

**Packet Addition
for December 10, 2024,
Township Board Regular Meeting**

**Additional Correspondence
regarding the DNR's East Bay Boat
Launch Plans**

Becky Chown

From: Grant Parsons <parsonsgrantw@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 8, 2024 2:15 PM
To: Maura Sanders; Becky Chown
Subject: East Bay boat ramp exit plan

Dear Township,

re: East Bay boat Launch parking exit

My family lives on Mission Ridge. We frequently drive past the boat ramp on Center Road, and we frequently walk on East Shore Rd. I understand there is a DNR/Road Commission plan afoot to move the boat ramp entrance onto East Shore Road. I do not know who came up with that plan, but I think locals understand the potential dangers: An unknown number of ramp users would simply exit onto East Shore and try to turn back out onto Center Rd. from East Shore, and an unknown number would turn south on East Shore and drag their boats and trailers down that narrow, shady, recreational-users street. Both options are dangerous.

East Shore Road is a walker-biker paradise precisely because traffic is mostly local, mostly slow, and very aware of the narrow shoulder, which requires recreational users to stay on the pavement, and requires motorists to pay extra-close attention at low speed, due to the many curves and tree-shading, all of which makes vision more difficult. Funneling more traffic into the recreational mix on East Shore is a bad idea.

Please give the plan more thought before blindly following outsiders' vision. Meet with neighbors, Road Commissioners, and users, and ask for whatever studies the proponents are relying on for this potentially-dangerous plan. Reach your own informed, educated opinion. Alternatively, if the DNR and Road Commn won't give you time to make an educated proposal, simply reject their plan in the strongest possible terms, citing the restrictive driving conditions, and send it to MDOT.

Turning East Shore into a main travel route for all the ramp users is dangerous. Creating a bottle-neck of ramp users trying to pull out of the ramp parking lot and make a quick turn onto Center Rd. — a "two quick turns" design — seems like "negative progress" as Weeb Eubank used to say.

Thank you,

Grant Parsons
6936 Mission Ridge
Traverse City, MI 49686

Becky Chown

To: John Pelizzari
Subject: RE: East Bay boat ramp exit plan

To my amazement I find myself more and more in agreement with my neighbor Grant Parsons. Maybe it's just old age or senility but I want to heartily agree with Grant. This is a plan that makes no sense at all and is out right dangerous. And for the record I use that ramp myself to put my rarely working boats in the water. The answer for concerns over trailers entering and exiting from Center Road is to slow down the traffic on Center Road.

My wife Theresa is tiring of my constant complaining of the walkers and bikers running down the middle of the road endangering themselves as the result of law abiding or slightly over the speed limit vehicles running up and down East Shore Rd. I call the road the "human obstacle course". I requested from Mike Shea that he place a deputy in our driveway to slow down the clearly going to fast drivers that will some day kill one of the irresponsible walkers and bikers unconsciously going down the middle of our road with its many blind curves. Deputy Martinez who is one of the local deputies for Peninsula Township has found our driveway to be a particularly fruitful spot for ticketing idiots. He is a terrific deputy!

So the idea that East Shore Road should incur more traffic and in particular traffic with an F250 pulling a boat is a really bad idea and will get someone killed. I do not know all the thinking that went into this idea and maybe this is premature but if this idea is being considered it should be stopped. Thanks much.

John Pelizzari
6793 East Shore Rd
Sent from my iPad

Becky Chown

To: Maura Sanders
Subject: RE: DNR plans to reroute the boat launch at the intersection of Center Road & East Shore Road

From: Maura Sanders <supervisor@peninsulatownship.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 8, 2024 3:26 PM
To: Wagner, Dan (MDOT) <WagnerD2@michigan.gov>
Cc: Fitzpatrick, Connor (MDOT) <FitzpatrickC1@michigan.gov>
Subject: Re: DNR plans to reroute the boat launch at the intersection of Center Road & East Shore Road

Thanks Dan.

I will be reaching out to the DNR next to see when they plan on hosting this info session for the Pen Twp residents. Hopefully, we can get to the bottom of this quickly and plan forward.
Connor, thanks for jumping in!!

Maura Sanders

*Peninsula Township Supervisor
13235 Center Road
Traverse City MI 49686
phone - 231-223-7323
fax - 231-223-7117
supervisor@peninsulatownship.com*

Office Hours: Mondays 7:30 am to 6:30 pm, Tuesdays – Thursdays 7:30 am to 5 pm and closed Friday – Sunday and Holidays.

