

**Packet Addition
January 13, 2025,
Township Board Special Meeting**

Becky Chown

From: Tom OHagan <thomasohagan1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:01 AM
To: Becky Chown; Alissa OHagan
Subject: East Bay public boat launch

To whom it may concern.

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposal for the new design for East Bay boat launch. There are significant number of young children and families on the northern portion of East Shore Rd. Throughout the year, but more so in the summer they are crossing the street regularly from their homes to the lake. Any increase in traffic pulling boat trailers we feel would increase danger to these kids enjoying their summer.

There is also a significant amount of cycling walker and running pedestrians. East Shore Rd. simply is not set up for cars and trucks, pulling trailers and boats. Therefore, our recommendation would be any traffic entering or leaving to do so on the main road of Center Road. We believe that even having an exit on East Shore that directs traffic one way onto Center Road would still result in increased traffic on E. Shore Rd. as obviously resources would not allow that to be policed and regulated on a regular basis.

Sincerely,
Tom and Alissa OHagan

Becky Chown

From: Matt Furlong <mfurlong276@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2025 9:31 PM
To: Becky Chown
Subject: Comments Regarding Proposed East Shore Boat Launch Changes

Township Leaders,

We are writing to express our concern regarding the proposed DNR revisions to the East Arm Boat Launch at the intersection of Center Road and East Shore Rd. Specifically, we are concerned with the proposal to re-route the boat launch exit traffic onto East Shore Rd rather than M-37 as currently designed.

As you are likely aware, East Shore Road is frequented by runners, walkers, bicyclists, and many children. Re-routing the boat launch traffic onto East Shore Rd affects the safety of these individuals, while also negatively impacting traffic patterns for the entire length of the road. Further, with the proposed design, boaters will make a right turn onto East Shore Rd and then be contending with a turn onto M-37 that allows for significantly less visibility than with the current boat launch exit position directly on M-37. We are concerned this increases the risk of traffic accidents at this location, and is not in the interest of the boating public or motorists on M-37.

We seek your support in working with the DNR to revise the proposed redesign to meet their objectives without re-routing exit traffic onto East Shore Rd. Our understanding is that the proposed redesign achieves one net new parking space, and we are optimistic this could be achieved without also creating negative impacts for East Shore Rd.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Matt and Robin Furlong
8233 East Shore Rd.
206-419-4924
mfurlong276@gmail.com

Dear Peninsula neighbors,

My name is Steve Hutchinson, I own the house next to the boat launch on East Bay, 8426 Center Road. I am looking forward to the improvements to the launch. I would like to throw a few ideas out to you since I am your neighbor.

First, I appreciate that there is no overnight parking or camping on the boat launch lot, this really cuts down on the noise.

Secondly, I believe this section of Center Road must be one of the most dangerous if not the most dangerous strip of road on the peninsula. Approximately from the curve just before 8488 Center Road, the third to last house on the water side heading off the peninsula toward East Shore, this becomes a passing zone that ends at the boat launch entrance and East Shore Drive, the no passing zones in the area in front of these two entrances/exits are largely ignored because cars are already passing and don't get over when the passing zone ends.

This makes the left-hand turn to East Shore and boats turning into and exiting the boat launch extremely dangerous. I don't live here all the time but every month when I am here, I see a near crash along this stretch. For my own safety, when I have cars behind me, I'll go past my home and the boat launch and turn right into Underwood Farms Condo drive across from East Shore and turn around rather than make a left-hand turn into one of my driveways. I watch numerous bikers turning left onto East Shore Drive, the immediate car behind the bikers is aware of them but then the second or third car back attempts to go around the stopped/slowed vehicle, unaware of the presence of the bikers. The same situation occurs for boats coming the same direction turning left into the boat launch. There are three driveways, and the boat launch entrance/exit as well as a winery and East Shore Road along this stretch. Also, our fire department must exit and enter this same stretch of road. I would suggest this section should be a 35-mile zone and that the passing zones be removed and replaced with double yellow lines. Also, a warning sign with flashing lights to reduce speed should be placed in front of the fire department and at the curve at 8488 Center Road. Furthermore, there should be a stop light added at East Shore Road, this would slow traffic and provide a turning opportunity for bikes as well as boats entering and exiting the boat launch, more safety for our first responders and a place for pedestrians to cross Center Road.

