



Erica Hobbs

Budget constraints delay Washtenaw County road projects

Posted: 6:20 p.m. December 7, 2009

11 Comments. [Comment Now](#)

State budget constraints are delaying several Washtenaw County road and construction projects.

The [Michigan Department of Transportation's](#) proposed 2010-2014 Five-Year Transportation Program lists 243 statewide road projects. They were scheduled to be completed within the next five years, but will now be postponed indefinitely.

"Without additional revenue sources coming into the state, motorists are going to see a decline in the system conditions, due to the lack of projects that we'll be able to do," MDOT spokeswoman Kari Arend said. "We're just trying to get the word out and let the public know that this is coming up."

Delayed Washtenaw County bridge projects include:

- Repairing the overlay in two sections of US-23 (at Willis Road and Bemis Road).
- Replacing the deck on M-52 over Raisin River.

Delayed road projects include:

- Resurfacing portions of I-94 and M-14.
- Reconstructing parts of M-52 and US-12.

"Many of (the projects) have already been delayed several years, so the fact that they're not going to be done now makes an already bad problem worse," said Terri Blackmore, the executive director of the [Washtenaw Area Transportation Study](#). "The roads will continue to get worse, and (people) will continue to have more funding issues as they have to pay to fix their cars."



Several road and construction projects are on hold due to lack of state funding.

File photo

[Washtenaw County Road Commission](#)

Managing Director Steve Puuri said most of the state's transportation revenue comes from gas taxes and vehicle registration fees. But with more people conserving gas and not buying new cars, he said that leaves less money available for the state's transportation fund.

Furthermore, MDOT says declining revenues make it unlikely that Michigan can match the funding necessary to receive federal transportation money after 2010.

In 2011, MDOT is predicting a loss of \$475 million in federal dollars if the state can't come up with its \$84 million contribution.

"We lose that amount of money, so our money is not going to come back to Michigan, our money is going to go to other states," Arend said.

Currently, MDOT lists 90 percent of state roads in "good" condition. Ten-year projections,

Ann Arbor Deals & More

[University of Michigan Credit Union.](#)
Open an account today.

[GET 10% OFF MICHIGAN APPAREL TODAY!](#)

[Meijer HOLIDAY BONUS](#) Save up to 20% on your grocery purchase!

[Volunteers needed for Exercise & Blood Sugar Study](#)-Get up to \$600

[ReinhartRealtors.com](#) -- for Buying, Selling, or Leasing!

[We understand families on a budget](#) - Play it Again Sports!

[See Everything in Deals & More](#)

From Our Partner: *The Michigan Daily*

[City Council moves forward on Huron River recommendations](#)
December 7, 2009, 11:46 PM

The Ann Arbor City Council finally passed the Huron River and Impoundment Management Plan — which has been in the works since 2006 — last night after implementing multiple amendments.

[Off the Beaten Path: Angell Hall Planetarium](#)
December 7, 2009, 10:31 PM

Students bored with the everyday environs of Ann Arbor can head over to the Angell Hall Planetarium and see 7,000 stars.

however, predict less than 30 percent of roads will be in "good" condition if revenues continue to drop by 2020.

Blackmore said the problem is tied to the legislation.

"Funding has not been raised since 1997, and costs have gone up considerably since then," she said. "Nobody likes a tax, but nobody likes the condition that the roads are in. It's really a user fee."

MDOT is accepting public comment on its plan until Friday, Dec. 11, but says not much else can be done without more revenue. Comments should be e-mailed to MDOT-Five-Year-Program@michigan.gov. The draft 2010-2014 Five-Year Transportation Program is available on the MDOT Web site at: www.michigan.gov/mdot5yearplan.

[Share this post](#)
 Tags: [Michigan Department of Transportation](#), [roads](#), [Washtenaw Area Transportation Study](#), [Washtenaw County Road Commission](#)

[Login](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Manage Your Newspaper Subscription](#) | [Advertise With Us](#)

© 2009 AnnArbor.com LLC and its licensors. All rights reserved.

Use of and/or registration on any portion of this site constitutes acceptance of our User Agreement and Privacy Policy.

- Related Articles:**
- 11/23: [Hitchingham Road in Ypsilanti Township to reopen around 4 p.m. today](#)
 - 11/9: [Private funding of road work increasing in Washtenaw County](#)
 - 10/16: [East Stadium Bridges: A public appeal](#)
 - 8/27: [Ann Arbor's traffic roundabouts improve safety, data shows](#)

11 Comments:

How about the Geddes roundabout money going to resurfacing I-94 and M-14? Those are a lot higher stakes roads due to the constant heavy traffic and the speeds that are maintained.



annarbor28

Posted 13 hours ago

[\(Flag this Post\)](#)

And what happened to Obama's stimulus money for roads? Can't it be released unmatched? Or will it just go to banks?

I seriously thought he promised us all better roads, a better education, more jobs and a chicken (or some tofu) in every pot?



annarbor28

Posted 13 hours ago

[\(Flag this Post\)](#)

This article reinforces the need for more taxes (safe user fee) across most areas of our state government. As noted there are needs in transportation, education, helping the needy etc. All are noble things that government (we the people) need to address. We have been "cutting expenditures" for 10 years. There is no free lunch and it is time to put together a responsible tax package to pay for these needs or "we the people of Michigan" may be facing our own statewide financial collapse.



aareader

Posted 13 hours ago

[\(Flag this Post\)](#)

I really don't think we in Michigan can be taxed any more, and be expected to stay here. What needs to be done is to redo the local and state budgets and cut anything possible, starting with the governor's personal expenditures. Tax universities for the use of non-classroom facilities, such as research facilities. Keep police and fireworkers intact. Cut out all new government construction, and certainly don't buy any more foreign artwork. (Probably not a huge expenditure anywhere but A2 but I bet that some local artists would sell at a low price for the publicity, or have rotating art shows.)
Cut entitlements by 10% across the board.