From: Wagner, Dan (MDOT) <WagnerD2@michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2024 1:27 PM
To: Maura Sanders <supervisor@peninsulatownship.com>
Cc: Fitzpatrick, Connor (MDOT) <FitzpatrickC1@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: DNR plans to reroute the boat launch at the intersection of Center Road & East Shore Road

Hello Maura, I checked with my staff that may have had involvement with the alterations the DNR is planning for the boat launch and no one had any knowledge of these activities, beyond what I had previously related below. If you could please include our Permits Engineer, Conner Fitzpatrick, in any communications related to work planned in the M-37 right of way, I would appreciate it. I have cc'd Conner on this so you would have his email address.

I went to fill out the Doodle Poll and it has either closed or has been deleted so I could not enter my available times. I had forwarded this to Connor and he said he was able to add his entries. He would be the best person from our office to represent MDOT at the meeting you are organizing.

Thank you,
Dan

From: Wagner, Dan (MDOT)
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 2:04 PM
To: Maura Sanders <supervisor@peninsulatownship.com>
Subject: RE: DNR plans to reroute the boat launch at the intersection of Center Road & East Shore Road

Hello Maura, and congratulations on your new position. I look forward to meeting you and working with you moving forward.

Several months ago Dave Sanger referred a resident to me who lives near the boat launch. The purpose of their contact was to request alterations be made to signage that the DNR has on M-37/Center Rd for the boat launch that they felt was confusing and resulting in folks using their driveway for a turnaround. I referred that matter to Jessica Carpenter, who is our office Traffic and Safety Engineer, who reached out to the DNR. It was from that communication that I learned that the DNR was contemplating alternations to their boat launch property. Perhaps Jessica, or someone else from my office is more aware of their plans, but that was the last I had heard of it.

With that backstory, I don't know that I will be the best person to represent MDOT at this meeting but will get with my folks and find out if anyone has been in communication with the DNR about this and get back to you shortly.

I have attached to this email a document I prepared that has my office staff contact information and a simple org chart that you might find helpful. I would be glad to sit down with you to discuss our operation and upcoming work if that is something that interests you. Other than modernizing the signal at M-37 x Eastern Ave just into the city limits in 2025, we really don't have any work planned on M-37 in Peninsula Township at this point.

Thanks!

Dan Wagner, P.E.

Manager

Traverse City Transportation Service Center
Michigan Department of Transportation
231-941-1986
www.Michigan.gov/MDOT



From: Maura Sanders <supervisor@peninsulatownship.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 12:44 PM
To: Cline, Kasey (DNR) <ClineK1@michigan.gov>; Bauer, Annamarie (DNR) <BauerA1@michigan.gov>; Wagner, Dan (MDOT) <WagnerD2@michigan.gov>; Dave Murphy <davemurphy6943@gmail.com>; Jennifer Cram <planner@peninsulatownship.com>; Steve Barry <sbarry@gtcrc.org>; Dan Watkins <DWatkins@gtcrc.org>; Alan Leman <aleman@gtcrc.org>; Derek Weichlein <DWeichlein@gtcrc.org>
Cc: tja@tjandrews.com; Becky Chown <clerk@peninsulatownship.com>
Subject: Re: DNR plans to reroute the boat launch at the intersection of Center Road & East Shore Road

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Good morning all,

Peninsula Township is hoping to hold an informational meeting as soon as we can get all stakeholders gathered to allow the community to participate in Q&A. We would also livestream on our YouTube for everyone to watch.

Please use this Doodle poll so we can figure out best dates for everyone.

<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/eZvVYP8e>

I look forward to getting this scheduled.

Kindly,

Maura Sanders

Peninsula Township Supervisor

13235 Center Road

Traverse City MI 49686

phone - 231-223-7323

fax - 231-223-7117

supervisor@peninsulatownship.com

Office Hours: Mondays 7:30 am to 6:30 pm, Tuesdays – Thursdays 7:30 am to 5 pm and closed Friday – Sunday and Holidays.

