

RESOLUTION 15-585
REQUESTING THAT THE WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
PROVIDE ENHANCED COMMUNICATION WITH NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP
IN ADVANCE OF MAJOR ROAD WORK PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) is the county-level road agency in Washtenaw County, Michigan responsible for maintaining a road system that is reasonably safe and convenient to the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, WCRC maintains all primary and local public roads in Washtenaw County located outside of city and village limits consisting of approximately 1,649 miles of certified public roads, which includes 770 miles of gravel roads; and

WHEREAS, WCRC crews provide services such as dust control, gravel road grading, snow removal, pavement resurfacing, storm drainage, tree removal and a variety of other services, including but not limited to road and bridge construction, sign and signal maintenance, pavement markings, and guardrail repairs; and

WHEREAS, in addition, WCRC is contracted by the Michigan Department of Transportation to maintain 598 lane-miles of state highways; and

WHEREAS, Northfield Township recognizes with appreciation the value of the services provided by the WCRC and its efforts to meet the safety needs of the motoring public; and

WHEREAS, Northfield Township thanks the WCRC for coordinating funding with the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission and expediting the replacement of two unexpectedly collapsing culverts that compromised the safety of township residents; and

WHEREAS, two of the guiding principles of the WCRC are to promote openness and transparency in decision-making and to provide ample opportunities for participation by the public and local government; and

WHEREAS, a recent project to remove trees within 10 feet of the edge of pavement on North Territorial Road did not exemplify these guiding principles resulting in the removal of many heritage trees without the ability of the Township and Township residents to provide input; and

WHEREAS, Northfield Township residents value the rural character of our tree lined roadways and have sought to establish that rural character in our master plan and planning practices; and

WHEREAS, the additional guiding principles of the WCRC are to be conscientious stewards of the public's money, to value diversity and its employees, to be sensitive to the environment, and to provide leadership in transportation planning and road system improvement; and

WHEREAS, there may be alternatives to the removal of healthy historic trees bordering Northfield Township roads.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northfield Township Board of Trustees requests a greater partnership with the WCRC to facilitate enhanced communication on major roadwork projects including the opportunity for resident input as indicated.

A vote on the foregoing resolution was taken and was as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

Resolution declared adopted:

Marlene A. Chockley
Northfield Township Supervisor

ATTEST:

Kathleen Manley
Northfield Township Clerk