



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Phil
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Green
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
N/A
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Genesee County Road Commission
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Frances Road bridge over the Butternut Creek
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
Frances Road is the dividing line in Thetford Township & Genesee Townships in Genesee County
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Phil Green 67th District
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. Residents of Genesee and Thetford Townships are currently unreachable by emergency vehicles, and local farmers are unable to access their farmland. The existing detour spans six miles and is not a viable long-term solution. Additionally, the adjacent Mt. Morris Bridge is in poor condition—should it fail, the Frances Road Bridge will be critical to maintaining traffic flow throughout Genesee County. Immediate replacement is essential to ensure the safety and accessibility of the area.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

2203000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["None"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

Timothy Elkins, Chris Gehringer, Cathy Lane, Joe Massey, Reggie Smith

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

Oct. 1, 2025, with an end date of Sept. 30, 2027

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

For

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

OF

FRANCES ROAD BRIDGE

Over the

BUTTERNUT CREEK

Bridge #2807

**Section 35 & 36 of Thetford Township
Genesee County**

**Submitted by:
Board of County Road Commissioners
Genesee County
April 1, 2025**

FRANCES ROAD BRIDGE OVER THE BUTTERNUT CREEK

The Genesee County Road Commission is requesting local bridge program funds for the bridge replacement and other miscellaneous construction activities for the Frances Road Bridge over Butternut Creek.

BACKGROUND

The Frances Road Bridge over the Butternut Creek was built in 1937 and was overlaid in 1985. Because of lack of funds and the challenge for Local Township's to budget the required match for this off system structure, the bridge has slowly deteriorated since, culminating in its closure in November of 2024 due to critical section loss of the steel beams supporting the bridge.

Frances Road (county local) is classified as a Minor Collector with a traffic count of 539 vehicles per day (2019). The superstructure is comprised of seven (7) wide flange I-section steel beams and an 7.5 inch cast-in-place concrete deck that's been overlaid with 2" of hot mixed asphalt. The substructure is comprised of concrete abutments constructed on a spread footing foundation system. The existing bridge has a span of approximately 37.7 feet and has an out-to-out width of approximately 32.8 feet.

The surface of the deck is in poor condition with an 2.5" wide longitudinal crack long the centerline (partially cold patched) and ½" wide transverse cracks emanating from the longitudinal crack. Block cracking is apparent in the wheel paths and there's approximately 60 square feet of HMA pothole patches throughout the bridge. The existing steel pipe and concrete brush block railings are in worse condition with heavy rusting and spalling along the toes of both concrete brush blocks. The approach guardrail has come apart from the post in spots. The approach pavement has heavy cracking and old HMA patches throughout and the western approach has settled more than 1".

The primary scope of the project will be to remove and replace Frances Road Bridge. Additional work within the scope will be improving scour protection, mitigating bank erosion and other minor improvements to the channel.

STRUCTURAL ADEQUACEY

The steel stringers have failed and the bridge will need to be closed indefinitely until the bridge is replaced. All interior I-beams have heavy packed rust concentrated at both beam ends. The fascia beams have heavy packed rust along the full length of the beam. Beams 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 all have holes in their web and all the beams have 100 percent paint failure.

The abutments appear to be in fair condition, but have heavy scaling and map cracking with evidence of efflorescence on the abutment slope walls in all four quadrants. The west abutment has an ½" wide crack below beam 7 and there are shallow spalls under beams 4, 5 and 6.



APPROACH AND PHYSICAL CONDITION

As mentioned, the approach pavement is in poor condition. Each approach has heavy cracking and old HMA cold patches throughout. An HMA wedge was placed on the eastern approach and the western approach has settled more than 1" along its entire reference line. The west approach also has signs of severe block cracking and a depression along the bridge deck.



DETOUR EVALUATION

Frances Rd Bridge is located a mile east of Genesee Rd and a mile west of Vassar Rd. The primary choice for detour route will therefore be Genesee Rd South to Mt. Morris Rd, East to Vassar Rd and vice versa. The length of the detour is 4 miles, one way. The auxiliary detour route will be Genesee Rd North to Dodge Rd, East to Irish Rd, South to Mt. Morris Rd, West to Frances Rd and then vice versa. This auxiliary detour route of approximately 8 miles. At present time, no major projects are proposed on either detour routes in 2028.

DRIVER DELAY & IMPACT TO SURROUNDING AREA

The Frances Road corridor is a section line county local for its entire length (east-west) in Genesee County, but is not continuous. Frances Road begins east of M-15 and ends at McKinley Rd before continuing again at Seymour Rd to Sheridan Rd for a total of 21 miles. Vassar Rd is also not continuous south of Mt Morris road and jogs north of Dodge Rd, so currently, with an average daily traffic of 539 vehicles per day, and having no choice but the primary detour route due to closure, the driver delay is about a quarter of an hour.

FUNCTIONAL ADEQUACEY AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

Frances Road (county local) is a 2-lane paved road classified as a Minor Collector with a traffic count of 539 vehicles per day (2019). Regionally, the Frances Road corridor is classified as a county local for its entire length (east-west) in Genesee County, and has a span of over 21 miles.

The impact this bridge closures has on local traffic can not be overstated. After receiving many phone calls from Genesee County residents, the Road Commission decided to give a presentation to residents about the bridge closure at a public input meeting. The Road Commission has received a lot of feed back on the effect this bridge closure has on local citizens. There are many concerns about emergency vehicle response times having to detour around the bridge, school bussing, garbage collection, impact on the local farmers who use the bridge with their equipment, and many more.

There are currently only three (3) bridges over Butternut Creek in the local vicinity, Frances Rd Bridge which is closed, and Vassar Rd and Mt Morris Rd which are both load posted. It is imperative for the area that Frances Rd Bridge be replaced before another one of the bridges over the Butternut needs to be closed and the detour route becomes untenable.

DISCRETIONARY PROJECT VALUE

For those reasons above, this structure is the GCRC's **first highest** priority for replacement among all its applications submitted. For the impact to residents stated, detour length, and ongoing maintenance concerns, the GCRC is hopeful that the RBC will apply the highest possible discretionary score to this application. **The GCRC is willing to provide a 10 percent match for the project, which is double the traditional and minimum five percent match.**

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ESTIMATE

A. Structure Construction	\$ 1,984,860.00
B. Approach Construction	\$ <u>218,140.00</u>
Total (A & B)	\$ 2,203,000.00

CONTACT PERSON

Alex Patsy, P.E.
Name

(810) 767-6070
Fax Number

Director of Engineering
Title

apatsy@gcrc.org
Email Address

(810) 767-4920 Ext. 252
Phone Number