

**CITY OF LIVONIA
MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON ROADS**

JUNE 4, 2002, 7:00 PM
WONDERLAND MALL
COMMUNITY ROOM

AGENDA

- I. Update
 - Finalize ballot question language
 - Establish Millage rate .89 requested
 - Millage vs. Bonds
 - 10 year duration
 - Roads, sidewalks, trees
 - August 6, 2002 primary election
 - Most important Mayor, City Council, Leadership reach consensus

- II. Promotional Activities
 - Editorial Boards
 - Civic Association meetings
 - Senior Citizen meetings
 - Other public meeting
 - City-wide Newsletter
 - Channel 8 presentations
 - Council meetings (a factual update from Mayor)
 - Other (block parties, etc.)

- III. Surveys – forecasts
 - Livonia Website
 - Telephone voter survey

- IV. Feedback, Comments, Questions – Committee Members

- V. The Citizens Committee – “Good Roads – A Great Investment”
 - Introduce Chairman, Dr. Richard McDowell
Treasurer, Jim Cambridge
 - Purpose
 - Calendar
 - Budget

GOOD ROADS – A GREAT INVESTMENT

CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

August 6	Election Day
August 6	“Get Out The Vote” phone calls
August 5	“Get Out the Vote” phone calls
August 1	Last Observer & Eccentric Letters to the Editor & News Releases
August 1-July 17	Absent Voter Direct Mail and Reminder Phone Calls
August 1-July 8	Phone Bank – Calls to Selected Areas
July 29	Last Mailing to Selected Areas
July 10	First Direct Mail to Selected Areas
July 8-9-10	Phone Survey – Registered Voters
August 1	Letters to the Editor
July 25	Letters to the Editor
July 18	Letters to the Editor
July 11	Letters to the Editor
July 4	Letters to the Editor
June 27	Letters to the Editor
June 20	Letters to the Editor
June 10-24	Fundraising for the Ballot Committee

Thursdays



Report from the Mayor Summer Newsletter 2002

Livonia Road Millage 2002 Primary Election

What You Need to Know. . .

Primary election voters will be asked to consider a .89 mill increase for a period of ten years. If approved, this new millage would yield an average of \$4,200,000 a year.



Why is this millage needed?

Despite our best efforts, our aging roads system is deteriorating faster than it can be repaired with available funds. A scientific study of the conditions of every mile of our 447 mile road system (excluding I-96 and I-275) indicates the need for an additional \$4,000,000 a year to return all of our roads to a good condition in ten years. Without additional road funds, our road repair problem will become more severe. Deteriorating public roads **reduce property values**, are difficult to travel, and result in unnecessary vehicle damage.



Can't we get more State and Federal funds for our roads rather than having a millage?

Unfortunately, we are receiving less from these sources each year. Currently there is no indication that in the future we can expect more supplemental **local** road funding. New revenue sources such as the proposed increase in diesel taxes, if approved, will be directed to the repair of State roads and bridges – not local roads.



How much would the proposed millage cost the average Livonia property owner?

Residential and business property owners would experience an increase in their property taxes. The owner of an average priced Livonia home (\$176,000) would pay an additional ~~\$1.22~~ ^{\$1.19} a week in property taxes. For your instant calculation according to address or property number, you may click on to Livonia's website at www.ci.livonia.mi.us or call 466-2540.



How is this proposed public road repair policy different?

PUBLIC ROADS

Homeowners **would not have to pay** for any repairs to existing public roads in their neighborhoods. They now pay 85% of the cost. (Homeowners, however, would still be assessed 85% of the cost **for road upgrades** – for instance, an upgrade from asphalt to concrete.)



How will sidewalk repairs and tree replacements be facilitated if the millage passes?

This is primarily a road millage. We are, however, addressing problems related to public sidewalks damaged by City tree roots and some of the cost of public tree replacement.

PUBLIC SIDEWALKS

Homeowners would not have to pay for sidewalk damage **caused by the roots** of a tree in the right-of-way. (They now pay 100% of that cost.) Homeowners will continue to pay 100% of the cost of public sidewalk repairs for damage other than by tree roots.

