

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CHIPPEWA

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May 12, 2021

Sugar Island Township Board
6401 E. 1 ½ Mile Road
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

Attention: Mr. Mark Eitrem, Sugar Island Township Supervisor

RE: Sugar Island Township – Priority Project List

Dear Mr. Eitrem:

Thank you for providing the Chippewa County Road Commission (CCRC) with a list of areas your residents have identified as potential detriments to the health of the county road system on Sugar Island. We appreciate your township's commitment to roadway maintenance and development.

Site visits were performed by the CCRC Manager and Engineer on Monday, May 3, and Wednesday, May 5, 2021. We selected these dates to observe drainage conditions during and after an extended precipitation event. This letter will summarize recommendations for the items that directly affect the quality or accessibility of county-owned roads. Attached to this letter is a summary chart listing each area of concern, their priority category, and a brief discussion addressing each item.

First, we agree that several of these items are of high priority due to the short-term risk posed to the life of the roadway. We are addressing the following items immediately:

1. **Item #2** – *E. Haypoint Road (between E. Townhall Road and S. Haypoint Road)*. The E. Haypoint Road stream crossing will be replaced and restored during the 2021 Construction Season, per our contract with Sugar Island Township. We have permit approval and the pipe will arrive in our Sault yard shortly. As a part of this project, we agree to perform some ditching to alleviate the standing water at driveway southeast of the intersection of E. Haypoint Road and E. Townhall Road.
2. **Item #10** – *Village Road (N. Eastshore Rd to Village Rd terminus)*. This section of Village Road is under contract for widening and raising of the gravel roadway. Preliminary work will begin in late 2021, with the majority of the grade improvements occurring during the 2022 Construction Season.
3. **Item #15** – *Oak Point Lane, south of Westshore Drive*. We observed that the crossroad pipes near #5144 and #5178 are too high to accommodate flow, so accumulated water is not able to drain. CCRC will lower these pipes to the appropriate depth. We will perform this work concurrent with our Westshore Drive reconstruction project occurring during the 2021 Construction Season.

We have also identified several items that affect the long-term life of the roadway, but will need to be addressed through a larger capital construction project in order to receive maximum impact and return-on-investment. We would be pleased to develop work scopes and cost estimates for these projects so the Township can prepare for future capital expenditures.

Let us know if that is something you would like us to prepare at this time. Some potential projects are listed below. Other locations that would be suitable candidates for future capital projects are listed in the attached chart.

1. **Items #3 and #20 – Unpaved Portions of Northshore Road.** The last unpaved portion of Northshore Road should be developed into a paved all-season roadway. The drainage ditch issues seen in this area would be alleviated by the improvement and raising of roadway grades.
2. **Items #7 and #19 - Seppi Road.** The downhill slope at the west end of Seppi, approaching Westshore Drive, should be rebuilt and regraded. A separated drainage channel, lined with angular stone (Rip-Rap) should be built parallel to the road. In addition, some low-elevation areas of Seppi Road near Brassier should be raised to promote better drainage and roadway conditions.

CCRC can provide routine maintenance work for items directly affecting the quality or accessibility of a county-owned roadway at no cost to the township; however, schedule may vary based on needs across the county. For larger projects involving capital rehabilitations, asset replacements, or reconstructions, CCRC will share costs with the township per the "Township Roadway Agreement". If your board wishes to accelerate the timeline for maintenance or capital work items by outsourcing work to private contractors, Sugar Island Township will be responsible for one hundred percent (100%) of incurred costs. All work, equipment storage, and access to the right-of-way will require permits issued by the CCRC. The township would need to retain a private consulting firm to provide surveys, site-civil engineering plans detailing all proposed improvements, and construction inspection services. The township would need to provide funds for CCRC inspections during and after construction. The township would also be responsible for costs associated with the removal and replacement of any deficiencies that arise during or shortly after construction.

If you or your board have any further concerns regarding these items, we are happy to discuss them further with you either by phone or in-person. Thank you again for your proactive efforts identifying areas that potentially impact the county road system. We look forward to collaborating with you this summer on several Sugar Island projects.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Boileau, PE
County Highway Engineer
Chippewa County Road Commission
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Attachments:

"Sugar Island Township – Priority Category Summary Chart" (3)

