



Local News

Royalton looks at rebuilding Hollywood Road

[Print Page](#)

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ST. JOSEPH - The Royalton Township Board on Monday had an initial discussion of rebuilding part of Hollywood Road in 2013-14.

Hollywood from Niles Road south to Glenlord Road, a stretch of nine-tenths of a mile, was rebuilt and changed into a three-lane road some eight to 10 years back, township Supervisor Steve Tilly said. But traffic has increased significantly, and the road has been crumbling every year during the spring thaw, he said.

"There is no drainage underneath the road," Tilly said after the meeting.

"Basically it is clay under there, and they put some sand and gravel on top of the clay, and there's no actual drainage under the road bed. That's why it keeps crumbling."

The problem is particularly acute from Niles to Maiden Lane, Tilly said.

Rebuilding costs from Niles to Glenlord are estimated at between \$2 million and \$3 million, he said.

The bulk of the funding will come through the Twin Cities Area Transportation Study, or TwinCATS, Tilly said. That is grant money, and new regulations require townships to have plans in place for sidewalks and bicycle paths in order to qualify for grants, he said.

"It's something we need to start working at, because we're a growing community with more and more subdivisions, and we need to start looking at long-term planning for sidewalks and bike paths," Tilly said.

The Southwest Michigan Commission, a three-county regional planning agency, is offering classes and services to help townships develop their plans, Tilly said.

Also Monday, the board approved a lot division for Barbara Chaney, 4793 Bacon School Road. She is splitting 20 feet from her lot to sell to a neighbor who wants to use it for access to a storage garage.

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