Look at the school budgets of Detroit, Flint and Saginaw and demand accountability for every penny by directly paying certified vendors.

I am sure there are other ways to decrease the local and state expenditures.

But don't squeeze taxpayers any more. We are ready to move out of here.



annarbor28

Posted 12 hours ago

[\(Flag this Post\)](#)

All these "tax more" people need to put up or shut up! Donate to the causes you deem necessary! I for one agree with AA28. We need another roundabout like we need a hole in the head! Improve the existing roads. With all the "population decrease" traffic flow should be the least of our concerns. Stop telling other people what they should pay more for. You want it? Pay for it!



stonecutter1

Posted 12 hours ago

[\(Flag this Post\)](#)

Gee what a Shock.



Eric64

Posted 12 hours ago

[\(Flag this Post\)](#)

Hey Eric donate the needed money!



stonecutter1

Posted 12 hours ago

[\(Flag this Post\)](#)

Other peoples money.



cinnabar7071

Posted 12 hours ago

[\(Flag this Post\)](#)

How about poor spending also delaying projects?



a2huron

Posted 11 hours ago

[\(Flag this Post\)](#)

Oh come on. Easy to say that we need higher taxes, until we actually have to pay them. Once the state gov hears this kind of talk, they'll go wild and tax everything possible. Just last week the House approved a new tax increase on our cell phone usage. As if this isn't a great way to slow down commerce.

The Senate's supposed to vote on the bill tomorrow, and if it passes, then look out for the higher monthly charge!



scott.m

Posted 9 hours ago

[\(Flag this Post\)](#)

Way to go annabor28~! Totally agree with you. Let us see the legislature cut their pay by 5% like everyone else is having to do. part time govt also. this is not a blank check anymore people are homeless and hungry!!



Stop & Think

Posted moments ago

[\(Flag this Post\)](#)

Showing 11 Comments. [Comment Now](#)



Everything Michigan

MITA says two Genesee County bridge projects delayed because of state's money woes

By Ron Fonger

December 07, 2009, 11:34AM

GENESEE COUNTY -- Bridge projects in the county have been delayed by the state **Department of Transportation** because of a lack of funding, the **Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association** says.

The projects include a substructure repair of I-69 over Dort Highway and a bridge replacement on Corunna Road over Mistequay Creek, MITA said in a news release today.

The Flint Journal could not immediately reach MDOT officials for details or further comment.

MITA said 243 projects statewide have been delayed in the state's draft, five-year plan, which was issued last week.

A spokesman for the organization said the delays show Michigan's transportation funding system is in a state of crisis.

© 2009 MLive.com. All rights reserved.

MDOT Warns Money Running Out for Michigan Roads

Updated: Monday, 07 Dec 2009, 7:11 PM EST
Published : Monday, 07 Dec 2009, 5:28 PM EST

By The Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) - Michigan officials are delaying future road projects because of dwindling revenue.

The Michigan Department of Transportation says in a recent report that lack of money has forced it to consider dropping more than 100 road projects and a similar number of bridge projects off the drawing board from 2010 through 2014.

The state could lose hundreds of millions in federal highway dollars each of the next five years because it can't raise enough to receive all its matching funds.

It could go from spending more than \$1.4 billion annually on highways this year with the help of federal stimulus money to less than \$600 million three out of the next four years, costing thousands of highway jobs.

Road builders said Monday that lawmakers need to raise more money soon.

On the Net:

Michigan Department of Transportation 5-Year Program: www.michigan.gov/mdot5yearplan

Copyright Associated Press, Copyright 2009 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Advertisement



Get more Crohn's info now.
Click here to learn more. ▶

64Z-274034



Everything Michigan

MDOT warns it will delay 243 road projects unless Michigan lawmakers increase funding

By Monica Scott The Grand Rapids Press

December 07, 2009, 10:05PM



Grand Rapids Press File Photo

Michigan is at risk of losing federal funding for road work.

The Michigan Department of Transportation is looking at delaying 243 proposed road and bridge projects -- including 26 in Kent and Ottawa counties -- over the next five years unless the state comes up with the cash to match available federal funds.

The proposal is part of MDOT's draft five-year plan for 2010-14.

While \$1.44 billion is designated for highway construction and maintenance in the current budget, that is expected to drop to \$593 million in 2010-11 if the state can't come up with another \$84 million, according to MDOT.

The state could lose hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding.

The projects were taken off because budget projections for state gas-tax revenues are not high enough to match federal money.

"Michigan's transportation funding system is in a state of crisis," said Mike Nystrom, Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association spokesman, in a statement Monday.

"Clearly, legislators can no longer ignore Michigan crumbling infrastructure and allow the state to forego nearly 300 construction projects that will provide safer roadways and thousands of jobs to Michigan residents."

The fixed per-gallon gasoline tax used to match federal funding and pay for road work stays the same, even when fuel prices rise or road-building materials increase in cost.

There are proposals in the state House of Representatives that would gradually increase gas and fuel taxes and registration fees the next five years for an additional \$1.8 billion. Under a proposal, the gas tax would rise from 19 cents to a maximum of 34 cents per gallon the next seven years.

Proponents of that increase are hopeful the expected loss of \$600 million in federal highway funds will prompt lawmakers to finally act. But lawmakers have been skittish about increasing taxes with the recession.

