



Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

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Township Board:

**Patricia Herring
Jackson**
Township Supervisor

Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk

Phil Deschaine
Township Treasurer

Scott Hendrickson
Township Trustee

Kathy Ann Sundland
Township Trustee

Marna Wilson
Township Trustee

Courtney Wisinski
Township Trustee

Frank L. Walsh
Township Manager

March 16, 2023

Dear Resident:

As part of Meridian Township's 2022 Local Road Program, roads in your neighborhood received a surface treatment known as "chip and fog". This treatment is applied to roads in relatively good condition to extend the life of the road by protecting the existing asphalt from the damaging effects of water and sunlight. This treatment extends the life of a road 5-7 additional years at about 10-15% of the cost to construct a new road. To put it a different way, this treatment can produce twice the life expectancy per dollar invested than completely reconstructing a road.

Township staff did visit other communities in the Greater Lansing Region in 2021 to investigate this treatment. At that time, staff felt this would work in Meridian Township.

While the treatment may provide a very good return on investment from an engineering standpoint, Township officials are not satisfied with the surface quality of this treatment and the ongoing issues with snow plows knocking the stone loose. We have decided that this treatment does not work well in our community and will be discontinuing it.

We have received a lot of feedback regarding the texture of the surface and the loose stone. Based on this community input, Supervisor Patricia Herring Jackson, Township Manager Frank Walsh, and Deputy Township Manager Dan Opsommer would like to invite you to a community meeting on Thursday, April 6 at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall Room of the Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos, MI 48864. The meeting agenda will include:

1. Welcoming Remarks from Supervisor Jackson and Manager Walsh
2. Public Comment
3. Overview of immediate steps being taken by the Township from Deputy Manager Dan Opsommer
4. Overview of additional steps being considered, which may include paving over the existing surface, from Manager Walsh and Deputy Manager Opsommer
5. Questions & Answer Period
6. Public Comment
7. Closing Remarks from Supervisor Jackson and Manager Walsh



We would also like to take this opportunity to update you on the immediate steps the Township is taking to clean up the loose stone now that spring is approaching:

1. Street sweepers will be coming through your neighborhood March 20-24. This is weather dependent as dry conditions are required for street sweeping. We will be doing four passes on each road to thoroughly collect the stone. We have already tested a road to ensure we are able to collect nearly every piece of stone in the roadway.

2. **This letter will not arrive in time and we may get additional snow at the end of March or early April. Therefore, we will be coming back to sweep again from April 10-14. This is weather dependent as dry conditions are required for street sweeping.**

Prior to April 10, residents are encouraged to sweep any stone on their driveway into the road so we can collect it with our street sweeper. Residents are also welcome to rake stone out of their yard and onto the road so our street sweeper can collect it.

Finally, the Township is examining the feasibility of paving over the existing surface of the road, which we will discuss in greater detail at the community meeting on April 6. A lot of electricity and natural resources go into making asphalt. Therefore, demolishing the old asphalt would be a significant waste of asphalt that is in good condition.

As a community that strongly values environmental stewardship, we want to preserve that underlying asphalt as it provides a very strong foundation and is now protected from the harmful effects of water and sunlight. Paving over the existing chip and fog surface will provide further protection from the harmful effects of water and sunlight. Therefore, we are currently examining the feasibility and various cost estimates for paving over top of the existing surface with new asphalt.

We appreciate your time and understanding. If you are not able to join us on April 6, please do not worry. We will mail out another letter announcing future steps that will be taken.

Sincerely,

Dan Opsommer
Deputy Township Manager
Director of Public Works and Engineering