From: Bauer, Annamarie (DNR) <BauerA1@michigan.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2024 2:02 PM

To: Jennifer Cram <planner@peninsulatownship.com>; Dan Watkins <DWatkins@gtcrc.org>; Dave Murphy <davemurphy6943@gmail.com>; Alan Leman <aleman@gtcrc.org>; Derek Weichlein <dweichlein@gtcrc.org>

Cc: sdp2050@gmail.com <sdp2050@gmail.com>; mbmilliken648@gmail.com <mbmilliken648@gmail.com>; tja@tjandrews.com <tja@tjandrews.com>; 'Maura Sanders' <maura.peninsulatwptrustee@gmail.com>; Becky Chown <clerk@peninsulatownship.com>; 'Susie Shipman' <shipman.parks@gmail.com>; Derek Weichlein <DWeichlein@gtcrc.org>; Steve Barry <sbarry@gtcrc.org>; Cline, Kasey (DNR) <ClineK1@michigan.gov>; Isaiah Wunsch <supervisor@peninsulatownship.com>

Subject: RE: DNR plans to reroute the boat launch at the intersection of Center Road & East Shore Road

Good afternoon Jennifer,

I wanted to respond to your email below regarding the plan review by the Road Commission and MDOT. Our undersetting is that there were conversations and understanding of the proposed changes. I have reached out to the project engineer for clarification and will share more information as it becomes available.

I can send you digital plans per your previous request in a separate email so no need to scan.

Thanks for reaching out.

Annamarie Bauer

Regional Field Planner

Northwest Lower Peninsula

Department of Natural Resources

Parks and Recreation Division

Cell Phone 231-468-8616

From: Jennifer Cram <planner@peninsulatownship.com>

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2024 1:16 PM

To: Dan Watkins <DWatkins@gtcrc.org>; Dave Murphy <davemurphy6943@gmail.com>; Alan Leman <aleman@gtcrc.org>; Derek Weichlein <dweichlein@gtcrc.org>

Cc: sdp2050@gmail.com; mbmilliken648@gmail.com; tja@tjandrews.com; 'Maura Sanders' <maura.peninsulatwptrustee@gmail.com>; Becky Chown <clerk@peninsulatownship.com>; 'Susie Shipman' <shipman.parks@gmail.com>; Derek Weichlein <DWeichlein@gtcrc.org>; Steve Barry <sbarry@gtcrc.org>; Bauer, Annamarie (DNR) <BauerA1@michigan.gov>; Cline, Kasey (DNR) <ClineK1@michigan.gov>; Isaiah Wunsch <supervisor@peninsulatownship.com>

Subject: RE: DNR plans to reroute the boat launch at the intersection of Center Road & East Shore Road

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Good afternoon all. Our office did receive hard copy plans for proposed improvements to the DNR boat launches at East Shore and Bowers Harbor on October 15, 2024. I emailed Annamarie Bauer on October 17 to acknowledge receipt and request electronic plans. I assumed at that time that the road commission and MDOT had already weighed in on the plans, but now know that is not the case.

We would also like our engineer, GFA, to review the plans for stormwater control compliance. When we last met with the DNR they were going to do their best to meet the intent of our storm water ordinance.

It is my understanding that the DNR hopes to begin construction in the spring of 2025. I believe there is still ample time to engage in a public process to ensure that we get the best outcome for the community.

I will scan the 24 x36 plans and share with all. Please let all concerned parties know that they are welcome to reach out to me to schedule time with the Planning and Zoning Office to come in and review the plans and provide public comment.

I spoke to Maura Sanders our future Township Supervisor as of November 20, 2024, about this matter yesterday and she will be taking the lead on organizing stakeholders.

Kind regards,

Jenn Cram
Peninsula Township Director of Planning and Zoning
13235 Center Road
Traverse City MI 49686
phone - 231-223-7314
fax - 231-223-7117
[*planner@peninsulatownship.com*](mailto:planner@peninsulatownship.com)

Office Hours: Mondays 7:30 am to 6:30 pm, Tuesdays – Thursdays 7:30 am to 5 pm and closed Friday – Sunday and Holidays.

From: Dan Watkins <DWatkins@gtcrc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 1:05 PM
To: Dave Murphy <davemurphy6943@gmail.com>; Alan Leman <aleman@gtcrc.org>
Cc: sdp2050@gmail.com; mbmilliken648@gmail.com; tja@tjandrews.com; 'Maura Sanders' <maura.peninsulatwptrustee@gmail.com>; Jennifer Cram <planner@peninsulatownship.com>; Becky Chown <clerk@peninsulatownship.com>; 'Susie Shipman' <shipman.parks@gmail.com>; Derek Weichlein

<DWeichlein@gtcrc.org>; Steve Barry <sbarry@gtcrc.org>

Subject: RE: DNR plans to reroute the boat launch at the intersection of Center Road & East Shore Road

Good afternoon, everyone,

This is the first time I or anyone on our staff has heard about this issue. As of now, we have not received any requests from the DNR for a driveway permit to provide road access from the boat launch onto a county road. If we do receive such a request in the future, I will ensure that our staff addresses all concerns.

