

Arenac County Road Commission **2026 Township Match Program**

Goal:

The Arenac County Road Commission is committed to assisting the Townships of Arenac County in the efficient utilization of Township funds earmarked for road improvements. The Road Commission realizes a benefit from a successful Township Match Program. Our goal is to contribute as much money toward Township local road projects that is allowed by law (according to Public Act 51) and still is feasible considering the Road Commission's own budget restrictions.

The following outlines the Township Match program for 2026:

Three Year Plans / List of Road Work Priorities:

Each Township Board is requested to submit a list of roads in their Township that they believe are in the most need of attention. This three-year plan should include the stretch of road in disrepair and the type of work the Township believes would benefit the road in the most cost-effective manner.

Percentage Match System:

For all local road and bridge upgrades, regardless of the type of construction project, the Road Commission will share the cost of the upgrade 40% / 60% (**40% Township, 60% Road Commission**). However, the Road Commission will only match up to \$150,000 of total estimated project cost per township, per year. **This equates to a maximum \$90,000 Road Commission match contribution per Township, per year.** The Township may use any type of funding to be eligible for the 60% Road Commission match. This includes (but is not limited to): general fund, road millage, Saginaw Chippewa Tribe 2% grant money and special assessments. The Road Commission will cost share a project provided that the work is performed with Road Commission labor and equipment. The 60% match will also apply if the Road Commission, at its discretion, hires outside contractors to perform the work that it deems to be in the best interest of Arenac County and the Township.

Discretionary Local Road Maintenance Funds:

The Road Commission allocates an additional \$120,000 for use on the local road system in addition to the standard percentage match system (outlined above). **Each Township will receive \$10,000 with the recommendation to use this allocation for gravel during the spring break-up (equals 475 tons) or emergency culvert replacement (see below). There is no match requirement for this money.** The Road Commission asks each Township to designate a representative as the primary Road Commission contact who would have authorization to direct these discretionary funds. If any money is unallocated when year-end billings are produced, the balance will be deducted from each Township's final bill.

Cost Sharing Primary Roads:

If financially feasible, the Road Commission would consider primary road projects that are not currently scheduled for work but is prioritized by the Township provided that the Township is willing to commit 25% of the project cost.

Road Gravel:

The Road Commission will place gravel on an existing gravel road for **\$21.00 per ton** in 2026.

Cross Culverts:

The Road Commission is responsible for replacement of all cross culverts under a 36" diameter on the local county road system. Any culverts 36 inches or over in diameter will be considered a project and must have Township participation.

Roadside Brushing:

The Arenac County Road Commission is offering up to the amount of \$10,000 of roadside brushing for each township in 2026. Roadside Brushing includes; both sides of the roadway, all saplings and trees, and chemical vegetation control. Roadside Brushing will not include; trees under or near utility lines, or anything that the Road Commission deems unsafe to cut. The Township may choose the location of the roadside brushing or the Road Commission can assist the Township if requested. Please contact the Road Commission office to schedule the roadside brushing for 2026.

Work Order Estimates:

All non-gravel Township Work Orders are drafted as “Time and Material, Not to Exceed” estimates. This means that the Road Commission will not bill the Township more than the estimated amount provided that there is not a significant change in the project’s scope. If the project comes in under budget, the Road Commission will pass the savings to the Township and bill the actual amount of the project. All estimates will contain a 15% contingency to cover unanticipated increases in cost. Unapproved Work Orders are null and void after 60 days.

Work performed by the Road Commission includes the following at no cost to the Townships:

1. Project supervision hours (Superintendent / Foremen)
2. Overhead (office staff hours, insurance, etc.)

To assure all requested work is completed in 2026, **all approved Township Work Orders must be submitted to the Road Commission no later than June 15, 2026.** Any work orders received after that date risk not being completed in 2026.

Local Road Work Contracted by Townships with Other Contractors:

When upgrading a road, the Road Commission must follow a number of standard reconstruction specifications for quality control purposes. The Road Commission is responsible for all routine maintenance after any road upgrade. To assure that a road will be properly constructed so that there is no future maintenance issues, any Township who chooses to contract any heavy maintenance on the local road system directly with local contractors must obtain a permit from the Road Commission and assure all other required permits are secured. If any Township uses outside contractors for a project, the Road Commission will not financially match the project.

Signs:

All non-traffic control signs for local roads (i.e. street name signs) material cost are the responsibility of the Townships, ACRC will provide the cost for the installation.

Roadside Mowing:

All roadside mowing on local roads is the responsibility of the Township.

This Township Match Program does not apply to those Townships with an unresolved issue / unpaid balance with the Road Commission.

The Township Match Program is not used as a supplement to Local Bridge Program, Economic Development Funds, Clean Michigan Initiative, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Saginaw Chippewa Tribe 2% money or any other road or bridge grants that the Arenac County Road Commission may receive directly.

Transportation legislation may result in new laws regarding local road funding. The Arenac County Road Commission Township Match Program will be revised if new laws require such changes.

The Road Commission may consider matching other municipalities, organizations, associations, etc. using the above criteria if it deems that such action could considerably benefit the roads of Arenac County.

The Road Commission reserves the right to use Township Discretionary Local Road Maintenance Funds for emergency safety concerns; the fund will come from the following year's Discretionary Local Road Maintenance Funds after the current funds are depleted.

The Road Commission reserves the right to accept or deny participation of any project or deviate from this policy at any time, depending as to what is deemed to be in the best interest of Arenac County.