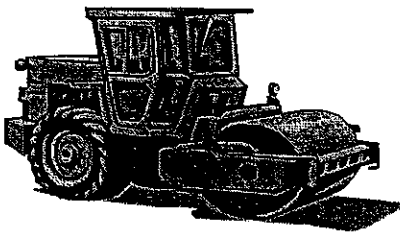
PUBLIC TREES

Homeowners would **not** have to pay for the cost of **pre-approved tree replacement** in the right-of-way for trees removed for disease, age, safety or similar negative impact. (They now pay 100% of that cost.)



How much of the road millage will be earmarked for public roads, sidewalks and trees?

Public road repairs will receive **92.2%**, public sidewalks **4.2%**, and public tree replacement **3.6%**.



In Summary . . .



If the millage is approved, the City's road system will be returned to a good condition over ten years. The responsibility of maintaining all of Livonia's roads will be shared equally by all property owners in the City.

If the millage is not approved, the Mayor, Council, and the City Staff will continue to work with existing funds to do the very best job possible to keep roads in the very best condition possible.

For more information, visit the City website at www.ci.livonia.mi.us,

or call the City Engineer Robert Schron (734/466-2561),

the Director of Public Works Robert Beckley (734/466-2606),

or Chief of Public Relations Pat Seleski at (734/466-2206).

2003 PAVEMENT RECONSTRUCTION *

County Roads



<i>Street</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Type</i>
Seven Mile Rd	East of Haggerty	Blue Skies	Concrete
Five Mile Rd	Levan Rd	Farmington Rd	Asphalt Cap
Five Mile Rd	Farmington Rd	Merriman Rd	Asphalt Cap

City Collector Roads

<i>Street</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Type</i>
Harrison Ave	Five Mile Rd	Terrance Dr	Asphalt
Deering Ave	Curtis Rd	800' south of Curtis	Asphalt
Henry Ruff Rd	Five Mile Rd	Puritan Rd	Asphalt
Hix Rd	Joy Rd	Ann Arbor Rd	Asphalt
Stark Rd	Edward Hines Dr	Plymouth Rd	Asphalt

Local Roads

<i>Street</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Type</i>
Horton Ave	Ann Arbor Trl	Ann Arbor Rd	Asphalt
Whitby Rd	Pickford Ave	Whitby Dr	Asphalt
Whitby Rd	Whitby Rd (S Int)	Whitby Rd (N Int)	Asphalt
Whitby Rd	Curtis Rd	Pickford Ave	Asphalt
Whitby Rd	Whitby Dr	Seven Mile Rd	Asphalt
Norwich Rd	Curtis Rd	Pickford Ave	Asphalt
Stamford Ave	Schoolcraft Rd	End	Asphalt
Texas Ave	Penn Ave	Delaware Ave	Asphalt
Clarita Ave	Bainbridge Ave	Hillcrest Ave	Concrete
Wyoming Ave	Washington Ave	Alabama Ave	Concrete
Hillbrook Ave	Melvin Ave	Fremont St	Concrete
Riverside Dr	End	Perth Ave	Concrete
Fitzgerald Ave	Six Mile Rd	Vargo Ave	Concrete

2003 ROAD IMPROVEMENT FINANCIAL SUMMARY *

◆ Pavement Reconstruction	\$2.8 million
◆ Pavement Repair and Rehabilitation (Sixty additional streets will receive concrete slab replacement of asphalt overlay)	\$2.5 million
◆ Pavement joint and crack sealing	375,000
◆ Public Tree and Sidewalk Replacement	<u>\$ 325,000</u>
	\$6 million

* Based on passage of the millage.

* This represents the first year of a 10-year plan for repair. The City Engineering staff, working together with the Citizen's Advisory Committee, will develop improvement lists for subsequent years. To find out what type of road improvement may be recommended for your street/block during the 10-year period of the proposed millage, check the City of Livonia website at ci.livonia.mi.us or call the Department of Community Resources at (734) 466-2540.

GOOD ROADS – A GREAT INVESTMENT FOR ALL LIVONIANS!

