

Emergency Access for south Lakeshore Drive



**SAUGATUCK
TOWNSHIP**
WWW.SAUGATUCKTOWNSHIP.ORG

3466 BLUE STAR HIGHWAY
SAUGATUCK, MI 49783
PHONE (269) 857-7722
FAX (269) 857-4582

Background

- The Township Board is responsible for protecting of the health, safety and welfare of our residents
- The emergency of 2008 emphasized the need to address access to south Lakeshore Drive for emergency purposes
- Reducing response times for medical emergencies can save lives
- Reducing response times can minimize property damage in the event of a fire

Background

- Our meeting with the Lakeshore Drive residents in October provided dialogue regarding concerns and options to improve emergency access to south Lakeshore Drive
- The Township met with several residents, and the Allegan County Road Commission investigated funding options for solutions

Options

- Reconnect Lakeshore Drive at old washout
- Construct new road
- Facilitate construction of private road
- Rely on the previous method of access
- Do nothing

Pro and Con

Reconnect at old washout

- Pro
 - Maintains LSD as Federally funded road
 - Minimal disturbance to environment
 - Promotes tourist scenic route - benefits many
 - Would not require easements
- Con
 - Many residents like the “private” condition of the road
 - Very costly and would require Core of Engineer funds to stabilize shoreline
 - Permits emergency vehicle access from north LSD

Pro and Con

Construct New Local Road

- Pro
 - Provides public, alternate access to south LSD
- Con
 - Jeopardizes federal funding status of LSD
 - Very costly and would require special assessments
 - Has impact on environment
 - Will stimulate growth
 - Will require easements
 - No current public access points from Blue Star Hwy

Pro and Con

Facilitate Construction of Private Road

- Pro

- Provides private, alternate access to south LSD
- Minimizes local traffic
- Would minimize growth
- Access from Blue Star Hwy
- Lowest Cost option
- Will eventually minimize construction traffic on LSD when development occurs

- Con

- Requires cost participation by residents who benefit
- Requires easements to connect to LSD

Pro and Con

Rely on previous method of access

- Pro
 - None
- Con
 - Not fair to resident at old wash out
 - Unavailable except for catastrophic emergencies, such as the 2008 washout

Pro and Con

Do Nothing

- The Township Board does not endorse this option

Private Road Option

- Gravel road on sand base
- 66 foot easement for 4265 feet in length (6.46 acres)
- Right-of-way included at no cost
- Gated at Blue Star Highway
- Benefitting property owners would pay for application, materials and maintenance
- Some property owner(s) will need to provide easement and right-of-way for ending connection to Lakeshore Drive
- Will be accessible to south Lakeshore Drive residents only

Conclusion

- The private road option presents the best near-term solution to improving emergency access and response
- This is the lowest cost option
- The Township will coordinate and facilitate the construction process
- Suggest investigating use of Douglas Lakeshore Association to facilitate financial transaction, legal agreements, maintenance costs, etc.