Priority Category	Item Number	Work Items	Location	CCRC Comments
Future Capital Project	Item 1	Ditch, Culvert, Pavement, & Driveway Repair	Eastshore Drive (S. Ross Road to E. Clinton Road)	Driveways with worst erosion issues are at the low points (where ditches tend to overflow). We are restricted by the right-of-way on the west side of the road. We would need to ditch deeper, protect the ditch slopes from greater erosion potential, and change all pipe elevations. Driveway conditions beyond right-of-way are the responsibility of property owners.
Immediate	Item 2	Ditch, Washout	E. Haypoint Road (E. Townhall Rd to S. Haypoint Rd)	We are planning to address the washout this year (2021) – permits have been approved and the pipe has been delivered to our Sault garage. While we are onsite to perform this work, we agree to do some minor ditching at the SE property corner to alleviate some wetness. East of the stream crossing, the elevations slope down towards Lake George and there is no need for additional ditching.
Future Capital Project	Item 3	Ditch	West unpaved section of Northshore Rd	There are lots of issues with drainage in this area. This is the last unpaved portion of Northshore. The road needs to be widened and raised to better accommodate water flow. Some challenges we foresee with this project are: old plat/right-of-way issues (platted right-of-way is very narrow) and accommodating the already-steep driveway slopes that lead down to the waterfront.
Private Owner Maintenance	Item 4	Ditch, Culvert	Sacred Heart Church – (Westshore Dr south of 3 Mile Rd)	The drainage issues in this area, primarily along the east edge of Westshore Drive, are due to the heaved pipes at the church driveway and the driveway at #3021. The owners of these properties are responsible for the proper installation and maintenance of these pipes.
Continued Observation	Item 5	Ditch, Culvert	Homestead Rd (Timber Ridge to #11965)	We did not observe full ditches or water in the road during or after the rain event on May 3. Ditches were functioning normally on May 5. We will continue to monitor this area through the winter to observe the conditions described in the letter.
Immediate	Item 6	Ditch	SW Corner of Brasser Rd and Seppi Rd	Sight distance is difficult on EB Seppi at Brasser Rd. We will brush hog this when we get the proper equipment over to Sugar Island this summer.
Future Maintenance Project	Item 7	Road	Seppi Rd (N Westshore to top of hill)	This road is a major drainage route for water in the area. We will need to rebuild and grade the road. We will also need to add a separate ditch that is lined with larger angular stone (Rip-Rap) to slow down the water and reduce erosion.
Future Capital Project	Item 8	Ditch	E 4 Mile Rd (west of S Roy Rd)	This road frequently becomes flooded during spring thaws and rain events. This would be a great candidate for a road raising project. With the current road grade nearly level with the adjacent field, no amount of ditching will alleviate seasonal flooding.
Regular Maintenance	Item 9	Ditch, Culvert	Westshore Drive (#1205, North Township Park, Sugar Island Park)	We can clean the culverts out during our regular maintenance program.
Immediate	Item 10	Ditch, Culvert	Village Rd (N Eastshore to terminus)	This section of Village Road is under contract for widening and raising of the gravel roadway. Preliminary work will begin in late 2021, with the majority of the grade improvements occurring during the 2022 Construction Season.

Priority Category	Item Number	Work Items	Location	CCRC Comments
Continued Observation	Item 11	Ditch	4 Mile Rd (Homestead Rd to Rocky Bottom Creek Rd)	Ditches were mostly dry on May 5. We will continue to monitor this area.
Continued Observation	Item 12	Ditch	Intersection of Brassier Rd/Northshore Rd (to Barrister Lane)	Ditches are functioning normally on May 3 and May 5. We are concerned with providing deeper or additional ditching in this area because it would divert water to the driveway at Barrister Lane. At this location, there is a brush-choke private ditch flowing northbound, parallel to Barrister Lane. We are concerned that water would accumulate along the driveway. We will continue to monitor this area.
Regular Maintenance	Item 13	Ditch	#264 S Westshore Dr	We will perform some ditching/grubbing from the east driveway, towards #264 and ending at the cross pipe.
Continued Observation	Item 14	Ditch	Westshore Dr (N Wescott Lane to E Foard Lane)	Ditches were functioning normally on May 5. We will continue to monitor this area.
Immediate	Item 15	Ditch	#5144 Oak Point Lane	The drainage issues are being caused by pipes that are too high north of #5144 and #5178. We will lower these pipes when we perform reconstruction work on the unpaved portion of Westshore nearby.
Future Capital Project	Item 16	Ditch, Culvert	Cleary Dr (1 ½ Mile to J&J Lane)	This road should be widened and raised, rather than digging ditches deeper. We have no control of available outlets, so deeper ditching will not alleviate the accumulated water.
Regular Maintenance	Item 17	Ditch, Culvert	1 ½ Mile Rd (Westshore to Cleary Dr)	We can perform debris clearing/grubbing from the ditches but in general, ditches were functioning normally on May 3 and 5.
Continued Observation	Item 18	Ditch	S Westshore Dr (1 ½ Mile Rd to #1262)	Ditches were functioning normally on May 3 and had low water by May 5. We will continue to monitor this area.
Future Capital Project	Item 19	Ditch, Road	Seppi Rd (Brassier Rd to #6694)	The roadway should to be raised. This would be a great candidate for a new project.
Future Capital Project	Item 20	Ditch, Culvert	E Northshore (#9677 to Holy Angels Catholic Church)	Pair with work in Item #3 during a new project to raise and widen Northshore Dr.
Future Capital Project	Item 21	Ditch, Culvert	Leask Rd (S Brassier Rd to terminus)	This area does need drainage improvement, but the roadway should be widened and raised first. Good candidate for new project.
Future Capital Project	Item 22	Ditch, Culvert	Shingle Bay Rd (Willow Lane to #9600)	This area has a lot of wetland that is not draining well (likely due to time of year, flat elevations, and beaver activity). Natural outlets for water are pretty much nonexistent. This area would benefit greatly from raising the roadway elevation.

Priority Category	Item Number	Work Items	Location	CCRC Comments
Future Capital Project	Item 23	Ditch, Culvert	South Point Rd (#7850 to terminus)	Lots of water collecting in ditches and beyond right-of-way toward the end of South Point Rd. Water seems to be flowing from both the north and south and sitting near the last house on South Point Rd. This would be a candidate for a road raising project, particularly between #7588 and the end of South Point Rd.
Continued Observation	Item 24	Ditch, Culvert	S Kolke Trail	The ditches were functioning well and had low water on May 3. We will continue to monitor this area.
Continued Observation	Item 25	Ditch, Culvert	E 8 Mile Rd (Homestead Rd to #9207)	This is a seasonal road with restricted wetlands on either side of the road. At this time, the conditions are appropriate for the level of service offered. We will continue to monitor this area.
Continued Observation	Item 26	Road, Ditch	E 8 Mile Rd (#7650 to terminus)	This is a seasonal road with restricted wetlands on either side of the road. At this time, the conditions are appropriate for the level of service offered. We will continue to monitor this area.