**Your “YES” Vote is Needed
August 6th to:**

- Keep Livonia a magnificent City**
- Fund needed road repairs**
- Have all Livonia public roads in a good condition in 10 years**
- End \$4,000 to \$6,000 special road improvement tax assessments**
- Maintain property values**



**VOTE YES - AUGUST 6TH BALLOT
“CITY PROPOSAL -- CHARTER AMENDMENT”
(Located on the reverse side of the ballot)**

PLEASE READ ON FOR IMPORTANT FACTS!



Livonia Observer™

Your hometown newspaper serving Livonia for 63 years

Thursday, July 11, 2002

www.observerandeccentric.com

75¢

Crumbling roads merit new road tax – vote ‘yes’

An old commercial line applies to the Livonia’s tax hike plan to improve city roads – “You can pay me now, or pay me later.”

And “later” is here. As our city’s roads fall into disrepair faster than current budgeted funds can keep pace, this new method of funding – spreading the burden across the entire city’s tax base, including the business sector – seems like a prudent remedy. With that in mind, we urge voters to say yes to the city request for a new .89 mills tax over 10 years.

Over those 10 years, officials estimate the new tax will bring in an average of about \$4.2 million each year. About 92 percent of that money will be going toward roads and added to the \$2 million the city already spends yearly on maintenance and repairs. The rest of the new money will be spent on sidewalk replacement due to tree root damage and replacing trees in the right-of-way.

This plan will drastically change the way the city’s road replacements are now handled. The cumbersome, lengthy and often divisive Special Assessment District method – where adjacent homeowners generally pay 85 percent of the cost, the city 15 percent – will be eliminated. (Road upgrades such as moving from gravel to concrete will still use the SAD process.)

In its place, officials will appoint a road repair advisory committee to work with staff to select roads to be repaired each year, based in part on a pavement study done in 1999 and to be updated this year. Those repairs and replacements will be funded by this millage.

Opponents claim this millage isn’t needed: They say the roads aren’t that bad and besides, the best method of self-

determination is the SADs, where only immediate residents decide when they’re willing to pony up to fix the roads. In addition, some people who have already paid for their own roads through SADs might see this as a double dip; let everyone else get stuck paying their own bills like I did, they might say.

But the truth is that we all drive on all these roads and this method of pavement payment – a vote of all residents – gives

We’re convinced that Livonia roads do need this first aid. While much of the money will be used on residential streets, the city’s required funding match for county and expressways will also be funded by this new tax.

all voters a say in the quality of the city’s entire system of nearly 450 miles of public roadway.

This is self-determination. And once again, we’re sharing the burden with our business community.

We’re convinced that Livonia’s roads do need this type of first aid. While much of the money will be used on residential streets, the city’s required funding match for county and expressways will also be funded by this new tax.

It’ll cost the average homeowner in Livonia just under \$62 a year for this plan. If voters approve this new millage, officials pledge all Livonia roads will be in good condition in 10 years and that’s certainly a worthy investment for our entire community.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

To find out how the condition of your own street is rated for future repair or replacement, to calculate what the millage assessment will be for your property, or for other information about the Livonia Roads Millage Proposal, please visit the City of Livonia website at www.ci.livonia.mi.us.

Livonia Roads Millage Proposal -- August 6, 2002



On August 6, Livonia's voters will be asked to consider a .89 mill increase for a period of ten years -- initially, just 1.19 a week or \$61.89 the first year, for the average property owner.

These are the facts!

- ❖ A recent scientific study of all Livonia roads (with the exception of I-96 and I-275) indicates an additional \$4 million new dollars a year for 10 years will be needed to repair all of our roads to a good condition in 10 years. This new millage will generate \$4.2 million a year to be used exclusively for public roads, and public sidewalk repair and tree replacement. This is in addition to the \$2 million in State funds that is now available each year for the repair and replacement of roads.
- ❖ **Passage of the millage will eliminate special assessments to adjoining property owners for road repairs. Property owners now pay 85% of repair/replacement costs. Asphalt repairs average \$4,000 and concrete repairs average \$6,000 for individual property owners. Property owner will no longer pay these costs.**
- ❖ The funds from this new millage can only be used for repairing and maintaining public roads, repairing of a limited number of public sidewalks damaged by tree roots, and replacing pre-approved trees in the right-of-way.
- ❖ Based on the recommendations of a citizens committee, City of Livonia engineers and staff, all 447 miles of Livonia' road system would be returned to good condition in ten years.
- ❖ If the millage is approved, our millage rate will still be **the lowest City rate** in all of Wayne County.
- ❖ **The responsibility of maintaining all of Livonia's public roads will be shared by all property owners.**

THE FUNDING OF ROAD REPAIRS

THE PROBLEM: OUR PUBLIC ROAD SYSTEM IN LIVONIA IS DETERIORATING FASTER THAN ROAD REPAIRS CAN BE COMPLETED DUE TO INADEQUATE FUNDING.