The delayed projects locally include rebuilding M-11 (28th Street SE) between M-37 and I-96 in Kent County and widening M-104 (Cleveland Road) from 124th Avenue to I-96 in Ottawa County.

MDOT is seeking public comments on its five-year plan for road and bridge projects. Comments on the draft 2010-14 program may be e-mailed to the agency by Friday. The e-mail address for sending comments is: **MDOT-Five-Year-Program@michigan.gov**. A copy of the plan is available on the state's Web site at **www.michigan.gov/mdot5yearplan**. The public comment period started Nov. 30.

E-mail Monica Scott: **mscott@grpress.com**

© 2009 MLive.com. All rights reserved.

MDOT warns money running out for Michigan roads

The Associated Press

Posted Dec 07, 2009 @ 11:52 PM

Lansing, MI — Michigan officials are delaying future road projects because of dwindling revenue.

The Michigan Department of Transportation says in a recent report that lack of money has forced it to consider dropping more than 100 road projects and a similar number of bridge projects off the drawing board from 2010 through 2014.

The state could lose hundreds of millions in federal highway dollars each of the next five years because it can't raise enough to receive all its matching funds.

It could go from spending more than \$1.4 billion annually on highways this year with the help of federal stimulus money to less than \$600 million three out of the next four years, costing thousands of highway jobs.

Road builders said Monday that lawmakers need to raise more money soon.

Copyright © 2009 GateHouse Media, Inc. Some Rights Reserved.

Original content available for non-commercial use under a Creative Commons license, except where noted.



Funding crisis delays road projects in region

BY BRIAN MCGILLIVARY

bmcgillivary@record-eagle.com

December 07, 2009 11:50 pm

—

TRAVERSE CITY -- Michigan's transportation funding crisis could delay more than half of the state highway reconstruction projects in northern Michigan and shelve some county road projects dependent on state funding.

The Michigan Department of Transportation's five-year plan for the 24 northern-most counties in the lower peninsula calls for repairs to 94 of 1,962 miles of state highway and 2 percent of the region's bridges by 2014 -- if funding is available.

It's not, so MDOT intends to delay or shelve six of the seven bridge projects and 17 of 35 highway projects, including two in Grand Traverse County.

"We do not have enough revenue and that is not going to change even if the economy improves," said Mike Nystrom, vice president of the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association trade group. He's also co-chairman of the Michigan Transportation Team, a business and local government group pushing for more state funding for transportation.

"There's no good time to raise taxes but an improved road system ... will be good for everybody, not just the road building industry," Nystrom said.

Revenue from the state's 19-cent per gallon gasoline tax declined more than \$100 million over the last five years, and vehicle registration fees also dropped with the state's poor economy.

MDOT estimates it won't have enough state money to meet the local match requirements for available federal highway funding beginning in 2011, and will lose \$2.1 billion in federal road funds through 2014.

Projects slated for delay include: the M-22 bridge over the Platte River and Frankfort Avenue in the Village of Elberta in Benzie County; restoration of M-22 from M-201 to Omena in Leelanau County; restoration of M-88 between Central Lake and Bellaire in Antrim County; restoration of M-113 between U.S. 131 and M-186 in Fife Lake Township; and reconstruction of U.S. 31 over Tobeco Creek in Acme Township.

Mary Gillis, manager of the Grand Traverse County Road Commission, said it too is struggling to meet match requirements.

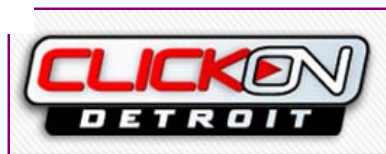
The road commission needs \$317,000 to match a \$400,000 federal safety grant to pave South Long Lake Road and add paved shoulders. Gillis said typically the road commission would use its cut of the state transportation funds to provide a local match, but it expects to cut about \$1 million from that fund in 2010.

Gillis said the project may have to be cut back if she can't find other funding sources.

An almost \$1 million reconstruction project for Cedar Run Road from Gray to Harris roads could also be stalled because it relies on state money for the local match of federal funding.

"If the state funds are cut then the project won't be done," Gillis said.

Copyright © 1999-2008 cnhi, inc.



HOLIDAY GUIDE:
[Recipes, Shopping Tips](#)

27°
[Detroit](#)
[Mist](#)

[Click for more JustWeather.com](#)

[Site](#) | [Web](#) | [As Seen On](#)

Search

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)
- [Contests](#)
- [Marketplace](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [See On](#)

[Homepage](#) / [Detroit Local News](#)

Section is sponsored by:



- [Story](#)
- [Video](#)

Text Size

Wayne Co. Road Projects May Be Delayed

Governor Asking Washington For Help

POSTED: Monday, December 7, 2009

UPDATED: 7:50 pm EST December 7, 2009

LANSING, Mich. -- A new five-year plan by the Michigan Department of Transportation proposes the delaying of 36 road and bridge projects in Wayne County.

MDOT said it has already been forced to delay 243 road projects because of the continued decline in state gas tax revenues and the state's inability to match federal dollars. The delays are in addition to 137 projects MDOT said it delayed in the spring.

Watch: [MDOT Warns Money Running Out For Roads](#)

View: [MDOT Plans](#)

Wayne County was just recently named by the Michigan Asset Management Council Annual Report of Federal Aid System as having 1,841 miles of poor roads -- the worst in Michigan.

Full Story: [Report: Wayne Co. Has 'Poorest' Roads](#)

The cuts include 29 bridge projects and seven road projects.

