

Lyn Durant

From: Lyn Durant
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 4:21 PM
To: Jenn Hill
Cc: senembroom@senate.michigan.gov; Moore, Aubrey (Peters); *serbisich@mgfco.org*
gregmarkkanen@house.mi.gov; bergman.constituent@mail.house.gov; Peter Duex-
MCRC; Karen Kovacs; Sean Hobbins; Greg Zyburt; Marty Fittante; lori@noquetrails.org;
Christopher Germain; Alys Arwood; Susan Estler; Dave Nyberg;
matt.johnson@lundinmining.com; Township Board; Township Administration
Subject: Forestville Road Letter of Support
Attachments: County Forestville support 7-14-23.pdf

Dear Rep Jenn Hill:

Attached you will find a letter of support from the Marquette County Board, approved unanimously at their Monday, July 17, 2023 board meeting; I presented the letter to the Marquette Charter Township Board last night at our regular meeting. Because the letter stresses the importance and timeliness of seeking funding for the reconstruction of the Forestville/Commerce/Wright Street intersection, the Township Board felt it vital that we should share the letter with you and all of the principals involved.

Of course, you are aware that the safety of the community's residents, visitors and businesses are of utmost importance to our board. You'll remember, we emphasized this point to you in a joint board/video work session June 6 of this year. You might also be aware of two pertinent incidents at that intersection: 1) a few years ago, a car accident requiring hospitalization; 2) just two weeks ago, another vehicle accident involving the destruction of a township fire hydrant; approximately one million gallons of water was lost at the intersection, shutting down traffic, causing numerous stores to close their doors because of no water pressure as well as in numerous homes, emergency repair and replacement of hydrant equipment, and a demand charge the city of Marquette will be required to pay, all of which the cost is yet to be fully calculated, not to mention whether the expenses are even recoverable.

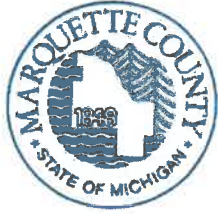
The Township Board, staff and community will continue to seek legislative support, grant funding, private input and any other means at our disposal for a solution to the "most dangerous intersection on the Road Commission's network", per former MCRC Engineer Manager James Iwanicki at a September 29, 2022 work session with our Board. We sincerely hope you will take the lead in this imperative endeavor, when the legislative session resumes in October, to garner funding for the intersection's critical redevelopment in the very-near future.

Sincerely,

~L

Lyn J. Durant, Supervisor
Marquette Charter Township
1000 Commerce Drive
Marquette MI 49855
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"To recognize and meet the needs of the township community"



**County of Marquette
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July 14, 2023

Lyn Durant, Supervisor
Marquette Township
1000 Commerce Drive
Marquette, MI 49855

Dear Ms. Durant:

Marquette County supports the request by the Marquette County Road Commission (“MCRC”) for State and/or Federal assistance to make safety improvements to the Forestville Road/County Road 492/Commerce Drive intersection, located in the Charter Township of Marquette. We understand that the MCRC and the Township have been engaged with the community and have worked with a consultant to study options for the intersection in order to improve safety.

The demand for more housing, mounting interest in outdoor recreation activity, influx of recreation-based tourism, and the natural resource extraction industries, including timber and non-ferrous mining, contribute to the present day and ever-growing safety concerns at the intersection of County Road 492/Forestville Road/Commerce Drive. This area of the County has experienced growth and development over the years, including a Montessori school less than 900 feet from the intersection and a movie theater less than 600 feet from the intersection.

At the intersection, County Road 492 has a National Functional Classification, NFC, of minor arterial and an Act 51 Classification of county primary road. County Road 505, also known as Commerce Drive, is classified as a NFC major collector and an ACT 51 county primary road. Arterial and primary roads serve to move traffic through an area, as opposed to providing access. Collectors funnel traffic to arterials. Arterials tend to have higher rates of speed, making the design and function of the intersection particularly important in order to reduce crashes. Adding to the complexity of the intersection is sloping terrain and curving roadways.

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners supports the Township and the Road Commission in their efforts to make improvements to the Forestville Road/County Road 492/Commerce Drive intersection. This area is within the urban core of Marquette County, where a majority of the population live. A well-functioning road system is important for safety and commerce. If you have any questions, please contact the County Administrator, Scott Erbisch.

Sincerely,

Gerald O. Corlín, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners