



Lake Michigan Shore Association

November 4, 2019

By email

Board of Trustees
Saugatuck Township
3461 Blue Star Highway
Saugatuck, MI 49453

Re: Lake Shore Drive (“LSD”) Road Failure

Dear Trustees,

We are a registered membership association of over 170 property owners located along the Lake Michigan shoreline, primarily in Saugatuck and Ganges Townships. We write to express our concern with the latest threat to Lakeshore Drive—another potential washout(s)-- to seek your assistance with possible remedial measures, and to offer our assistance in your efforts.

We understand that:

- for some months there has been a failure of a County drain located in front of 2379 LSD in Saugatuck Township (Dave and Elizabeth Stanley, owners), in between the original 1986 washout and the 2008 washout
- 3-4 weeks ago a sinkhole developed adjacent to the drain on the east side of LSD; the County promptly filled it in
- after several recent storms, on or about Friday, October 25 severe erosion of the bluff near the road was observed
- the Allegan County Road Commission (“ACRC”) inspected the site, closed the west side (southbound) lane of traffic, installed signs to that effect, and installed temporary orange warning cones to keep vehicles away from the road lane
- since then, additional erosion of the bluff, reoccurrence of sinkhole activity, and cracking in the road surface have been observed (see photos attached from Monday)
- the ACRC appears to be monitoring the situation on a regular basis
- the Fire Department learned about this situation on Oct. 28 and has expressed significant concerns about its ability safely to reach homes in the affected area

- on Oct. 29 the ACRC installed a temporary extension of the road slightly to the east of the existing one, within its right of way (see photo attached)
- on Oct. 31 a meeting was convened by Griffin Graham and attended by him and Trustee Marcy, by Richard Donovan, Dan Keller, Ed Welk and Rich Forbes from our association, as well as by a number of government officials – TWP, Allegan County, Fire Department, City of Saugatuck, and Douglas--and other interested parties.

Of course we are aware that the high lake levels are causing issues all along the coast. However, this problem occurs not on private land but on a significant public road. It has both short and long-term implications. The obvious short-term concern is the ability of homeowners between the road failure and the 1986 washout to be able to access their homes and for emergency services to reach them. This was the primary focus of the meeting (along with development of an IEP).

Longer-term there are issues with erosion on this and other sections of LSD. Based on discussions that occurred in 2017 with the Township Manager, Dana Burd (Engineer for the TWP), and homeowners near the 1986 washout, it appears that there may be a few potential long-term solutions that have not yet been fully vetted with the property owners.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that you:

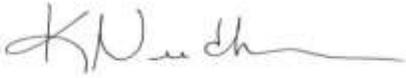
1. appoint one or two of the Trustees to lead the effort to develop both an immediate “band-aid” solution to provide emergency access and resident ingress/egress with related traffic for basic services (trash, deliveries, mail, lawn/snow, etc.). As you know, you have already appointed a committee to look into emergency access to the affected area.
2. direct the Township Manager to arrange a meeting of all potentially affected property owners as soon as possible, by means of notice via overnight delivery and with dial-in capabilities for out-of-town owners, to review potential temporary access options for both emergency services and resident ingress/egress should Lakeshore Drive become impassable, and to initiate discussion of viable longer-term options.
3. formally express your concern to the ACRC, the County Emergency Management Agency, and other regional or state agencies that may provide assistance;
4. help us to coordinate with ACRC and any other agencies to facilitate communication and action in both the short term and longer term;
5. establish contact with the Douglas Lakeshore Homeowners Association (property owners north of the 1986 washout); and
6. develop a plan to provide a long-term solution to this problem, with input from all stakeholders.

For our part, as requested, we will ask our members to send to the County Emergency Office pictures/addresses of erosion-related issues observed along our section of the coast (homes,

decks, septic systems, utilities, etc. as well as road issues). We understand that the County will assess such issues and take appropriate action.

Thank you for your assistance. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of further assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kat Needham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kat Needham, Secretary
On Behalf of Charles Landefeld, President

cc (via email): Griffin Graham, Township Manager
Craig Atwood, Managing Director, Allegan County Road Commission
Greg Janik, Chief, Saugatuck Douglas Fire District