Some of the proposed projects to be delayed include:

I-275 northbound over East Hines Drive -- overlay

I-75 northbound connector over I-75 -- bridge replacement

I-75 connector southbound over I-75 -- bridge replacement

I-94 to West Grand Boulevard over open area -- bridge replacement

I-75 Ramps DIX Toledo Interchange -- reconstruction

I-96 (Jefferies Freeway) Middlebelt to US-24 -- reconstruction
 M-5 to Rouge River -- resurface
 Sibley to Goddard -- reconstruction
 Old M-14 (Plymouth Road) Newburgh to Farmington Road -- resurface
 US-24 (Telegraph Road) Vreeland to West Road -- major widening

Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm told reporters Monday she is asking the White House for an exemption.

"We don't have the money for it. But if they waive the requirements ... we can still get the federal dollars without the state portion," Granholm said. "That would allow us to put those projects back on."

Macomb County has six road projects that could be cut while Oakland County has four road and eight bridge projects on the chopping block.

Craig Bryson of the The Road Commission of Oakland County said proposed construction, or cancellation of it, would affect everyone in the community.

"We are facing difficult economic times as it is. When the transportation infrastructure falls into worse shape, it's worse for the economy and it's worse for the safety of motorists," Bryson said.

Michael Rogers of the Wayne County Roads Division said he thinks the state's decision would create a domino effect locally.

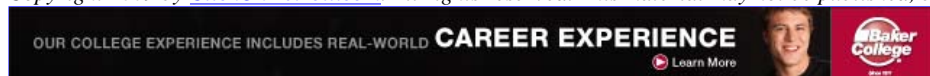
"Of the 10 projects we might have had scheduled, now we can only do one of them because all of our forces are dedicated to the MDOT project," Rogers said.

MDOT said it could go from spending more than \$1.4 billion annually on highways this year with the help of federal stimulus money to less than \$600 million three out of the next four years, costing thousands of highway jobs.

The Michigan Department of Transportation is seeking public comment on its 5-year plan for projects.

Comments on the draft 2010-2014 Five-Year Transportation Program may be e-mailed to the agency before next Friday. The e-mail address for sending comments is: MDOT-Five-Year-Program@michigan.gov.

Copyright 2009 by [ClickOnDetroit.com](http://www.clickondetroit.com). All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.



To link to this article from your blog, copy and paste the url below into your blog or homepage

Link: <http://www.clickondetroit.com>



[Print](#)



[Email](#)



[Link](#)



The views expressed are not those of ClickOnDetroit.com, WDIV or its affiliated companies. This is a community moderated forum. (Please note the 'Like' and 'Report' tabs.) By posting your comments you agree to accept our [Terms of Use](#).

Comments

Showing 6 of 6 Comments

Sort by [Community Page](#) [Subscribe by email](#)

[You must log into your Disqus Profile in order to post comments.](#)



• [TeresaE](#) 9 hours ago

So exactly what IS Jenn's plan for when the free cash train stops?

And stop it will, one way or another.

All our government is doing is growing, becoming more oppressive and kicking the can down the road.

We cannot continue on this way, and it is IMPOSSIBLE to ever succeed this way either.

So why do WE allow it to continue?

Vote ALL the bums out. Every single one.

Never happen, FUBAR is the result of our own voting ineptitude.

- o [Like](#)
- o [Report](#)
- o [Reply](#)
- o [More ▼](#)



conscere [9 hours ago](#)

who cares there are no jobs left in the state anyway.

1 person liked this comment.

- o [Like](#)
- o [Report](#)
- o [Reply](#)
- o [More ▼](#)



Freedom80 [14 hours ago](#)

What else is new, I though Obama had a stimulus plan. He's already reniged on that, besides putting people back to work.

- o [Like](#)
- o [Report](#)
- o [Reply](#)
- o [More ▼](#)



TeresaE [9 hours ago](#)

He hasn't "put people back to work" but he has kept the state and local governments from having to face the reality the rest of us have been living for six years - at least in Michigan. Many states are keeping the status quo (or pretty close) while the citizens lose pay, hours, jobs and small businesses. Nothing in Washington - or Lansing - will improve this reality.

We, the non-union, non-government (or "certified" government contractors) are being sacrificed for their privileged lives.

Until we the people wake up and demand real change - not more government and not more unions - we, the people, are doomed to shared poverty and mediocrity. For that is what socialism, modern unionism, and communism, truly are. Better for the elite and government, sacrifices all made by us. So for the few it is a great gig if you can get it.

- o [Like](#)
- o [Report](#)
- o [Reply](#)
- o [More ▼](#)



rorykase1 [13 hours ago](#)

Bite your lip boy, Barrack da man!

- o [Like](#)
- o [Report](#)
- o [Reply](#)
- o [More ▼](#)



OpusX [10 hours ago](#)

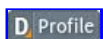
Why don't you go suck on your daddy's d!ck, m0therfocker?

1 person liked this comment.


- o [Like](#)
- o [Report](#)
- o [Reply](#)
- o [More ▼](#)



Add New Comment





- Logged in as
-  [Logout from DISQUS](#)
- Logged in as
- using Facebook Connect ([Logout](#))

Required: Please log into Disqus or connect with Facebook or sign in with Twitter or sign in using OpenID to comment on **ClickOnDetroit**.

Type your comment here.