<p style="text-align: center;">Our Present Road Repair and Replacement System</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Proposed Road Repair System -- Based on Passage of the Aug. 6th Road Millage</p>
<p>Only \$2,000,000 a year of Livonia's allotment of the Act 51 fund is available for public road repair and replacement.</p> <p>Currently, timely repairs (those that help prevent more costly street failures) are difficult to finance since neither the State dollars nor the City's general fund are adequate to meet the cost.</p> <p>Therefore, the City creates the necessary funds for repairs through Special Assessment Districts (SAD). The SAD process involves petitions from property owners (who bear 85% of the cost for repairs) and time-consuming public meetings.</p> <p>Assessments to property owners for road repairs through the SAD process averaged \$4,000 for asphalt roads and \$6,000 for concrete road repairs.</p> <p>The cumbersome and lengthy SAD process and inadequate funding of the present system has resulted in poorly repaired roads.</p> <p>For the foreseeable future no additional local, State, or national funding will be available. The modest .89 mill request is Livonia's best hope for good roads – safer roads.</p>	<p>The proposed system will eliminate the need for Special Assessment Districts (SAD). Property owners would no longer be responsible for 85% of the cost of the repairs.</p> <p>Homeowners will no longer be subjected to the SAD road repair process – a potential saving of \$4,000 to \$6,000 per road repair project.</p> <p>The \$4 million annual additional dollars created by the passage of the August 6th millage will fund 100% of the needed road repairs and replacements of all categories of roads (residential, main roads, industrial roads, etc.).</p> <p>The new system will recognize that our road system is the responsibility of all citizens, residential and corporate, and not just the individual landowners. Good roads do, indeed, lead to good homes and good businesses.</p> <div data-bbox="846 1421 1421 1732" style="text-align: center;"> </div>

VOTE "YES" AUGUST 6TH FOR BETTER ROADS!
-- City Charter Proposal --

Paid For By:
 The Committee For Good Roads And A Great Investment
 36223 Ladywood, Livonia, MI 48154



GOOD ROADS – A GREAT INVESTMENT

July 15, 2002

Dear Citizens:

Livonia is a magnificent City – Eighth Safest, Second Best City to Raise Families, Eighth Best Place to Retire, and other well-deserved national accolades.

Yet our roads, unfortunately, are a disgrace. Everyone asks, **“When are we going to fix the roads?”** Much of our 447-mile road system is urgently in need of repair or replacement. You and your neighbors will soon have the opportunity to vote an additional .89 mill to fund the necessary road improvements. **If approved, the new millage will provide the funds to repair all of our roads to a good condition in 10 years.**

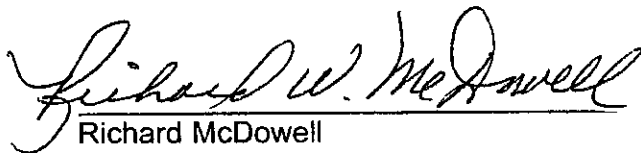
A recent scientific study of all of the Livonia roads (with the exception of I-96 and I-275) indicates an additional \$4 million new dollars a year for 10 years will be needed to do the job. Currently only \$2 million of the State Act 51 money is available for road repairs after other necessary expenses are met (see attachment). **To create the necessary funds, the average Livonia homeowner (\$185,450 home) will pay \$1.19 a week more toward road improvements.**

Like a leaky roof, the longer we delay road improvements, the more costly the repairs will be.

Your “Yes” vote is urgently needed for the passage of this vital millage. Passage of the millage will end the financial nightmare of large assessments to homeowners for road repairs. (Please see attached information.)

