

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Road Commission Subcommittee recommends that the powers and duties of the Washtenaw County Road Commission should not be transferred to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners.
2. The Road Commission Subcommittee recommends that the Board of Commissioners do not consider an elected road commission.

PURPOSE OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE:

- **State Legislation:** PA 14 of 2012 allowed that “the powers and duties of county road commissions may be exercised by county board of commissioners”, and PA 15 of 2012 allows for “the transfer of functions of a county road commission to the county board of commissioners. As written, both acts expire on January 1st. Thus the county decided to explore these options and what they would mean for the citizens and roads of Washtenaw County.
- **October 2, 2013 BOC Meeting:** “ **Resolution 13-0165** Comm. Brabec seconded by Comm. LaBarre moved that the Board create and appoint a 7 member subcommittee of the Board of Commissioners to explore the partnership and organizational interaction with the Washtenaw County Road Commission. Roll call vote: YEAS 7 NAYS 2 (Comm. LaBarre, Martinez-Kratz) ABSENT 0 Motion carried.”
 - Amended by voice vote to include **\$10,000** to support the work of the work of the subcommittee
 - Amended by voice vote to set a recommendation deadline of **March 31st, 2014**

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Four Washtenaw County Road Commissioners</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Alicia Ping, District 3, Chair○ Dan Smith, District 2○ Roland Sizemore, Jr., District 5○ Conan Smith, District 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Three Washtenaw County Township Representatives</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ken Schwartz, Superior Township Supervisor○ Pat Kelly, Dexter Township Supervisor○ John Stanowski, York Township Supervisor* |
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*Replaced Pittsfield Township Supervisor Mandy Grewal following her resignation on November 12, 2013

SUMMARY OF SUBCOMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS:

1. Tuesday, October 29, 2013:

- The subcommittee discussed the purpose of the committee, how the subcommittee should approach its work, the underlying issues which affect the status of roads in the county, the status of the Washtenaw County Road Commission on current and future projects, the need for greater research and information on the issue, and set future meeting dates and times.
- **The subcommittee set three options as the focus of their work:**
 1. *Maintaining the current structure*
 2. *Adding members to the Washtenaw County Road Commission*
 3. *Merging the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and the Washtenaw County Road Commission*

Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners Working Session
Briefing on the proceedings and recommendations of the Road Commission Subcommittee
Thursday, April 17th, 2014

2. Wednesday, December 4, 2013

- The subcommittee discussed the need to understand any potential for cost savings due to the duplication of duties between the WCRC and the BOC.
- From this discussion, the subcommittee requested the following information for use at its next meeting:
 - From Diane Heidt, Washtenaw County Human Resource Director, a review of the WCRC's organizational chart and potential duplication of duties
 - From Roy Townsend, Managing Director of the WCRC, the 2013-14 WCRC Budget and the 5 year Capital Improvement Plan
 - From other Counties, representatives who would be willing to speak and discuss their own processes and decisions on Road Commission absorption.

3. Wednesday, January 22, 2014

- The current road funding structure was discussed at length by Roy Townsend, saying that the majority of road funding comes from fuel taxes and a small portion from registration fees. He mentioned that the governor is considering an increase in this funding, but that it is an uncertain outcome.
- The board discussed the role of their decision on other priorities of Washtenaw County and its Townships, and the need for more information before coming to a decision.

4. Saturday, March 1, 2014

- The subcommittee received letters from five township supervisors (Ann Arbor Charter, Manchester, Scio, Sharon, Saline) in support of maintaining the current structure of the WCRC
- The report of Diane Heidt reviewing the duplication of services between the Road Commission and Washtenaw County was reviewed, concluding that "there does not appear to be any potential duplication of efforts... that would result in savings to the overall system if a merger occurred.
- A report from Greg Dill, Washtenaw County Director of Infrastructure Management, reviewed the opportunities for infrastructure collaboration between the County and the WCRC, identifying opportunities in shared services with regards to technology, building maintenance, and building operations, but that these initiatives could and will take place regardless of the consolidation, and that further information would be needed to determine feasibility.
- The subcommittee discussed how in other counties who had addressed the issue of consolidation, there were usually issues of efficiency and cost saving to be had, but that in Washtenaw County, due to the excellent service and operations of the Road Commission, such savings were unlikely.
- The subcommittee discussed the issue of funding amounts and sources as the primary need for roads in the county. Time was spent discussing the responsibility for maintenance and for funding and the special need for road maintenance to be coordinated across multiple jurisdictions, and that a large influence on the current problem of road funding is neglect of the issue from Lansing.
 - **The subcommittee voted 5-1 to recommend that the powers and duties of the Washtenaw County Road Commission should not be transferred to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners**
- The subcommittee discussed the possibility and the utility of expanding the number of Road Commissioners from three to five members, the need for more time for the subcommittee to deliberate to do its work, the implications on the operations of the road commission to having elected commissioners, and the possibility of raising additional road funds through PA 283.
 - **The subcommittee voted 6-0 to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they do not consider and elected road commission.**