



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Jennifer Hoff (517) 321-6467

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Townships Want Road Jurisdiction

The Michigan Townships Association (MTA) today called on the Senate Transportation Committee to approve legislation to allow some townships the option of taking complete control and ownership of road jurisdiction within their community.

MTA Legislative Liaison David Bertram and Meridian Charter Township Manager Gerald Richards testified on the Senate Transportation Package, Senate Bills 1316-1323. In addition to calling for legislation to allow some townships to take ownership of road jurisdiction, they also requested that ACT 51 funds be allowed for all local and primary roads within township jurisdictions. PA 51 of 1951 contains the transportation formula in Michigan.

“Townships already contribute between \$95 and \$100 million each year to road commissions,” Bertram said. “MTA is advocating for this common sense, local control issue where highly populated townships should have the right to own, operate and maintain their road jurisdictions.”

Saying that there are consistent complications with road maintenance funding and that more competition is needed in contract bidding, Richards believes this legislation is a step in the right direction that will help improve Michigan’s road system overall.

“These are difficult times and they call for creativity at all levels of government,” Richards said. “As a charter township I believe that, given the option, many charter townships would choose to own and maintain all of the roadways in our jurisdictions.”

Allowing townships to control road jurisdictions could impact nearly 40 townships stretching from Ottawa County to Wayne County. MTA will continue to monitor this legislation and educate lawmakers on the need for this reform.

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