Name

[blog comments powered by Disqus](#)

Hot Topics



Links We Like

Sponsored Content

[The Top 10 Hardest Jobs To Fill](#)



[Find out what a sputtering economy and an increasingly difficult to crack job market means to you. More](#)

[The Top 4 Home Improvement Myths](#)



[Don't believe everything people tell you about home improvement. Check out the top 4 myths and stop throwing away your money. More](#)

[The 15 Cheapest Cars To Own](#)



[If you're looking to save on your next new vehicle, a low sticker price is just one aspect. Consider all the costs and make the right decision. More](#)

[10 Tips For Healthy Skin This Winter](#)

[Winter air can leave skin dry, itchy, and irritated. Use these strategies to keep skin moist and supple all season. More](#)

Hot Shots!



[Hot Shots: Chuck's Holiday Lights](#)

The time is near again, and Chuck Gaidica is looking for the best holiday lights display. [More](#)

Slideshow: [Holiday Lights Hot Shots](#)



[Hot Shots: 83rd Annual Thanksgiving Day Parade](#)

Send us your favorite moments of the 83rd Annual Thanksgiving Day parade. [More](#)

View: [2009 Parade Hot Shots](#)

[More Hot Shots](#)

Sponsored Links

[Ads by Google](#)

Independent senior living

29 luxurious, secure facilities in SE MI.
Come home to American House

www.americanhouse.com

[Severe Weather](#)
[Affected Counties](#)

Video & Live Events

1
2
3



- [Monday FastCast 12/7/09](#)








- [Slave Hunter: Metro Detroit Target For Kidnappers](#)



- [Tonight At 11 P.M. - Does Former NBA Star Owe Employees Money?](#)



- [Watch Local 4 News Here](#)

- 
[Tonight At 11 P.M. - Sex Slaves](#)
- 
[Local 4Casters Say Snow In Forecast](#)
- 
[Kilpatrick Jailhouse Calls Played In Court](#)
- 
[Feelings Mixed About Arts, Beats & Eats Plan](#)
- 
[MDOT Warns Money Running Out For Roads](#)

[More Video](#)

[Watch Local 4 News Here](#)

Watch Local 4 News live for the latest news and weather updates. [More](#)



Healthy *Blue* Living™

Click here to join them.



Blue Care Network of Michigan

A nonprofit corporation and independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

On Local 4



[Tonight At 11 P.M. - Does Former NBA Star Owe Employees Money?](#)

He made millions playing in the NBA and then became a successful local businessman. Employees say their former boss won't return their calls. See what happened after Local 4 called him.



[Send Us Your Hot Shots Of America's Thanksgiving Parade](#)

Share your great photos of America's Thanksgiving Parade and even your favorite holiday recipes! [More](#)

[Complete TV Listings](#)

Weird News



[10,000 Lanterns Fly Into Record Book](#)

[Top Color For 2010: 'Transporting' Turquoise](#)
[Google Search Results To Include 'Real-Time' Data](#)
[Brazil Thieves Tunnel To \\$6M During Football Final](#)
[Man Says Cows Licked \\$100 In Damage To House](#)

We Deliver Every Day!

Introducing
Morning Home Delivery
 from **CLICKON DETROIT**



And It's Free!
 Sign up now!

Most Popular

• Stories [Click to Expand](#)

- [Ex-Mayor Denies Threat To Prosecutor](#)



Testimony in Former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's restitution hearing will continue Tuesday, a day after jailhouse tapes between Kilpatrick and his wife regarding the lease of their current home may have revealed he again lied under oath.

- [Accused Serial Thieves Arrested](#)



Police say they have arrested two men suspected of committing car break-ins and home break-ins in at least 17 southwest Michigan communities and one in suburban Toledo.

- [TMZ: Woods Admitted For Drug Overdose](#)



Elin Nordegren has moved out of the Windermere, Fla., home she shared with husband Tiger Woods, and now new rumors are swirling about the golf star's hospital trip.

- [Man Charged With Murder In Wife's Death](#)



A Chesterfield Township man was charged Monday with first-degree murder for the stabbing death of his wife.

- [Homeless Shelter Turning People Away](#)



A Royal Oak homeless shelter says it's having to turn away people daily because they have reached their capacity.

• Videos [Click to Expand](#)

- [Kilpatrick Jailhouse Calls Played In Court](#)



Ex-Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick denied in court Monday that he made threats to a prosecutor during a jailhouse telephone call to his wife while he was serving time following a text-messaging sex scandal that led to his resignation.

- [Kilpatrick Talks About Gifts To His Wife](#)



Local 4's Karen Drew reports on what ex-Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick said about gifts he got his wife, Carlita.

- [Tonight At 11 P.M. - Does Former NBA Star Owe Employees Money?](#)



He made millions playing in the NBA and then became a successful local businessman. Employees say their former boss won't return their calls. See what happened after Local 4 called him.

- [Slave Hunter: Metro Detroit Target For Kidnappers](#)



Local 4's Marc Santa reports on a man called the Slave Hunter, who rescues women who've been kidnapped and turned into sex slaves.

- [Chesterfield Twp. Man Arrested For Stabbing Wife](#)



Authorities say a 41-year-old Macomb County woman was fatally stabbed by her husband at their home.

• Slideshows [Click to Expand](#)

- [IMAGES: Kilpatrick Restitution Hearing](#)



Kilpatrick takes the stand while Judge David Groner listens to Kiltaprick's attorney Michael Alan Schwartz and Prosecutor Athina Siringas.

- [Hot Shots: Chuck's Holiday Lights](#)



Check out these great pictures of holiday lights around town!

- [Sexiest Newscasters](#)

Maxim listed the sexiest newscasters in television. Take a look at who they picked as the hottest on-air talent.

- [Slideshow-Thanksgiving Day Parade Hot Shots](#)

- [PhotoVote First Signs Of Spring](#)

Question Of The Day

If Arts, Beats and Eats moved to Royal Oak, would you go?

