

Grand Traverse County Road Commission
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TO: Margaret Underwood, Chair - Physical Resources Committee

FROM: Mary N. Gillis, Manager

DATE: January 9, 2008

**SUBJECT: MONTHLY REPORT FOR THE JANUARY 16, 2008 MEETING
AT 7:30 A.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
400 BOARDMAN AVENUE, TRAVERSE CITY**

cc: County Planning Commission Board of County Road Commissioners
Grand Traverse County Townships

Manager Mary Gillis and Commissioner Hooper are available to answer questions and provide current information on the following items:

1. **Hammond Road Extension to Keystone Road** - On January 24 between 9 and 10:30 a.m., the final public hearing on this project will be held at our office. Comments received on Alternative 2 will be considered as the project moves towards final design. The Alternative 2 design includes grade separations to eliminate two railroad crossings and will accommodate future non-motorized paths. Aesthetics related to the raised road bed would make an improved entrance into the city. The increased costs for the grade separations will be virtually offset from the reduced amount of cut required on the hill.

An amended contract with Gourdie Fraser is being prepared due to a change in the scope of services for the grade separations.
2. **Three Mile Road, from South Airport Road to Hammond Road** – On January 22, between 4 and 6 PM, the third public hearing on this project will be held at the East Bay Township Hall. Consultants will present the selected alternative and receive comments from the public regarding the future design. This project will require right-of-way acquisition throughout the length of the project and is anticipated after 2011.
3. **2007 Road Takeovers** – Four roads totaling 1.63 miles were added to the county road system for 2007.
4. **2008 Budget/2007 Budget Amendments** –On December 18, 2007 we held our annual public hearing on the budget. The proposed 2008 budget and amendments to 2007 budget were adopted on December 19, 2007.
5. **Countywide Task Force Meeting** – Road Commission Staff and Township officials met on December 13, 2007 to review priorities for the Rural/Urban Task Force Meetings. At the Rural

Task Force Meeting, Karlin Road was added to Rural Task Force list for 2012 and will most likely require future years spending to complete. Karlin Road, from the end of M-137 to Nessen City Road, and Nessen City Road to the Benzie County line have been added to the list for proposed all season roads. Benzie County added Nessen City (BC Road 700) to Thompsonville onto the list so that a continuous all-season route to M-115 in Benzie County through Thompsonville will be created. State cuts to TEDF Category D funding have resulted in a decrease of \$31,981 to Grand Traverse County. Many counties are now carrying negative balances for future years spending of this fund and Susan Richardson is attempting to balance on a state-wide basis.

Other items that Susan brought up include: 1.) Traffic counts on local Federal Aid eligible roads will be required by the federal government for the highway performance monitoring system every four years. The State had been estimating increases, but is now being required to take actual counts. They will be contacting us shortly to schedule. 2.) The Federal Government is requiring that road commissions pay back any Federal D funds used to improve roads if townships restrict truck traffic on them. 3.) The Jobs Today program is complete. All funds have been committed.

The Urban Task Force tentatively added Keystone Road, from Cass to South Airport Road, to the 2011 priority list. This tentative location should cover any additional work required on this corridor over and above what is being presently designed for the Keystone/Hammond Connection. STP allocations for our Urban area are expected to increase from \$375,000 per year to \$450,000 per year, but no written confirmation has been received at this point. TEDF Category F priority list for funding remains the same as last year and includes Garfield Road, from Springhill to Hammond Road, and two sections of South Airport Road.

6. **Maintenance Activities** - Staff and crew have been very busy with snow removal activities, with most employees working nearly a full day on New Year's Day. Warm weather later that week created additional pothole repair work.
7. **Memorandum of Agreement** – The Board entered into an agreement with the Grand Traverse Band, in conjunction with the Grand Traverse Conservation District, to improve five road crossings over streams within Grand Traverse County.
8. **Bids** – Bids were received upon notice that our long-time janitor would retire on December 31. Contracting this service out represented a substantial cost savings. Within the next month, bids will either be extended or advertised for our typical annual material and service items.
9. **County Map** – Staff will be reviewing updates made to the 2003 map for final corrections. Once finalized, CDs will be prepared to accompany our bid package for a 2008 map.
10. **Garfield Township Precinct Location** – The Board approved Garfield Township's use of our Board room as a new precinct location. Due to population increases within the township, a new precinct is being created. Our dates for 2008 are August 5 and November 4.