

**APPROVED MINUTES
ALGER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
September 21, 2026
4:00 p.m.**

Pursuant to resolution, the Regular Meeting of the Alger County Road Commission was held at the Road Commission Office. The meeting was called to order by Chair Marci Taskey with the following members present: Cori-Ann Cearley, Marci Taskey & Scott LaCombe. Absent: None.

Also present: Finance Director Daniel Rushford, Shane Bugg, Dan Carlson, Justin Simila-Fabick Cat, Kim Rabitoy, and Mike Rabitoy

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Cori-Ann Cearley to approve the agenda. Supported by Scott LaCombe. Ayes: Cori-Ann Cearley, Marci Taskey & Scott LaCombe. Nays: None. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 9/08/2026 REGULAR MEETINGS

A motion was made by Cori-Ann Cearley to approve the minutes of the 9/08/2026 Regular Meeting. Supported by Scott LaCombe. Ayes: Cori-Ann Cearley, Marci Taskey & Scott LaCombe. Nays: None. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Cori-Ann Cearley to approve the Accounts Payable, which is due in the month September in the amount of \$355,706.70, and to authorize payment when funds are available. Supported by Scott LaCombe. Ayes: Cori-Ann Cearley, Marci Taskey & Scott LaCombe. Nays: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Rabitoy of Section 36/Long Lake Roads in Mathias Township said that her and her husband Mike Rabitoy have lived there full time for over six years. She stated that the road has not been graded in some time and needs work. She showed a video to the commissioners of all the spring flooding on the road. Lindbeck stated that he checked on the damage in June after the water level went down.

September 21, 2026
Regular Meeting

ENGINEER / MANAGER'S REPORT

MDOT Maintenance Work:

Full width mowing has been prioritized for 25% of our highway system. The Munising and Limestone mowers are working together to complete M-28, from Munising City Limits to Marquette County.

Diffin Road Project

The project is COMPLETE.

Louds Spur Road Project

The project is COMPLETE.

Alec Johnson Road Bridge (Federal Critical Bridge Project):

Hebert Construction continues to work on the bridge replacement. The bridge deck concrete is scheduled for September 21st, with approach and guardrail work to follow.

Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) 2027 Project:

The Miners Castle Road Final Plans have been submitted to MDOT. I hope to secure a February, 2027 bid letting. The MDOT Agreement is expected soon.

2027 Federal Aid Buyout (H-13, extending 1.5 miles south from M-28):

I hope to complete surveys, railroad coordination, and design plans, by November. It is my goal to bid the project in February of 2027. We will plan for the project to extend 2.0 miles south from M-28.

2027 Planned Motor Grader Purchase:

We have recently learned that our two new plow trucks will not be completed by Truck & Trailer Specialties in 2026. We are forecasted to have one in service in February and one in April of 2027. Our Equipment Plan shows a motor grader purchase in 2027 for an estimated \$350,000. Our Finance Director would like to move the grader to 2026, so as to have an annual equipment investment that is relatively stable. Fabick Cat has a new AWD 150M grader available in October. The Road Commission is eligible for SourceWell pricing (an extended governmental bid program similar to MIDEAL). I recommend that the Board approve the purchase of the 2026 150M grader, with front plow, snow wing, and trade of our existing grader, for \$387,770.

Updated 5-Year Equipment Plan:

The Finance Director and I have worked together to update the 5-Year Equipment Plan. The updates are primarily due to advancing the grader purchase and deferring the anticipated Tandem Plow Truck Equipment. I recommend that the Board pass a motion to approve this 5-Year Equipment Plan.

H-13 over Big Indian River (2027 Federal Bridge Grant Project):

The project is in the State bid letting for October. This will be a 2027 construction project.

State Bridge Bundling (Woodland Road Bridge and Kivamaki Road Bridge):

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will be placed on the agenda, when it becomes available. Correspondence, describing this process, was included in the September 8th meeting packet.

September 21, 2026
Regular Meeting

Neighborhood Road Funds (NRF):

I will be working on a Policy for Local Neighborhood Road Funds. The policy include a spreadsheet to allocate funding per township, based upon mile of local roads. As discussed in past board meetings, the funding will likely be utilized for Pavement preservation and maintenance, gravel road surfacing, and bridges.

Asset Management Plan:

As required by law, our Asset Management plan for Primary roads and all bridges must be updated every three years. The Pavement Plan, Bridge Plan and Compliance Plan have been compiled into one document. I will submit the document to the State, prior to the October 1st deadline. Our goal is to maintain our Primary Road pavements in equal condition to 2026 ratings. I recommend that the Board pass a resolution to adopt the 2026 Asset Management plan and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Proof of Acceptance document.