This would provide more safety long term, rather than cutting an additional exit out onto East Shore Road. While an added exit from the boat launch may provide additional access for boats it does

nothing to provide a long-term solution to this congested area or increase the safety for bikers, pedestrians or drivers.

In addition, I would like to request some additional landscaping, perhaps pine trees could be planted along the water drain/ditch between our properties to reduce noise and provide a natural barrier.

Becky Chown

From: Rick Venner <rickvenner@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2025 7:19 AM
To: Becky Chown
Subject: DNR Boat Ramp proposal

As the Vice President of the areas largest cycling club with over 500 members, I would like to point out the reality of how dangerous the exit onto East Shore would be. Using the heat maps available from two of the most popular cycling apps, Strava and RWGPS, it shows that this stretch of road including this specific intersection as the most widely used road section in all of OMP for cyclists. The curve creates a blind spot for exiting boaters and it is compounded that the driveway is on a significant angle to the road. Boats by nature drain water from their bilges and live well tanks when leaving the ramp creating a constant wetting of the road surface. The section of road has no shoulder and no way for the cyclist to navigate around a vehicle and trailer. It is safe to say (with some factual study) that hundreds of cyclists use this piece of road every week during the boating/cycling season. Please don't create a dangerous situation that doesn't exist today by exiting the boat traffic onto East Shore Rd

Rick Venner
(231) 499 1929
Vice President
Cherry Capital Cycling Club

Becky Chown

From: tgilmar1@proton.me
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 7:00 PM
To: Becky Chown; Member Support; ogilmartin@icloud.com
Subject: Loading Dock Center Street and East Shore Road
Attachments: Maureen Loading Dock - Copy.docx

To be included for the January 13th Meeting:

My wife and I are property-tax paying residents of Traverse City, currently living at 8179 East Shore Road, a location very near the Boat Launch site for which the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is proposing a new exit, which would divert truck-boat trailer, truck, and other traffic leaving the launch area on to East Shore Road rather than the more logical and current Route 37 (Center Road) exit.

East Shore Road is a currently a long, quiet residential street used by walkers and runners, both individuals and on school teams. Bicyclists also use the road frequently.

More importantly, many young children living here *are required to cross East Shore Road* going from their homes to the beaches located across East Shore Road during the warmer months.

These warmer months are coincidentally the time of highest use for the Boat Launch. Safety concerns do not seem to be a top priority for those suggesting the re-designed exit on to East Shore Road.

My conclusion is that those suggesting the change may have done so consulting maps of the area without fully evaluating the impact such a change would have on the tranquility and the safety of the residents and guests of the neighborhoods impacted.

I am requesting most vigorously that these factors be fully incorporated into the overall final decision regarding the position of the exit from the Launch Site.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Thomas and Olga Gilmartin

8179 East Shore Road, Traverse City, MI 49686

Thank you.

Tom Gilmartin

858 254 0601

tgilmar1@proton.me

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

Becky Chown

From: Than Dykstra <than0629@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 3:23 PM
To: Becky Chown
Cc: Chad Coberly; Maureen Ascione
Subject: East bay boat launch

As a user of the boat launch I am concerned the current proposed design of boat launch with exit on to East is not optimal. I feel that there is too much emphasis on the south end of the property ie: the ramp, tie down area, and exit all in a relatively small area.

I believe that there is not enough room for effective use of ramp. If you actually go look at the ramp the angle of the ramps and the space available for tie downs and exit I question the reality of the plans proposed.

I also wonder about the congestion as you enter and wait in line for a turn to launch. Is there room for empty trailers to pull through to get their boats out.

My main concern is the frustration that others may feel when stuck in line unable to pull boat trailer around because others are waiting in line

Than Dykstra

Sent from my iPhone