



STATE OF MICHIGAN

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
CASS CITY TRANSPORTATION SERVICE CENTER

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GOVERNOR

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June 20, 2008

Township of Lake  
4988 W. Kinde Rd.  
Caseville, MI 48725

To Whom It May Concern:

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is currently designing a Capital Preventive Maintenance (CPM) resurfacing project on M-25, from the north village limits of Caseville to Quarry Road, in Huron County, to be constructed in 2009. The road work includes milling 1-1/2 inches and resurfacing with hot mix asphalt. The previous work on this section of M-25 was a one inch CPM overlay in 2000. It was expected to perform for five to eight years. The CPM program uses low-cost construction fixes to keep roads in good condition, rather than allowing them to deteriorate, requiring much more expensive work.

In addition to the mainline resurfacing, MDOT received a federal Transportation Enhancement Grant to upgrade the shoulders for non-motorized use. The current shoulders are paved five feet and have an additional three feet of gravel. The new shoulders will still be a total of eight feet, but they will be all paved (no gravel). This will allow three additional feet on the shoulders for those who walk or ride their bicycles on M-25. M-25 has several seasonal homes, campgrounds, parks, and communities along the thumb. Many tourists, as well as permanent residents, use the shoulders on M-25 for recreation, transportation, and exercise.

Personal property cannot legally be placed on The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) right-of-way, according to Public Act 368 of 1925 and Section 257.676(a) of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code. MDOT is making an effort to reduce the amount of such encroachments and to increase safety for the motorists. Encroachments include, but are not limited to, residence signs, statues, boulders/rocks/stones, wood or steel posts, wagon wheels, and decorative items. Mailboxes are allowed in MDOT right-of-way, provided the post is not a safety hazard. Trees and bushes are not considered encroachments. Emergency reflective address signs, as required in the township ordinances, are allowed in MDOT right-of-way if they are on a mailbox, tree, or break-away metal post.

The Cass City Transportation Service Center (TSC) realizes some of these items have been in the right-of-way for a very long time, but they have been in violation since the original construction of the road. The TSC is now adding the removal of encroachments in all construction contracts. We will notify each property owner, in advance of construction, that they are in violation and allow them at least 30 days to remove the item(s). Our formal notice only allows 30 days. However, MDOT will not remove the encroachments until construction begins in 2009. We realize many of the homes along the shoreline are summer homes, and the owners may need time

to remove their items. I have attached a blank copy of the official Notice and Order to Remove Encroachment for your information. Approximately 300 of these notices were sent to property owners on M-25 from Caseville to Quarry Road.

Removing encroachments also improves the safety of the motorists, reducing the chances of hitting a fixed object.

The MDOT right-of-way varies by location. Right-of-way maps may be found on the MDOT website at: <http://mdotwas1.mdot.state.mi.us/public/ROWFiles/index.cfm>. Our office will also provide such information.

We appreciate your support in our effort to improve safety and protect our right-of-way. If you have any questions, please contact me by email at [phillipsra@michigan.gov](mailto:phillipsra@michigan.gov) or by telephone at 989-872-3848, ext. 212.

Sincerely,



Rachel L Phillips  
Cost & Scheduling Engineer  
Cass City TSC

cc: Doug Wilson, Cass City TSC Manager  
Tony Kratofil, Bay Region Engineer  
Anita Richardson, Bay Region Communications Rep.  
Joe Rios, MDOT Real Estate  
Troy Hagon, Legislative Liaison  
Senator Jim Barcia  
Representative Terry Brown