AuTrain-Forest Lake Road MDNR Funding Agreement:

As I explained in previous meetings, the US Forest Service and Michigan Department of Natural Resources have agreed to participate in the chip-seal project to the amount of 70,133.47. After our 2026 Road Commission budget was approved, I had requested that the Forest Service contribute 50% of the estimated \$280,000 project. The Forest Service Engineer, Greg Gardner, acknowledged that nearly 4 of the 8-mile project bordered Forest Land. He suggested that the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) funds that they prioritize with the MDNR be utilized to pay for ½ of the cost for the 4-miles. That amount has now been included in the Memorandum of Agreement. I recommend that the Board approves the Agreement and authorize the Engineer-Manager to sign.

Fiscal Year 2028 Federal Fund Exchange:

The State/Local Federal Fund Exchange was available for 2027, and now again for 2028. We will be utilizing this 90% Federal Aid buyout with MDOT for H-13, extending south from M-28 in 2027. MDOT processes have become increasingly time consuming and costly. The new record keeping software, AASHTOware, has nearly doubled the time necessary to document process payments on Federally-funded projects. The application window opens on September 22nd at 10:00 am. The funding is allocated to projects in the order in which applications are received, until the program runs out. I recommend that the Board authorize me to apply for the program in 2028 to complete Eben-Trenary Road, which is our planned project for Federal Funds.

OLD BUSINESS

MDNR CONTRACT-AUTRAIN-FOREST LAKE ROAD CHIPSEAL

The MDNR through the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) is contributing \$70,133.47 towards our AuTrain-Forest Lake Road (FSR 2278) Chipseal.

A motion was made by Cori-Ann Cearley to approve the MDNR Agreement and to authorize Robert L Lindbeck to sign. Supported by Scott LaCombe. Ayes: Cori-Ann Cearley, Marci Taskey & Scott LaCombe. Nays: None. Motion carried.

September 21, 2026
Regular Meeting

NEW BUSINESS

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026 APPROVAL

A motion was made by Cori-Ann Cearley to approve and accept the Asset Management Plan 2026. Supported by Scott LaCombe. Ayes: Cori-Ann Cearley, Marci Taskey & Scott LaCombe. Nays: None. Motion carried.

FEDERAL AID FUND EXCHANGE 2028

A motion was made by Cori-Ann Cearley to support applying for the Federal Aid Buyout for 2028, allowing the Engineer-Manager to sign and submit the application. Supported by Scott LaCombe. Ayes: Cori-Ann Cearley, Marci Taskey & Scott LaCombe. Nays: None. Motion carried.

GRADER PURCHASE 2027

A motion was made by Cori-Ann Cearley to purchase a new 2026 150 Series All Wheel Drive Motor Grader (with front plow and snow wing) from Fabick Cat, trading in our 2016 140M3 Motor Grader through Sourcewell at a net cost of \$387,770.00. Supported by Scott LaCombe. Ayes: Cori-Ann Cearley, Marci Taskey & Scott LaCombe. Nays: None. Motion carried.

5-YEAR EQUIPMENT PLAN

Two Tandem Trucks were purchased in 2025 and we were planning on having them outfitted in 2026. Since the first truck will not go in until late December, we will not be invoiced for either Tandem Truck Outfitting until 2027. Therefore, we wish to move the Motor Grader to 2026 and Truck Outfitting to 2027. This amended 5-Year equipment plan will keep our capital asset purchases much more even over 2026 and 2027 as we plan to do every year.

September 21, 2026
Regular Meeting

	Budget	Cash Left After Payments	PURCHASES					CASH DOWN	End of Year Balance
end of 2025	105,000								
2026	650,000	755,000	1 Loader 158,233 (net after trade)	1 Tandem Tractor 72,000	1 Pickup 52,640	1 Loader 97,310 (net after trade)	Grader 387,770 (net after trade)	767,953	(12,953)
end of 2026	-12,953								
2027	700,000	687,047	Snowblower 99,500	2 Truck Outfit 385,671 (Trucks purchased in 2025)	2 Pickups 91,300	Mowing Attachment 108,250		684,721	2,326
end of 2027	2,326								
2028	700,000	702,326	1 Tandem Truck 290,000	1 Ton Pickup 90,000	Snowblower 325,000			705,000	(2,674)
end of 2028	-2,674								
2029	700,000	697,326	1 Tandem Truck 290,000	Low Boy 150,000	Dozer 220,000			660,000	37,326
end of 2029	37,326								
2030	700,000	737,326	2 Trucks 580,000	2 Pickups 90,000				670,000	67,326

A motion was made by Cori-Ann Cearley to approve the amended 5-Year Equipment Plan as presented. Supported by Marci Taskey. Ayes: Cori-Ann Cearley, Marci Taskey & Scott LaCombe. Nays: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

COMMISSIONER TOPICS

Marci Taskey was working with the Insurance Pool on completing the Commissioner Handbook that is being published as of the 16th of September.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Marci Taskey, Chair

Daniel Rushford, Finance Director