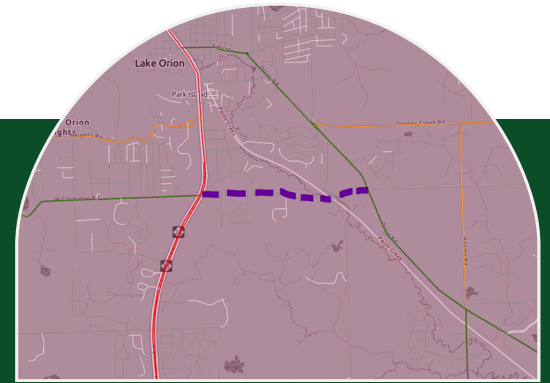




# PAVING EAST CLARKSTON ROAD

Orion Township is requesting \$3,000,000 to pave East Clarkston Road. This project aims to enhance navigation for citizens and improve the water quality of the adjacent Paint Creek stormwater outlet.



## BACKGROUND

East Clarkston Road, located between Lapeer Road (M-24) and Kern Road in Orion Township, is a distinctive road. It carries approximately 4,000 vehicles per day (vpd) despite being a gravel road, which is more traffic than is typically suitable for such surfaces. It is classified as a "local road," limiting its available funding options. However, as shown in the National Functional Classification Map (the road section is marked in dashed purple above), this road serves as a connector between two minor arterials: Clarkston Road to the west of Lapeer Road (M-24) and Orion Road. Most of the traffic on this stretch consists of non-local drivers, as there are very few properties that have direct access to East Clarkston Road. This situation makes the traditional funding mechanism for local roads, such as a special assessment district, impractical.

## CHALLENGES

Residents who frequently travel in this area often express frustration during the spring when the road becomes difficult to navigate as the frost thaws.

In addition to navigation challenges, there are significant environmental concerns to address. This section of the road negatively impacts Paint Creek, which is one of the last cold-water trout streams in Southeast Michigan. Paint Creek acts as the natural stormwater outlet for runoff in the region, and the gravel from East Clarkston Road continuously contributes sediments that harm this sensitive stream. Please refer to the adjacent photos that illustrate the current impact this unpaved section of Clarkston Road has on Paint Creek.



Impact to Paint Creek



Discharge to Paint Creek

## SOLUTIONS

This project offers a valuable opportunity to improve water quality while addressing the traditional benefits of paving a gravel road that experiences heavy traffic. By paving East Clarkston Road, we will eliminate the source of sediments that negatively impact the environment. Additionally, we plan to integrate effective water quality best management practices (BMPs), such as mechanical treatment units, bioswales, and potentially other measures, to treat stormwater before it enters Paint Creek.

The Township is working in collaboration with the Road Commission for Oakland County to secure funding for this crucial project. Currently, funding is available to cover 50% of the total project costs, but we still need to secure the remaining 50%. The total estimated cost of the project is approximately \$6,000,000, which includes paving about 4,800 feet of East Clarkston Road and implementing the necessary stormwater treatment measures. The Township is seeking an additional \$3,000,000 to complete this project.



Roadside ditch along East Clarkston Road