



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

220 NORTH MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 8645  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48107-8645

May 7, 2014

**To:** House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Rep. Wayne Schmidt, Chair  
Rep. Roger Victory

**Cc:** Rep. Gretchen Driskell, Rep. Jeff Irwin, Rep. David Rutledge, Rep. Adam Zemke  
Sen. Randy Richardville, Sen. Rebekah Warren  
Senate Transportation Committee, Sen. Tom Casperson, Chair  
Michigan County Commissions

**Re:** Support for HB 5117 and HB 5118

Last fall, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners formed a sub-committee to evaluate whether it should absorb the duties and responsibilities of the Washtenaw County Road Commission. After much discussion, including input from the three Township Supervisor sub-committee members, the sub-committee recommended to the board to leave the Road Commission as a separate entity. This evening, the board adopted a resolution (attached) accepting the sub-committee's recommendation.

It has been less than three years since Public Acts 14 and 15 of 2012 allowed the board to consider the relationship with its appointed Road Commission. Given the long history of road commissions in Michigan, the board feels a lengthier discussion would be beneficial. This is especially true in Washtenaw County where four of nine commissioners represent predominately urban areas with few county roads.

During the course of the sub-committee's proceedings, many townships formally expressed opposition to altering the legal structure of the Road Commission. Eliminating the January 1, 2015 sunset would continue the existing organization, while also allowing for a more on-going relationship with the Road Commission.

Washtenaw County's roads are a critical public asset; stewarding this infrastructure is the responsibility of an independent entity, with negligible input or funding from the elected Board of Commissioners. Eliminating the sunset would provide the board with more options for managing roads, including the possibility of additional locally-generated revenue. **We urge passage of HB 5117 and HB 5118.**

Felicia Brabec  
Andy LaBarre  
Kent Martinez-Kratz

Ronnie Peterson  
Alicia Ping  
Rolland Sizemore, Jr.

Conan Smith  
Dan Smith

Enclosure: Resolution accepting sub-committee's recommendation