- Yes, I would go if it moved
- Yes, I will go either way
- No, I won't go if it moves to Royal Oak
- No, I never go anyway

[Vote](#)

[Results](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [E-Mail](#)

Features

1
2
3
▶



- [Leading Edge Newest Frontier](#)



- [2010 Lincoln MKZ...Loaded for liftoff](#)



- [Fire Up Sleigh For Holiday Travel Hotspots](#)



- [20 Cars That Won't Break the Bank To Insure](#)



- [Diabetes-Friendly Recipes That Work](#)



- [Biggest Loser: Detroit Edition](#)



- [Ford, Detroit's Best Selling Vehicles.](#)



- [The Top 10 Hardest Jobs To Fill](#)



- [My House Is Worth What?](#)



- [Watch High School Playoff Highlights](#)



- [Bernie Smilovitz Interviews Legends](#)



- [Special Holiday Section](#)



- [Do You Know What's 4 Dinner?](#)



- [Detroit Casting Call For New NBC Show](#)



- [EMR Med Scan!](#)

 [Email Alerts](#)

 [RSS News Feeds](#)



 [Mobile](#)

 [Live Streams](#)

 [Slideshows](#)

 [Video](#)

[Set Click on Detroit as Homepage](#) | [Back To Top](#) |  [Search](#)

POST-NEWSWEEK STATIONING  **Internet Broadcasting** - Partners:  [washingtonpost.com](#) [NBC](#) [MSNBC](#)

©2009, Internet Broadcasting Systems, Inc.

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Advertising](#) | [Microsoft MapPoint Terms of Use](#) | [Microsoft Privacy Statement](#) | [Site Map](#)

[Click to Print](#)[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Posted: 11:08 PM Dec 7, 2009

MDOT May Delay Hundreds of Road & Bridge Projects

240 projects may be pushed back because of a lack of money.

Reporter: [Associated Press](#)

Michigan officials are delaying future road projects because of dwindling revenue.

The Michigan Department of Transportation says in a recent report that lack of money has forced it to consider dropping more than 100 road projects and a similar number of bridge projects off the drawing board from 2010 through 2014.

The state could lose hundreds of millions in federal highway dollars each of the next five years because it can't raise enough to receive all its matching funds.

It could go from spending more than \$1.4 billion annually on highways this year with the help of federal stimulus money to less than \$600 million three out of the next four years, costing thousands of highway jobs. Road builders said Monday that lawmakers need to raise more money soon.

Find this article at:

<http://www.wilx.com/news/headlines/78740932.html>

[Click to Print](#)[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

Copyright © 2002-2008 - Gray Television Group, Inc.



Road Projects in Jeopardy

Posted: Dec 7, 2009 05:16 PM



Hundreds of road projects are put on the back burner all because the state doesn't have the money to do them. The Michigan Department of Transportation released its 5 year plan, and missing from it is about 250 road projects. The good news- fewer orange barrels on the road. The bad- many bumps and potholes could be here to stay.

One solution could cost you more at the pump. Rust, cracks and holes, a typical way to describe Michigan's roads. It could only get worse. A bridge over Cedar Street in Lansing was supposed to be fixed, but not any more. It's one of 243 road projects that MDOT delayed. MDOT pays for its projects using 80 percent federal dollars and 20 percent state dollars. Problem is, the state doesn't have that 20 percent. That means Michigan can't get the federal money either. Mike Nystrom is with the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association. He says the way to fix the problem is to increase the gas tax. A higher gas tax would pay for more road improvements, an idea a few lawmakers are looking at, but getting the public on board is a different story. Without more money, our roads could waste away as well.

A senate committee will talk about increasing the diesel fuel tax by 4 cents, a proposal that would raise 40 million dollars for Michigan's roads. That discussion is set for December 8th at 1pm at the Farnum building in Lansing.



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2009 WorldNow and WLNS. All Rights Reserved.
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

Funding troubles delay road projects

2009-12-07 16:52:34

WEST MICHIGAN (NEWSCHANNEL 3) – With winter weather hitting West Michigan, M-DOT crews will be working hard to keep the roads clear.

Salt trucks and snow plows will be out in force as another winter storm bears down on the region.

Meanwhile, M-DOT's plans for bridge and road repair, starting in 2011, are taking a major hit.

Over 200 projects are now being delayed because of budget problems, those delays come on top of another 137 projects delayed in the spring. Some of the delays are expected to have a major impact in West Michigan.

They are roads that many people drive everyday. M-89 in Allegan County, I-194 in Battle Creek, and Stadium Drive in Kalamazoo are all slated for repairs that won't happen if funding continues to crumble.

Michigan is facing an \$84 million shortfall in bridge and road money, and \$475 million in federal money could be lost if Michigan can't come up with the cash.

When it comes to bridge repairs and rebuilding, eight projects in Kent County could be scrapped, five in Calhoun, and two in Ottawa and Kalamazoo counties.

WZZM 13 News - Print Edition

Kent and Ottawa road improvements could be delayed

[Bob Brenzing](#)

■ 11 hrs ago

LANSING, Mich. (WZZM) - The state of Michigan is losing its ability to match federal spending dollars and that is why the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is cutting 26 road and bridge projects in Kent and Ottawa Counties, according to a group that focuses on improving Michigan roads.

According to the [Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Team \(MITA\)](#) and the [Michigan Transportation Team \(MTT\)](#), MDOT is having to delay 243 road and bridge projects. In West Michigan, that includes a restoration of 28th Street SE from M-37 to I-96, a widening of M-104 from 124th Ave. to I-96 and adding a lane to US-31 From Lakewood Blvd. north to Quincy Street.

