

**Grand Traverse County Road Commission**  
**1881 LaFranier Road, Traverse City, MI 49686**  
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**TO:** Margaret Underwood, Chair - Physical Resources Committee

**FROM:** Mary N. Gillis, Manager

**DATE:** November 7, 2007

**SUBJECT: MONTHLY REPORT FOR THE NOVEMBER 14, 2007 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

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

1.     **Fall Road Tour 2007** – Thank you to all who joined us on October 15 and toured Green Lake, Long Lake and Garfield Townships. A profitable and enjoyable time was had by nearly two dozen county and township employees.
2.     **South Airport Road, Garfield Road to Townline Road** – The project is expected to be open for traffic this week. A rainy October delayed final paving for a few weeks. Punch list items, along with some ramp and bike path work on the west side of Garfield Road, remain to be completed in Spring of 2008.
3.     **South Airport Road at Logan’s Landing** – The work that began on October 2 to install mast arm poles and equipment to signalize this intersection was completed on November 5 when the signal became fully operational.
4.     **Three Mile Road, South Airport Road to Hammond Road** – The second public input meeting held on October 22 at the East Bay Township Hall was very well attended. Residents support widening the road. Non-residents would like a boulevard which residents feel would create a hardship for them to enter/exit their driveways. Consultant will meet with staff to prepare a matrix of road design costs for the four options presented.
5.     **River Road** – Many compliments have been received on this six-mile long crush-and-shape project. When the project was let, it was anticipated that it could carry over into 2008. With good weather and a motivated contractor, the project was completed on October 30.

6. **Keystone Road Corridor Public Information Meeting II** – The second public meeting on October 18 offered several options for the corridor. The consultant presented additional data at our November 7 Board meeting. Staff and consultant will prepare a Board recommendation on the type of grade crossing and budget/scheduling for Keystone and Hammond Road improvements.
7. **Road Crossings over Railroad Facilities** – The Board has directed staff to pursue closing crossings over Walton Road, Fife Lake Township, (in exchange for Hammond-Keystone) and Mill Street, Paradise Township, (in exchange for Meyer Drive at Soccer Fields). MDOT Rail Safety staff has informed us that the Mill Street Crossing does not qualify as a closure for this purpose. We are now looking into an alternate location for closure.
8. **Keystone Soccer Field Access** – Road Commission staff has been working with Parks and Recreation staff to create a design/build proposal for this new access road. We expect to go to bid for the project shortly and have recommendations for the December Physical Resource meeting.
9. **Local Road Matching Policy** – The Board is recommending an increase in the required matching funds on local road improvements. The attached comparison sheet from nearby road commissions and our proposed changes was sent to our townships. Essentially, a 75% match from others, except for brining and some culvert replacements, is proposed. The Board may take action at their December 5 meeting.
10. **Bids for Auditing and Agent of Record** – Rehmann Robson was selected to audit the Road Commission for the next three years. The Board acted to limit the auditing services of any firm to 2-three year commitments. Interviews for the Agent of Record are postponed until after the first of year due to ongoing labor negotiations.
11. **Recall to Work** – The eight remaining laid-off employees were called back to work on October 29 with all but two returning. Ten employees were laid off on April 27. Two employees retired during the past six months and their positions were filled with laid off employees.
12. **Petition to Abandon a Portion of Old M-72/Watson Road** – After holding a public hearing and receiving opposition from an adjoining landowner, the Board acted to deny this petition.
13. **Winter Maintenance** – To comply with MDOT’s change in winter maintenance, our Snow and Ice Control Plan was modified. In essence, M-37 on the Peninsula will continue to receive maintenance to keep the road open with one-wheel track generally free of snow and ice. Overtime will not be allowed to bring it to a generally bare pavement condition.