YOUR “YES” VOTE ON AUGUST 6th WILL RESULT IN GOOD ROADS – WHICH ARE A GREAT INVESTMENT.

Best Wishes,


Richard McDowell


Mayor Jack E. Kirksey

Note: If you wish to know the type of repairs that are planned for your street (with the passage of the millage), or exactly how much your property increase will be, please check the City website at www.ci.livonia.mi.us or call (734) 466-2540 for that information.

***The Facts:* Livonia Roads Millage Proposal -- August 6, 2002**



On August 6, Livonia's voters will be asked to consider a .89 mill increase for a period of ten years -- just \$1.19 a week for the average property owner.

You should know. . .

- ❖ **Passage of the millage will eliminate special assessments to adjoining property owners for road repairs.** Property owners now pay 85% of repair/replacement costs. Asphalt repairs average \$4,000 and concrete repairs average \$6,000 for individual property owners. Property owner will no longer pay these costs.
- ❖ This new millage will generate \$4.2 million a year for public roads, public sidewalk repair and tree replacement. This is in addition to the \$2 million that is now available each year for the repair and replacement of roads (State of Michigan Act 51 funds).
- ❖ The funds from this new millage **can only be used for** repairing and maintaining public roads, repairing of a limited number of public sidewalks damaged by tree roots, and replacing pre-approved trees in the right-of-way.
- ❖ Based on the recommendations of a citizens committee, City of Livonia engineers and staff, all 447 miles of Livonia' road system would be returned to good condition in ten years.
- ❖ The average Livonia home (with a market value of \$185,450 and taxable value of \$69,470) will experience an additional property tax of \$1.19 a week -- **only \$61.83 a year!**
- ❖ If the millage is approved, our millage rate will still be **the lowest City rate** in all of Wayne County.
- ❖ **The responsibility of maintaining all of Livonia's public roads will be shared by all property owners.**



Report from the Mayor

LIVONIA: OUR ROADS ^{LITERALLY} AT THE CROSSROADS

We are proud of our city! Nationally, we are recognized as being the seventh safest city, second best to raise kids, eighth best place for retirement and having the lowest poverty level. We are also proud of our great public and non-public schools. **Livonia has the lowest tax rate of any city in Wayne County.** We certainly have many reasons to be proud.

However, the most often repeated and accurate criticism from Livonians is: **We need better roads!**

Even though we continue to make significant progress on some of our roads, it has not been enough to keep up with the deterioration of the majority of our roads. The age and condition of our roads have advanced beyond the funds available to do the job. Every

year that passes, we fall further behind in road repairs and road replacement.

In 1999, we commissioned a scientific study of our roads. ERES Consultants, who are experts in studies of this type, inspected all 447 miles of our roads (with the exception of I-96 and I-275). **Every mile of each road was evaluated** by condition as well as by the repairs necessary to restore every road to a "good condition." Our Livonia staff, under the leadership of Professional Engineer Bob Beckley, calculated what needed to be done, how long it would take to accomplish the task, and then the amount of dollars necessary to meet the cost.

After an intensive study, Bob, his staff, and expert consultants offered the following:

- The condition of every road mile by mile.
- A ten-year plan to restore all of our roads to a good condition.
- The financial picture:

Presently, approximately \$2 million dollars is dedicated to fixing the roads every year – a portion of your State gas tax dollars returned to the City. Livonians would need to approve approximately \$4 million additional dollars a year for ten years to complete the repairs of the roads.

To implement these findings and recommendations, the Mayor and the Council are requesting voters to consider a .89 mill increase millage for ten years dedicated to public roads, public sidewalk and tree improvements.

It should be noted that, by law, the millage can only be spent to improve Livonia public roads and public sidewalks, and to replace trees, and it cannot continue beyond the ten-year period without a new vote of the citizens. **If the .89 mill is approved, homeowners and businesses will not have to pay for public road improvements (they now pay 85% of the cost), they will not have to pay for sidewalk damage caused by tree roots (they now pay 100% of the cost), and they won't have to pay for the cost of replacing trees between the curb and the sidewalks (they now pay 100% of that cost).** This funding will eliminate the need for assessing homeowners and businesses for these costs – for a period of ten years.