John Richard, MDOT spokesperson says, "We're going to be 84-million dollars shy of revenue in 2011, which would cause us to lose 475 million in federal match."

Richard sites a decline in gas tax revenues and vehicle registration fees. "Cars are more fuel efficient, people are using less gas, people are holding onto their cars longer, so registration fees stay the same."

"Michigan's transportation funding system is in a state of crisis," said Mike Nystrom, vice president of government and public relations for MITA, and co-chair of the MTT. "These postponed projects represent critical improvements that impact every community across Michigan. Our legislators' failure to invest in our transportation system is forcing the state to neglect our roadways and will ultimately lead them to fall into deplorable conditions and increase the cost of repairs."

MDOT's new updated draft [2010-2014 Five-Year Transportation Program](#) lists the statewide projects that have been delayed. MDOT is taking public comments on the plan through Friday at MDOT-Five-Year-Program@michigan.gov.



ADVERTISEMENT





December 8, 2009

MDOT: Bridge work at risk

Shortfall means road projects might be delayed, canceled

*Andy Fitzpatrick
The Enquirer*

The Michigan Department of Transportation announced last week a statewide revenue shortfall is crippling the state's ability to come up with its share of cash to procure \$475 million in federal road funds.

MDOT said certain road and bridge projects may have to be delayed or canceled because of its \$84 million revenue loss for 2011.

And the agency's 2010-14 Five-Year Transportation Program report projects a \$350 million state shortfall for a federal funding loss of \$2.1 billion.

According to both MDOT and the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association, the reason for the revenue loss is primarily the shrinking amount of money collected through the Michigan gas tax.

"That's the biggest significant recognizable piece," MDOT spokesman Nick Schirripa said Monday. "Because people are driving less and driving more fuel-efficient vehicles, there are huge decreases in gas tax revenue."

There are five bridges in Calhoun County that could have needed work and now have been delayed; three of them are along I-194. Those are at Dickman Road, Fountain Street and the bridge over the Grand Trunk Western railroad tracks. The other two are on M-66 over Wanondaga Creek and on M-96 over Raymond Road in Emmett Township.

Those projects were slated for work in 2012.

Kalamazoo County has two bridge projects scheduled for delay and Barry County has one.

There are three roadwork projects now in question in Calhoun County and two apiece in Barry and Kalamazoo counties.

In Calhoun, two of the road projects are on the I-94 business loop. Sections of East Michigan Avenue in Albion and West Columbia Avenue in Battle Creek were originally planned to be resurfaced in 2014.

The other resurfacing project that may be delayed is Homer's section of M-60, which was scheduled for 2011.

Schirripa said projects that are already under way and funded through fiscal year 2010 will be unaffected.

Schirripa said safety will not be an issue; if emergency work becomes necessary, the agency will work to find the money to do it. If that's not possible, he said, the MDOT would close the road.

"That doesn't help people much," Schirripa said. "If there's a bridge on your way to work, you want that bridge open and you want it to be safe."

"These postponed projects represent critical improvements that impact every community across Michigan," Mike Nystrom, MITA's vice president of government and public relations, said in a statement released Monday.

"Our legislators' failure to invest in our transportation system is forcing the state to neglect our roadways and will ultimately lead them to fall into deplorable conditions and increase the cost of repairs," he said.

MDOT is seeking public comments on the five-year plan through Friday.

Andy Fitzpatrick can be reached at 966-0697 or afitzpatrick@battlecr.gannett.com.

Additional Facts

For more information

Go to www.michigan.gov/mdot5yearplan to download the Michigan Department of Transportation's Five-Year Transportation Program report and see a list of all bridge and road projects in the state. MDOT is taking public comments by e-mail at MDOT-Five-Year-Program@michigan.gov or by sending them to Michigan Department Of Transportation, Five Year Program Comments, 425 W. Ottawa, Lansing, MI 48909.



December 8, 2009

18 road projects in Eaton, Ingham counties face delays

Barbara Wieland
bwieland@lsj.com

Budget crunches at the state and local levels are delaying road work projects in Michigan, according to a report released Monday by the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association.

Eighteen road and bridge projects in Ingham and Eaton counties are among 243 projects statewide that reportedly will be delayed as the state grapples with a budget shortfall.

The delays include two road projects and 16 bridge projects on thoroughfares as commonly used as the Lake Lansing Road overpass on U.S. 127 and Interstate 96's overpass of Cedar Street in Lansing.

The projects had been slated to be completed by 2014, but a recent five-year plan released by the Michigan Department of Transportation shows those projects have been put off, said MITA, a trade association representing the heavy construction industry.

Official: Crisis possible

If the road work is delayed too long, it could pose a risk to Michigan drivers, MITA Vice President Mike Nystrom said.

"I'm not going to cry the sky is falling, but we are certainly in a situation where we could have a catastrophic event in Michigan if we continue to neglect our system," he said.

Counties feel pinch

MDOT officials reiterated statements the department made in August that Michigan roads are safe.

"We are using limited funding as efficiently as we can," state Transportation Director Kirk Steudle said in a statement then. "We take highway and bridge safety very seriously and want citizens to be confident that Michigan's bridges are safe, regularly inspected and well maintained."

Nystrom said the state would have to spend an extra \$3 billion annually to bring the state's roads, highways and bridges up to good condition. The state currently budgets approximately \$3.3 billion to the Michigan Department of Transportation. Increased spending on the state's part also would enable Michigan to take advantage of federal matching dollars for road repairs.

