

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

FROM: Mary N. Gillis, Manager

DATE: March 5, 2008

**SUBJECT: MONTHLY REPORT FOR THE MARCH 12, 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

Commissioner Livasy is available to answer questions and provide current information on the following items:

1. **Signalization of the Silver Lake/Franke Road Intersection** – Staff continues to work on the safety grant to signalize this intersection. We are in right-of-way negotiations with Garfield Township, City of Traverse City, Traverse City-Garfield Township Recreational Authority and Meijer’s. Originally the project included an approach to the north on the Recreational Authority’s property. This approach requires an environmental assessment and has been postponed until the city builds the Silver Dr. project. Garfield Township desires to include mast arms at this location (similar to Copper Ridge). The mast arms require additional right-of-way.

Currently, the City is in the midst of a visioning process and prefers that no early conclusion be made as to future road connections. They have indicated they will not grant the right-of-way needed for an approach, but will for the mast arm. Staff will attend City of Traverse City and Garfield Township meetings to obtain similar right-of-way. Once it is obtained, the Recreational Authority will be in a position to grant us this right-of-way.

Once all the required right-of-way is under our control, we can submit the bid documents to MDOT. Our goal is have right-of-way in hand by the end of this month, allowing for a June bid letting.
2. **Brining Program for 2008** – In reviewing the 2007 brining program, only five townships did not elect to brine all the gravel county roads in their township. There were 12 roads not selected for a total length less than five miles. To increase efficiencies, both in administrating the program, the Board acted to amend their brine program to have all gravel, non-seasonal county roads brined with the townships sharing 50%. The lone exception to the program is Union Township due to their population and extensive state lands. The base of their contribution will be on their typical 200’ spot brine/residence.
3. **House Bill 4323** – This bill allows Lower Peninsula northern counties to determine if off-road vehicles may use county road rights-of-way for travel. Our Board supported this house bill subject to road agencies being authorized to designate which road rights-of-way are available or not available for off-road vehicles.
4. **Maintenance Activities** – Snow, rain and ice, as well as week-end storms in late January and February consumed a considerable portion of our winter maintenance budget. Planning ahead for the remainder of 2008, we will need to take financial measures to offset these expenditures this summer.
5. **Bids** – Bids were received on February 26, 2008 for annual materials and services which were unable to be extended. Awards will be made at our March 19 meeting.