

TOWNSHIP OF SUMMIT

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2017 Newsletter

Previous Newsletters have provided you with information regarding a variety of topics and current events in your Township. This year we want to focus on what seems to be at the top of the list – STREETS and ROADS. It's no surprise this is a growing concern given the continuing deterioration of our local/neighborhood streets in particular. Beyond the obvious, our community as a whole, is judged in large part by the condition and care of our infrastructure, the most visible being our streets and roads. It's no different than the condition and care you give your home being a statement about you.

We are judged by the condition and care of our infrastructure, the most visible being our streets and roads.

Many people believe the legislation adopted by the State last year will provide the needed funding to get our roads repaired and resurfaced. Unfortunately, this new revenue will NOT provide funding for local/neighborhood streets. This means that the Jackson County Department of Transportation (JCDOT), at best, will only provide 30% towards the resurfacing/rebuilding of streets in this category (as they are doing currently). The remaining 70% must still come from other sources. Currently, special assessment districts are the only means we have utilized to meet this need. Fundamentally, only those areas where residents circulate petitions requesting the Township establish a special assessment district for road improvements are being considered.

Summit Township has approximately 115 miles of local/neighborhood streets and roads within our boundaries. More than 91 miles are in very poor condition and in need of substantial repair, resurfacing or rebuilding. To address these needs on a street by street basis with a special assessment district is very inefficient and would only happen at the initiative of the neighborhood residents and at their cost. We all drive on neighborhood streets other than our own and certainly know that the problem is far beyond the street in front of our home.

91 miles of our local/neighborhood streets are in poor condition.

There is an alternative that your Township Board of Trustees is in the process of considering. We are working with JCDOT to determine the cost of the needed repairs/resurfacing/rebuilding of every local/neighborhood street and road in Summit Township. At this writing the "ballpark" cost of a program like this is more than \$42 million. The Township share is nearly \$30 million. This is obviously a great deal of money and far beyond the scope of any resources we currently have.

JCDOT can implement a program to refurbish every local/neighborhood street in the Township over the next 5 years.

A program of this nature could be implemented and completed over the next 5 years. To accomplish this we would need to sell bonds (probably 15 year bonds) which would be paid for by a millage or a Township wide special assessment. This of course, means that this would have to be paid for by all of us. We plan to hold several public information meetings this spring to provide more detailed information and to hear from you about pursuing this program.

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To do nothing means our streets will continue to deteriorate and become even more costly to refurbish in the future.

To do nothing means that our local/neighborhood streets and roads will continue to deteriorate and become even more costly to refurbish in the future. We don't think that's what you want, but we would like to know what you think. Please take a moment to jot down your thoughts (below) and drop them off or mail them to us here at the Township office. Or you can email us at office@summittwp.com.

We want to know what you think.

Comprehensive Plan for local street/road improvements:

Your thoughts:

Your suggestions:

Name and address (optional):
