



# The 5 Buckets of Michigan Road Funding

Have you ever found yourself wondering how roads are funded in the state of Michigan?

Michigan road construction is funded by a patchwork of federal, state, and local taxpayer dollars. Funds are raised for the Michigan Transportation Fund (a county's largest source of revenue) through the federal fuel tax, state fuel tax, license and registration fees. In some areas of the state, like Jackson County, a small portion of property taxes, collected through a millage, also helps fund roads. Once collected, the money is invested in the road system based on the type of road.

The graphic illustrates how funds are distributed in our state.



**Purpose:** Connect states

**Responsible Agency:** Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

**Funding Sources**

- Federal Highway Trust Fund
- Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) - state portion



**Purpose:** Connect counties

**Responsible Agency:** Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

**Funding Source:** Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) - state portion



**Purpose:** Connect local communities

**Responsible Agency:** County road commission

**Funding Source:** Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) - county portion

**Supplemental Funding Options**

- Federal and state grants
- County-wide millage



**Purpose:** Connect homes and businesses to cities and villages

**Responsible Agencies:** County road commission and township government

**Funding Sources**

- Township funds

**Supplemental Funding Options**

- Township-wide millage
- Township-wide SAD\*



**Purpose:** Provide access to people who live or work there

**Responsible Agencies:** County road commission and township government

**Funding Sources**

- Township funds

**Supplemental Funding Option**

- Neighborhood SAD\*

\* Special Assessment District (SAD)—an area where a majority of property owners agree to tax themselves in exchange for a service, such as road work, over and above the routine maintenance. Townships can initiate a township-wide SAD or a neighborhood SAD. Residents may petition for a neighborhood SAD.

(graphic inspired by Lew Kidder)

## April Meetings Scheduled

### GOVERNMENT

April 2, 7:00 pm: Village Council Regular Meeting, Village Hall

April 4, 7:30 pm: Village Planning Commission Meeting, Village Hall

April 8, 6:30 pm: Village Downtown Development Authority Meeting, Village Hall

April 9, 6:30 pm: Grass Lake Charter Township Board Meeting, Township Hall

April 16, 7:00 pm: Village Council Regular Meeting, Village Hall

April 22, 7:00 pm: Village Town Hall, Village Hall

### COMMUNITY

April 11, 8:00 am: Grass Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce, Village Hall

Village of Grass Lake

**Town Hall Meeting**  
**Monday, April 22 (Earth Day)**

**@ 7PM**



### The Golf Cart Ordinance

Village Ordinances, Chapter 70, covers golf carts, including their registration with decals, the requirement for licensed operators, and for driving on Village Streets during daylight hours only. Please refer to the ordinance for full details.

([https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/grasslakemi/latest/grasslake\\_mi/0-0-0-1055](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/grasslakemi/latest/grasslake_mi/0-0-0-1055))

The maximum speed at which the golf cart may operate is 15 mph.



Citizens are welcome to Village Council meetings and they are no longer an evening-long commitment. With recent improvements to Trustee Council packet data\*, regular meetings have become more efficient and usually the agenda can be completed within one hour or so.

These meetings include time for Public comment (3 minutes each). Public comment is one-way communication — council is to listen, without entering into any discussion. To receive answers to questions asap, please contact the Village Manager or a council Trustee to respond prior to the meeting — emails are available on the Village website.

Open and civil discussion over topics of concern is encouraged at Town Hall meetings. The next Village Town Hall is scheduled this month, on Earth Day, April 22.

\*Council packets for a posted meeting date are made available to the public at least 3 business days before the meeting as pdfs; these are downloadable from the Village website (found within Documents on Demand), giving the public access to the information available pre-meeting.

## Michigan Weatherization Assistance Program

Michigan's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is a federally-funded, low-income, residential energy conservation program that provides free home energy conservation services to low-income Michigan homeowners and renters.

These services reduce energy use and lower utility bills, thus creating more self-sufficient households. Households that receive weatherization services could expect heating costs reductions of 20 to 25 percent. At today's fuel costs, that amounts to about a \$300 savings per year.

One must be a Michigan resident to be eligible for this benefit program; preference

may apply to people over 60 years of age, families with one or more members with a disability, and families with children.

Use this link for more information available through EGLE:

<https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1861>

### MISS DIG 811 Reminder

Avoid unwanted surprises. MISS DIG 811 should be called for before planting trees, or installing above ground raised beds etc. — think about long ago buried pipes and wires.

## Village Spoiler Alert:

There is at least one millage in your future.

Police-related funding measures appear to be stated for an election ballot in 2024, and here is how/where to learn more: <https://mijackson.org/2999/Public-Safety-Millage>.

We appreciate the responsive police work accomplished by officers assigned to Grass Lake through a contract funded by a com-

bination of Village and Township budgets. This contract, including yearly increases, is slated for renewal in two years.

A power-point presentation file, "The Jackson County Sheriff's Office and Correctional Facilities: General Information and History," can be obtained from the Village Clerk.

## Your chance to become one of the Village People

Local government decisions have more influence on residents than state or federal government decisions.

Three Village Council seats are up for election on November's ballot. These positions are non-partisan. As Grass Lake is a small community, all benefit when citizens take step to become directly involved. If you wish to have a say in decisions made for the Village and are interested in our community, this is your chance to make a difference.

