

Roads

Many residents are concerned regarding the state of the roads in Norvell Township.

There are 3 types of roads in Norvell Township.

- State highways which are the responsibility of the State of Michigan
 - State highway is M-124, Wamplers Lake Rd
- Primary roads which are the responsibility of Jackson County
 - Primary roads are, Norvell Rd, Sharon Valley Rd, Austin Rd, Case Rd, Fay Lake Rd, Horning Rd, Antcliff Rd, Hardcastle Rd, Watkins Rd, Wellwood Rd, Pink St
- Local roads which require participation from “another source” usually the Township for the improvement of a road
 - Examples of Local Roads, Waterman Rd, Ladd Rd, Lawrence Rd, Cady Rd, etc

In Norvell Township, we have 38 miles of paved roads and 31 miles of gravel roads.

For the paved roads, 30 miles are primary roads, and 8 miles are local roads

For the gravel roads, 0 miles are primary roads, and 31 miles are local roads.

Responding to residents’ concerns, the Norvell Township Board of Trustees approved the expenditure of \$49,000 of American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA) funds for skip paving on Antcliff Rd, Hardcastle Rd, Horning Rd. and Fay Lake Rd (primary roads) to address the worst areas. That project was completed in 2023.

Again, responding to residents, in 2023, the Norvell Township Supervisor working with Jackson County Department of Transportation developed a 5-year Road Plan based on a minimum of \$50,000 per year of Township funding for addressing the state of our local roads. The Board of Trustees adopted that plan at the December 2023 Board Meeting.

The first year (2024) will see the re-graveling of Lawrence Road. Each year during budgeting, the plan will be reviewed, and another local road prioritized for resurfacing/re-graveling.

For the re-graveling of a road, the cost is about \$45,000 per mile (5 inches of gravel). Jackson County’s policy is to pay half of that cost (50/50 split), so the cost to the Township is currently about \$22,500 per mile. Re-graveling 5 miles of road would cost the Township approximately \$112,500.

Almost all counties in the State of Michigan have a minimum of a 50% match to re-gravel gravel roads, and some require 100% contribution from the township.

Paved roads are much more expensive to maintain, and costs continue to rise. Jackson County policy requires participation in these projects at a 70/30 split with the Township being responsible for 70% of the cost.

There are several ways that additional funds can be raised;

- The Township or the residents could request a township wide road millage (ballot issue)
- The residents of a particular road can request a Special Assessment District (SAD)
- The state could allocate more funds to the County or Township

Contact your State legislators and Jackson County Commissioners to express your concerns regarding the state of local roads and the funding for repairs of those roads.

State of Michigan

Jackson County

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer – (517)-335-7858	Comm. James Shotwell – (517) 748-0253 (Chairman)
Rep. Carrie Rheingans – (517) 373-8835	Comm. Phil Duckham – (517) 204-7154 (District 4)
Sen. Sue Shink – (517) 373-2426	Comm. Margie Walz – (517) 936-1405 (District 2)