County road maintenance also is being affected by tight budgets, said Bill Conklin, managing director of the Ingham County Road Commission.

Down 10.5 percent

He said the commission's funding has dropped 10.5 percent since 2004. The Ingham County Road Commission operates on an \$11 million annual budget.

"In order for our roads to be in better shape and for maintenance to be kept the way it was in the recent past we do need some sort of revenue increase," Conklin said.

Nystrom's group wants road funding increased through a higher gasoline tax or increased vehicle registration fees.

Additional Facts

Public comment

- The Michigan Department of Transportation seeks public comment on a draft of its 2010-2014 Five-Year Transportation Program, which includes plans for bridge and road repair. Comments should be e-mailed to MDOT-Five-Year-Program@michigan.gov before Friday. The draft 2010-2014 Five-Year Transportation Program is available on the MDOT Web site at: www.michigan.gov/mdot5yearplan.
-

News > Local News

MDOT holds 243 road projects

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

By KAREN WORKMAN
Of The Oakland Press

With state funding for road projects decreasing for the fifth year in a row, the Michigan Department of Transportation is temporarily nixing 243 statewide projects, including several within Oakland County.

"This is a very, very troubling report that we see; we're going in the wrong direction," said Keith Ledbetter, director of legislative affairs for the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association, a statewide trade organization.

The report released by MDOT outlines 243 road and bridge projects that will be delayed in addition to the 137 projects slated for delays by MDOT earlier in the year. The 243 projects were originally scheduled for completion within the next five years.

"This is what it boils down to — starting in 2011, if we cannot raise additional funding for transportation projects, those projects will be pushed off the five-year plan. Will they ever come back? Yeah, possibly. We just don't know when," said Rob Morosi, spokesman for MDOT.

Morosi said MDOT has lost \$170 million in revenue during the past five years and the department's budget is feeling the effects.

"I would say it's accurate to put it at being in crisis mode right now," Morosi said of the funding woes.

Most road projects MDOT is responsible for are funded by both the federal and state governments. The state must provide 20 percent of a project's cost in order to get federal funding, which pays for the remaining 80 percent.

The federal funds come from a gas tax of 18.4 cents per gallon. Funding for MDOT comes from a gas tax of 19 cents per gallon as well as from vehicle registrations.

Morosi said that MDOT is struggling to pay its 20 percent share of the projects, meaning it cannot secure federal funding for them.

"If we're not able to provide the matching dollars, you still pay that 18.4 cent (tax at the gas pump) but because we do not have the money to match federal dollars, for every gallon of gas you pay for that 18.4 cents is going to other states that can afford to match dollars," Morosi said.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm did put together a transportation funding task force that has finished its work and made suggestions to the legislature on funding solutions, Morosi said.

What is causing the funding problem for MDOT comes back to the economy. First, people are not traveling as far as they used to, meaning less fuel is purchased and fewer tax dollars are raised.

Second, people are also holding on to their vehicles longer, which drives down the revenue that comes from registrations.

“What you’re looking at is, in essence, the perfect storm for dwindling infrastructure,” Morosi said.

In fact, a chart provided by MDOT shows pavement levels currently considered 90 percent good to drop to just 25 percent good by 2020.

“We haven’t seen those conditions, maybe in the history of Michigan,” Ledbetter said.

Ledbetter said the stimulus money was a only a “small shot in the arm.”

“There’s an inaccurate public perception that the federal government spent its lions share of stimulus dollars on roads and bridges, but it was less than five percent of the stimulus money that went to roads and bridges,” Ledbetter said.

Projects in Oakland County that will be put on hold indefinitely include:

The removal of an abandoned railroad bridge over I-96 in Lyon Township near New Hudson, just south of the Milford Township border. The bridge was to be replaced with a pedestrian pathway bridge and was likely part of the Rails to Trails initiative, Morosi said.

Replacement of the Crooks Road bridge over M-59 in Rochester Hills. “That was a project we wanted to do in 2013; we were going to redo the interchange on the bridge and do a larger bridge.” Also put on hold was work to improve the ramps and section of M-59 that goes underneath the bridge.

Repairs to the railroad bridge that crosses Trowbridge Road in Bloomfield Hills, just east of Woodward Ave.

Replacement of a bridge on Dixie Highway in Waterford Township which goes over the Clinton River.

Reconstruction of Rochester Road from Second Street to University Drive in downtown Rochester.

Widening of Auburn Road in Rochester Hills from Adams Road to Dequindre Road.

Resurfacing of Dixie Highway from Telegraph to Interstate 75. The nearly ninemile stretch of road starts in Waterford Township and also travels through Independence and Springfield townships.

Repairs to the in-use GTW Railroad bridge over M-59. The GTW railroad crosses M-59 in both Pontiac and Rochester Hills. Officials are unsure which bridge is specified.

URL: http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2009/12/08/news/local_news/doc4b1e24c2baeda253447188.prt

© 2009 theoaklandpress.com, a **Journal Register** Property

MICHIGAN ROADS

MDOT warns money running out for Michigan roads

LANSING, Mich. (AP) - Michigan officials are delaying future road projects because of dwindling revenue. The Michigan Department of Transportation says in a recent report that lack of money has forced it to consider dropping more than 100 road projects and a similar number of bridge projects off the drawing board from 2010 through 2014. The state could lose hundreds of millions in federal highway dollars each of the next five years because it can't raise enough to receive all its matching funds. It could go from spending more than \$1.4 billion annually on highways this year with the help of federal stimulus money to less than \$600 million three out of the next four years, costing thousands of highway jobs. Road builders said Monday that lawmakers need to raise more money soon.