The Grass Lake Township Clerk is the elec-

tion official who provides applicable filing requirements for the Village of Grass Lake. Reach her by email ([gailh@glct.com](mailto:gailh@glct.com)), by phone (517-522-8464 Ext. 123), or in person at the Grass Lake Charter Township office. The necessary forms, including a petition signed by at least six (6) registered voters, come with detailed instructions and are not difficult to complete. Deadline for filing completed paperwork with the Clerk is July 18, 2024. Interview a current Trustee!

Don't miss the opportunity to be one those "Village People."

# Tell me more...

## A recap of Downtown Development Authority-related projects in Grass Lake—Winter 2024

### **Cattlemen's Coffee & Provisions**

opening on S. Lake Street provided a positive vibe for January and has been growing its customer base ever since. All who have yet to see its offerings can stop in weekdays from 7-4 pm, and 8-noon on Saturdays. This entrepreneurial investment in our downtown came with DDA encouragement during the Health Department's process, a grant, and helpful information.

A May opening is anticipated for **Asher Creek**, the upscale deli and creamery, in renovated space that was once Jams. The owners did preliminary work with the Health Department to simplify their final review; approval is expected soon. They passed all building inspections and the interior looks good. DDA was in contact throughout this renovation.

Kelsey Wonsavage of Chelsea is the new owner of the historically-significant, one-story storefront next to Grass Lake Nutrition. Soon it will be **Beetons Fine Foods**, a bakery-eatery with beverages. Her plans include installation of a commercial kitchen and a dining area. She is striving to procure a Build Mi Community grant, as well as Official Development Assistance (ODA) grants, and, in following the rules, her build-out work is proceeding as quickly as allowed. She hopes to open this summer. Early on, DDA encouraged Kelsey to consider Grass Lake and has assisted her when possible.

**Prates Place** is coming to Grass Lake. A family-oriented, eatery-sports bar meant to cater to youth-league, post game gatherings and

our community. The former Ryan's Restaurant location needed more extensive renovation than first expected, but its owners are intent on opening as soon as reasonable; exterior changes will be visible soon. The Township is assisting with data needed for them to obtain a development liquor license. They have submitted for ODA grants. Their application for a DDA revitalization grant has been approved.

**Lost Railway Museum (LRM)** has applied for a grant to update their recently acquired Lion's Club building. It will be reviewed by DDA's Properties Committee, followed by the DDA Board in April.

Stacy Osborn, is modifying space at Stone's Auto for her **pet grooming business**, and is expected to apply for a new DDA retail grant.

Several properties that comprise **Grand Illusions** Architectural Salvage in downtown owned by Leroy Darwin's widow, remain a topic of interest. Sue has indicated to the DDA that she has arrangements for sale, rental, or other plans regarding the main structures, but gave no specifics at this time. DDA has met with her on several occasions, shared historic preservation information, and remains available to help with transitions that face this treasure-trove of antique Glass—leaded, stained, beveled, mantles, doors, molding/flooring, lighting, radiators, tubs and

hardware. Any local business is ultimately controlled by its owner.

Regarding local events, DDA Executive Director Julie Muszynski spearheaded development of our local Chamber's "Experience Jackson/ Discover Grass Lake" Committee. Rachel Buchanan of Experience Jackson met with the Committee in February to explore how we might bring Experience Jackson resources to the Village. Development is in the works for a community calendar, marketing options/website presence, and a local community map.

Muszynski is Co-Chairing the planning committee for the first annual **LRM Oktoberfest**. Her fostering developers interest in our downtown sparked a benchmarking visit with Dave Snyder in Milan on March 22. Five community members—interested in Village development and investment—participated. They were inspired, despite Friday's snowfall.

For DDA to be effective support to newcomer businesses, it must be knowledgeable about current practices and procedures. Muszynski (in a part-time position) has been a regular participant in various webinars and classes that focus on small town economic growth and those with specific areas of entrepreneurial interest. Recently she participated in the first annual Craft Beverage Summit that offers resources and opportunities for local farmers, as well as potential

local investors in Grass Lake. She pursued contracting for the development of an Economic Strategic Plan for Grass Lake; this document is vital for our community's obtaining "Development Ready" status and more municipal grant opportunities.

The administrative part of DDA has improved to make it more effective for Grass Lake. Last month, all grant programs applications were revised beyond facades, to provide more flexibility for business owners. DDA Bylaws now include a strong conflict of interest clause that ensures fairness. Written reports on DDA progress are submitted to DDA Board meetings and to Village Council meetings, plus available on the Village Website, under Documents on Demand. Pursuit of historic preservation benefits for eligible buildings is still a priority; local realtors can use that in marketing village properties in the DDA area to potential buyers.

Our DDA is focused on economic growth in the downtown footprint, and more activity. That includes developing sound working relationships with existing businesses too. In providing helpful information, strategies and support for owners in the grant application process, the DDA sees opportunities for retail growth. The community has a role in these efforts by welcoming new ventures in Grass Lake as more fuel for our local "economic engine," and supporting what can only make Grass Lake more attractive as a great place to call home.

Yet it takes time and sound decisions to achieve such a mission. Visit DDA meetings, ask questions and be part of the solution.