This is a critical issue that can only be decided by our citizens. If voters approve the .89 mill (less than one mill) the average homeowner (with a home valued at \$167,000) will experience an increase of \$1.17 a week.

If the millage is approved, the City's road system will be returned to a good condition over ten years. If the millage is not approved, the Mayor, the Council and the Staff will continue to do our very best with the existing funds to keep our roads in the very best condition possible.

Citizens are literally at the crossroads of a very important decision. If we are to meet the challenge of repairing and replacing our public roads, additional funding will be necessary to do the job. We need not only to be concerned with the roads in front of our own homes or businesses; we must be concerned with all of the roads in our community. We will provide additional information in the near future, to further inform our citizens about the issues that will be before them when this millage appears on the August 6th ballot.

Jack E. Herbacy
MAYOR, CITY OF LIVONIA



LIVONIA ROAD MILLAGE SURVEY: What do **YOU** think?

BACKGROUND




The Problem:

Due to the lack of funding, our roads are deteriorating faster than the City can repair them.

Proposed Solution:

On August 6, 2002, the City will ask voters to consider .89 of a mill for ten years, which will generate:

\$4,200,000 a year

-  92.2% for public roads
-  4.2% for public sidewalk repair
-  3.6% for tree replacement

All roads will be returned to good condition in ten years.

IMPACT ON PROPERTY OWNERS IF THE MILLAGE IS APPROVED:

~~\$~~ ~~1.22~~ ~~\$1.17~~ The average Livonia home (with a market value of \$167,000) will experience a ~~\$1.17~~ a week additional property tax.

LIVONIA'S MILLAGE RATE COMPARED TO OTHER WAYNE COUNTY CITIES IF THE MILLAGE IS APPROVED:

If the millage is approved, our millage rate will still be the lowest City rate in all of Wayne County.

IF APPROVED, HOW WILL THE MILLAGE CHANGE PRESENT ASSESSMENT PRACTICES?:

Homeowners would not have to pay for public road improvements in their neighborhoods. They now pay 85% of the cost. They would not have to pay for sidewalk damage caused by tree roots. They now pay 100% of that cost. They would not have to pay for the cost of **pre-approved** tree replacement. They now pay 100% of that cost.

Please respond to the following questions so that we will know how you feel about the proposed August 6, 2002 millage to repair and replace public roads, public sidewalks that have been damaged by tree roots, and public tree replacement.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. **Our 447 miles of roads are in various states of repair. Some are very good roads, some are very poor. In general, do you feel our roads need repair?**
 - 1. Do not need repair
 - 2. Current repair program is adequate
 - 3. Urgently need repair

2. **Currently \$2 million dollars is available each year for the repair and replacement of roads. If approved, the millage will create an additional average of \$4.2 million dollars a year. A scientific study indicates that this is the additional funding necessary to bring all Livonia public roads to a good condition in ten years. How do you feel about the proposed road millage?**
 - 1. Don't think additional funding is necessary
 - 2. Not sure -- additional funding may be necessary, but I can tolerate the roads in their present conditions
 - 3. I feel the additional funding is necessary to get the roads repaired.

3. **If approved, owners of an average value home (with a market value of \$167,000) would experience a \$1.17 per week increase. How do you feel about the amount of millage requested?**
 - 1. I feel this this is too much of an increase
 - 2. This is too much of an increase, but I would support less millage
 - 3. Having the roads repaired is worth an average increase of \$1.17 a week

4. **If approved, the additional funds would eliminate assessing road improvement costs to adjoining property owners under most conditions. How do you feel about this proposed change?**
 - 1. It's not a good idea. Property owners should continue to pay 85% of the cost of public road repairs and improvements that occur abutting to their property
 - 2. No strong feelings on how the cost of road repairs are handled
 - 3. Roads are the responsibility of all citizens. Individual citizens should not be assessed for road improvement near their property

5. **On the back of this sheet, please add any thoughts, questions or concerns that you may have regarding the proposed millage or related issues.**

Please mail this survey to Mayor Jack E. Kirksey, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia 48154, fax to (734) 421-4870, or place it in the drop-off box at the east entrance of City Hall.

YOUR OPINION IS IMPORTANT TO US!