

ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk
101 COURT STREET, MUNISING, MI 49862

RESOLUTION #2014-08

WHEREAS, State, County and Municipal roads are deteriorating at a record pace due to under-funding for maintenance for the last 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the longer quality maintenance is deferred due to lack of funding, the more it will cost to bring our county and state road network back into quality condition; and

WHEREAS, our state and county are in the single worst economic downturn since the Great Depression and business development is less likely to occur if our road and highway infrastructure is failing; and

WHEREAS, investment in our road infrastructure will provide needed improvements and provide good paying jobs in our state and these wages will be spent in Alger County and Michigan to further assist our economy; and

WHEREAS, the Alger County Road Commission has seen its Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) road maintenance revenue decline 5.9 percent over the last ten years and is projected by the Michigan Department of Transportation to increase by no more than 1% in 2014 and remain at the level into the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, the Alger County Road Commission has seen its costs for critical road maintenance materials and fuel rise substantially since 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Alger County Road Commission has instituted agency-wide efficiencies to deal with the detrimental effect of revenue reductions and increasing costs, including reducing its work force through attrition from 34 employees in 2002, to 25 employees in 2014, a 26% reduction in work force; and

WHEREAS, the Alger County Road Commission has also found it necessary to reduce services, including:

- Limited plowing of local roads on overtime (nights and weekends).
- No longer paving any length of primary road each year other than with limited federal aid funds
- Other services including patching, mowing, and tree trimming are also gradually being reduced.

WHEREAS, the state and other county road commissions in the state have either laid people off, reduced employment by attrition, shutting down operations, or restricted maintenance schedules, such as snow removal, to weekdays; and

WHEREAS, when compared to other states, Michigan's state and local transportation funding has ranked 42nd or worse, for more than four decades (statistics derived from the County Road Association of Michigan); and

WHEREAS, gas tax revenues generated in 1999 were virtually the same as those in 2011 and only 1.6% greater in 2013 (0.013% increase per year), further verifying road funding has not kept pace with material cost increase or inflation: and

WHEREAS, the current Governor Snyder administration and past Governor Granholm administration both concluded and presented to the Michigan Legislature and people of Michigan that Michigan is short approximately \$1.2 billion a year to address highway and road issues in the state, and in addition, numerous other voices across the state – many major newspapers, road industry trade associations, municipal and county associations, labor associations, and chambers of commerce have expressed that Michigan must invest more dollars into road maintenance; and

WHEREAS, in January, 2014 it was announced that Michigan will experience a surplus of funds in 2014 due to the reduction of the income tax rate that could generate up to \$1.0 billion; and

WHEREAS, this administration and the previous administration have concluded the funding needed to address Michigan's roadways is in excess of \$1.2 billion, to which minimal action has been taken by any administration to direct or obligate any funding to address this issue, especially at the local level, which is contrary to the State's Asset Management based approach whose slogan is "Keep the Good Roads Good"; and

WHEREAS, this administration has a unique opportunity to address Michigan's deteriorating road and bridge infrastructure by a means that does not require raising existing taxes or instituting new taxes, by allowing current enacted legislation to continue un-amended, resulting in a funding excess estimated at \$1.0 billion, which can be directly appropriated to repairing road and bridge infrastructure; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners goes on record to request that the Governor and the Michigan Legislature retain the current income Tax rate and direct the generated funding surplus to improve Michigan roads, bridges and highways, especially at the local Road Commission and Township level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be forwarded to Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, each member of the Alger County delegation of the State Legislature, and Michigan Association of Counties (MAC).

Adopted this 17th day of March, 2014



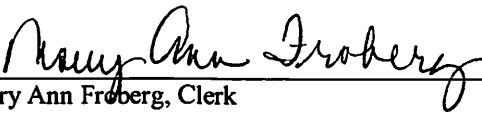
Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
County of Alger)

I, Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk of the County of Alger and of the County Board of Commissioners, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted by the Board at a regular meeting on March 17, 2014.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the County of Alger, this March 20, 2014 at Munising, Michigan.





Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk