



SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP

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An Open Letter to Residents of Saugatuck Township

Dear Residents,

As stakeholders of the Community, the Township Board invites you to participate in a public discussion of the Lakeshore Drive washout to be held 7:00 pm, September 27th at the Saugatuck High School Cafeteria, 401 Elizabeth Street, Saugatuck, MI. The Saugatuck Township Board Members would like to hear from you whether or not you feel the current status of disrepair of the washout is a concern to you as a taxpayer, property owner, and/or user of the primary road system in Saugatuck Township and Allegan County. Please feel welcome to attend this public meeting to provide your input as a stakeholder of the Township.

According to a plan study performed in 1988, wind and wave action have eroded the base along portions of Lakeshore Drive in Saugatuck Township; causing the road to be closed to north-south traffic between Wiley Road and 124th Avenue (M-89). The Allegan County Road Commission who is responsible to maintain access of this primary road, has evaluated alternative solutions in the past, but to date, not been able to reestablish its use for the public or emergency services.

Since this time, discussions have been had regarding access around the washout but no final determination has been provided to the public as to when, if ever, this road will be repaired, relocated, or abandoned to private property owners.

The Saugatuck Township Board is concerned with the delayed response times and the impact the washout has had on the delivery of emergency services in our community. Currently, Saugatuck Township Fire District emergency responses to locations south of the washout are estimated to take an average of 42% longer due to the one access road from either direction caused by the Lakeshore Drive washout. The Township and its service providers are interested in enhancing; if possible, the levels of public safety services to residents along Lakeshore Drive. It requests your input as stakeholders of the community that are directly impacted by the restricted use of your property and delays in public services that includes your emergency services.

It is the intention of the Township Board to solicit your opinion at this public hearing and evaluate your interests and the overall effect of this road's closure upon all governmental services, private property land uses and the overall delivery of emergency services such as 911 Central Dispatch , Allegan County Sherriff's Department, ambulance services and the Saugatuck Township Fire District.

Please feel free to contact the Saugatuck Township Office or write to the Township Board if you cannot attend the public hearing and/or if you would like to submit an opinion or comment(s) regarding the long standing issue of the Lakeshore Drive washout and its disrepair.

Thank you,

Saugatuck Township Board Members