mark Christoff, Clerk Brenda Schuetz