Thank You



Dan Watkins

Manager

Direct: (231) 922 – 4849 ext. 229

www.gtcrc.org

Main Office: (231) 922 – 4848

Fax (231) 929 - 1836



1881 LaFranier Rd • Traverse City, Mi 49686

"Our mission is to upgrade and maintain

a safe and efficient road system"

From: Dave Murphy <davemurphy6943@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 9:49 AM

To: Dan Watkins <DWatkins@gtcrc.org>; Alan Leman <aleman@gtcrc.org>

Cc: sdp2050@gmail.com; mbmilliken648@gmail.com; tja@tjandrews.com; 'Maura Sanders'

<maura.peninsulatwptrustee@gmail.com>; 'Jennifer Cram' <planner@peninsulatownship.com>; Rebecca Chown

<clerk@peninsulatownship.com>; 'Susie Shipman' <shipman.parks@gmail.com>

Subject: DNR plans to reroute the boat launch at the intersection of Center Road & East Shore Road

Hello Dan,

Yesterday I was informed by a neighbor on East Shore Road (Scott Phillips, copied on this note) that the DNR plans to reroute its boat launch parking lot from a Center Road access to East Shore Road, a county primary road. This is a poor planning choice and we'd appreciate your assistance in making sure it does not happen. I can assure you that township residents on East Shore/Birchwood and city residents on Birchwood and beyond will be unanimously opposed to this plan.

I'll list the following reasons for our concerns:

- The choice of routing violates the township's recently passed master plan found [here](#). Although the master plan did not anticipate this particular decision by the DNR, it did anticipate any changes to introduce more or riskier traffic along shoreline roads, most especially East Shore Road, one of the region's most heavily utilized recreational routes without bike lanes or shoulders. For quick reference, you can view pages 43, 48, 52, 53, 74-75, 76-77, and 85; each addresses matters that would contradict the DNR's proposal.
- As a result of the master planning process beginning in 2019, a non-motorized committee was created and has routinely met for years. The committee's goal is to develop a comprehensive plan for safe recreational routes in Peninsula Township. Although off road trails will be ideal where possible, some heavily used rec routes will remain, and none is more visible or heavily used than East Shore Road. It cannot possibly be in the benefit of non-motorized transportation to route large trucks with trailered boats onto East Shore, and in fact, those using it now should be rerouted.
- In terms of current use, East Shore Road is something of a gateway to recreational use within Peninsula Township. Cycling groups stage their rides inside the city limits and take East Shore out the peninsula; many cut back from Peninsula Drive across one of the east-west roads to conclude their ride on East Shore. The track club routinely stages runs on East Shore. TC Central High School sends most of its sports teams down East Shore for runs. Three schools – the high school, NMC, and Eastern Elementary have nearby access onto Eastern Avenue, which feeds onto East Shore. Informal users/groups routinely hit peninsula roads from East Shore. The Bayshore Marathon and Cherry Festival Races each utilizes East Shore Road during some of the busiest days of the year. And the residents of East Shore and adjacent subs often target the road for home ownership so they can use the road for recreation.
- Unlike Center Road/M-37, the township's primary north-south roadway which feeds into the city's intersection with several highways, East Shore Road feeds into city neighborhoods, parks, and schools. Why route heavy traffic and wide-load vehicles that way when the current road access onto Center is the preferred route? With Traverses City's safe streets plans continuing throughout the community, it's just a matter of time before Birchwood Avenue receives traffic calming attention.

- Parking is already a major concern at that DNR boat launch. It's ill equipped for the volume of users it currently gets, resulting in overflow traffic parked just off of the south-bound lane of Center Road. Routinely during summer weekends or heavy tourist days such as the 4th of July and Cherry Festival, the parking lot is full. East Shore Road absolutely should not have to absorb parked trucks and trailers in front of neighbors' homes. So what would be the result of feeding the parking lot traffic onto East Shore? Users would launch their boat, then exit onto East Shore, turn onto Center northbound, need to make a left turn on Center Road to turn around, and come back to park on Center Road across from the boat launch. How on earth does that make traffic safety sense?
- Lastly, and not at all a minor point, the immediate neighbors to the boat launch will of course be impacted by such a change, both with quality of life and property value.

Feel free to give a call if you'd like to discuss – 231-313-5177. And please know that we'll look for your engagement with township, city, county, and state officials.

Thank you.

Dave Murphy

6943 East Shore Road (Peninsula Township)

231-313-5177

Davemurphy6943@gmail.com