MY ROADS. MY COUNTY. MY VOTE.

MI Local Roads

Eaton County Local Road Millage
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Eaton County Local Road millage?

A proposed property tax intended to fund maintenance and improvements on 782 miles of Eaton County Local Roads. If approved, it would replace the current road millage that expires in 2026.

What about my city/village?

Revenue generated within cities and villages must be used within that city or village for road and street purposes.

Is this different from the previous millage?

Yes. The current millage invested in improving County Local Roads to good and fair condition. The proposed millage would focus on preserving and maintaining the investment on those roads to help keep them in good to fair condition, as well as improving drainage, culverts, and bridges on those roads.

What is a County Local Road?

County roads are generally classified into two categories for state funding purposes: **County Primary Roads** and **County Local Roads**.

- **County Primary Roads** are typically major routes that connect communities, support commercial traffic, or carry higher traffic volumes across the county.
- **County Local Roads** primarily provide access to homes, farms, neighborhoods, and local destinations. These include some rural paved roads, all subdivision streets, and all gravel county roads in Eaton County.

In general, primary roads "take you somewhere," while local roads "take you home."

How would millage funds be used?

If approved, funds received by the Road Commission would be used exclusively for County Local Roads and may include:

- Preservation and preventative maintenance
- Drainage improvements
- Gravel road surfacing
- Bridge repairs
- Two dust-control applications annually on all gravel roads
- Other maintenance and improvements needed to maintain road conditions

Millage funds would **not** be used for:

- Primary Roads
- General operating expenses
- Snow plowing
- Pothole patching
- Equipment purchases
- Building maintenance
- Work unrelated to road maintenance or improvements

Are other groups eligible to receive millage proceeds?

The law may require a small portion of millage revenue to be distributed to certain local financing authorities, including Downtown Development Authorities (DDAs), Tax Increment Financing Authorities (TIFAs), Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities, and similar entities. In 2026, that amount is estimated to be $151,612.

Why isn't current state funding sufficient for Local Road improvements?

State funding for County Local Roads is barely sufficient to perform routine maintenance, such as snow plowing, road grading, pothole patching, etc. In 2026, the ECRC received only about $6,300 per mile of Local Road but spent about $5,800 per mile on routine maintenance and drain assessments. Road Commission administrative expenses, equipment costs, drain assessment payments, and operational costs quickly use the remainder not directly used for road maintenance.

Will the proposed millage increase my taxes?

Very little. The proposed millage would be levied up to **1.5 mills per year**, but would be offset by the current road millage rate of **1.4964 mills** that expires in 2026.

Your millage costs including the increase can be found here: https://eaton-county-millage-outreach-ecgis.hub.arcgis.com/.

Estimated annual costs based on taxable value:

Taxable Value	Current Annual Cost	Proposed Annual Cost	Annual Increase
$250,000	$374.10	$375.00	$0.90
$175,000	$261.87	$262.50	$0.63
$125,000	$187.05	$187.50	$0.45
$115,000	$172.09	$172.50	$0.41
$75,000	$112.23	$112.50	$0.27
$50,000	$74.82	$75.00	$0.18

How would road projects be selected?

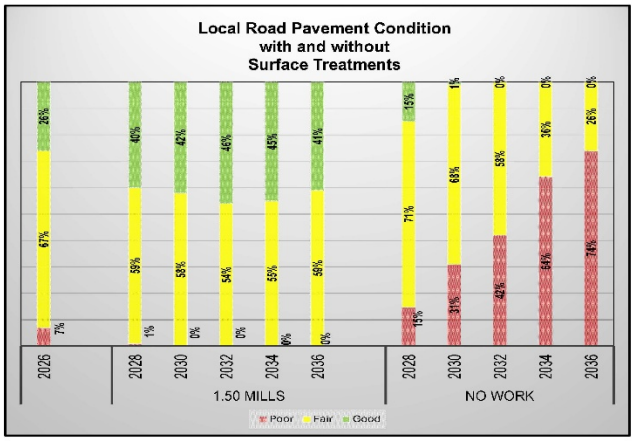
Road improvement projects would be prioritized based on several factors, including:

- Current pavement condition
- Time since last treatment
- Ongoing maintenance concerns
- Identified drainage issues

Is public input part of the process?

Yes. Resident input is an important part of identifying local road concerns. While routine maintenance follows scheduled cycles, reported issues and community feedback may help when considering project priorities where feasible.

If the millage does not pass in November, what will happen?

County Local Roads will deteriorate to the condition they were prior to the current millage.

Projected 10-year pavement condition