



Inter-Departmental Memorandum

Engineering Department - Design

DATE: April 10, 2026

TO: JOSEPH MERUCCI – OAKLAND TOWNSHIP MANAGER

FROM: Jeff O'Brien, PE; Design Engineer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff O'Brien", is placed to the right of the "FROM:" field.

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY
GALLAGHER/SILVERBELL ROAD PAVING**

A public information meeting was held on April 2, 2026, from 5 pm to 8 pm at the Oakland Township offices to share scoping plans and anticipated impacts for the proposed paving of Silverbell Road and Gallagher Road in Oakland Township. The limits of proposed paving on Silverbell Road is from Crestone Way (west of Abby Drive) to approximately 1700' east of Gallagher Road and Gallagher Road from Silverbell Road to Cider Hill Drive.

Flyers (268) were mailed out to residents 2 weeks in advance of the meeting. The meeting was open house format with no formal presentation. Approximately 77 individuals signed in at the meeting and the meeting overall was well attended. To date, the RCOC received 5 written comments (attached) and some additional inquiries from the Township.

Generally speaking, while views were heard both against and for the paving project to proceed, the majority of conversations had been in support of the paving project. Some of the items discussed and concerns heard, were as follows (broken up by subject matter):

Environmental & Character Concerns

- A primary concern was potential tree removal and loss of the natural character of the road corridor.
- Residents were worried that paving could increase vehicle speeds.
- Trout Unlimited representatives attended the meeting – concerned with storm water treatment/runoff from the project (Paint Creek).

Safety & Operations

- Limited sight distance was noted by residents on the south side of Gallagher near Hidden Glen Circle when exiting driveways.
- Hills near the roadway low point on Silverbell (east of Gallagher) can become impassable in winter conditions and are sometimes closed.
- Several residents requested speed reduction measures and potential vehicle weight restrictions, citing concerns with larger vehicles navigating hills and curves.
- Discussion regarding the proposed geometry and intersection control at Gallagher/Silverbell intersection (Gallagher – stop only).

Pedestrian & Drainage Issues

- Residents cited a gap in the existing sidewalk on Gallagher, forcing pedestrians to walk along the roadway.
- The low point in the Gallagher sidewalk between Goodison Place and Hidden Glen was noted as collecting runoff and sediment.

Goodison Place Subdivision Impacts

- Residents expressed concerns about existing cut-through traffic and speeding within the subdivision.
- Drivers are using Crestone Way and Goodison Place Drive to bypass unpaved portions of Silverbell/Gallagher.
- Residents noted that fences are not allowed by the HOA; existing trees along Silverbell/Gallagher serve as informal barriers for children and pets.
- Previous efforts to close Goodison Place Drive at Gallagher were denied due to emergency access requirements.

Additional Requests

- Completion of sidewalk connection to Paint Creek Trail.
- Installation of roadway lighting.
- Continued community engagement as the project advances.
- Maintenance of existing storm structures at Gallagher Creek.

Other Questions

- Why was Gallagher/Silverbell roads selected vs paving the entirety of Silverbell Road to Orion Road?
 - *The scoping/paving study limits was completed in coordination and cooperation with Township leadership to gain a better understanding of what a paving project along this corridor would entail.*
- Will the paving of Silverbell/Gallagher create any issues at Orion Road/Gallagher Road?
 - *Currently, Gallagher is stop controlled at Orion Road. The intersection would be monitored upon completion of paving and additional traffic controls would be implemented as warranted.*
- How would traffic volumes change upon completion of paving?
 - *This is highly subjective based on the corridor, but based on the area road network, we would estimate an approximate 50% increase of current volumes upon paving.*
- Will there be any weight/vehicle restrictions upon completion of paving?
 - *Since this is a public road, no vehicle size/weight restrictions would be anticipated.*
- What design features are required to be incorporated into a gravel road paving design from a safety and/or funding perspective?
 - *From a standards perspective, the RCOC (as well as other governing agencies such as MDOT/FHWA) rely on "A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets" (AASHTO-2018) and "Roadside Design Guide" (AASHTO- 2011) amongst others. These standards provide guidance and recommendations on horizontal and vertical curvature, lane/shoulder widths and treatment of the roadside amongst a host of other items from a safety/operational/driver expectation perspective.*
- What are the next steps and/or what other approvals are needed?
 - *For the project to move forward into a design phase, the RCOC requires a resolution of support and commitment to fund the township's share of the project from the Township by mid-May 2026.*

Obrien, Jeff

From: CustomerService@oakgov.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 3:02 PM
To: Obrien, Jeff
Subject: Service Request; 604931; Edited

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Road Commission. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Information Technology.

Request ID: 604931

Problem Type: ENG General programming question
Status: Not Started
Number of Callers: 1
Call-Out Made: NO

Date Initiated: 3/23/2026 7:11:49 AM
Initiated By: WALKER, STACY
Submitted To: OBRIEN, JEFF
Dispatch To: KITTELL, JENNIFER
Call-Out Notes:

PROBLEM INFORMATION:

District: ENG
Address: Gallagher
City: Oakland

Road Type: PRI
Township Code: Oak

Location Details:

Comments:

By WALKER, STACY : 3/23/2026 7:11:49 AM
email 307 pm 3/21/2026
Jonathan Gable jongable@yahoo.com
Hello,

I am not sure if you are looking for feedback from local residents, but I am completely for paving Gallagher Rd. This past winter was awful, and it was terrible to drive for many weeks.

When is the project planned to begin?

Regards,
Jon Gable
4704 Windemere Ct
Oakland Township

WRITTEN COMMENTS

**Silverbell/Gallagher Road Paving Scoping Meeting
Oakland Township Hall
4-2-2026
5-8 pm**

We are very supportive + excited
about this project! We need the
streets paved they have only gotten
worse over the years - We don't need
any more automotive related issues due to
tree pot holes etc etc.

April 2 - 2026

Date

Jenny + Tom SARACINO
4632 GOODISON PLACE DR. Rock, MI 48306

Name and Address

**Return Comments to Staff
Or Mail To:**

**Road Commission for Oakland County
Design Division
31001 Lahser Road
Beverly Hills, MI 48025**

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Silverbell/Gallagher Road Paving Scoping Meeting
Oakland Township Hall
4-2-2026
5-8 pm

1

Please look at Dutton road
Between Livernois - Brewster -
Adams - ~~St~~ Not sure why Silverbell + Gallagher
gets more Attention / Action.

Dutton Main Artery to M-24 Lapeer rd
Traffic is busier now that its open
to Lapeer rd

Had 2 cars with holes in bottom of
car from ingredients they put down on
road. ☹️

Sandra & John Eggleston ^{22 years} resident 4/2/26
5702 Cobb Creek rd
Oakland Twp MI 48306

Name and Address

Date

Return Comments to Staff
Or Mail To:

Road Commission for Oakland County
Design Division
31001 Lahser Road
Beverly Hills, MI 48025

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Silverbell/Gallagher Road Paving Scoping Meeting
Oakland Township Hall
4-2-2026
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My question and concern is more for the Oakland Sup. Bd and why Gallagher was chosen over a straighter road like Silver Bell or Gunn.

My concern is really more about the Point Creek Trail's crossing location on Gallagher just as cars turn onto G. from Orion Rd. I live in Addison Hills whose entrance is just past the creek path often when turning onto G from Orion there is only room for 2-3 cars to stop on the bridge for walkers and runners + bikers who don't always stop + look. (We've lived here 29 years) Why

Apr 2, 2026

Date

wouldn't Gunn Rd be a
Judy Stone 4790 Forest Ridge

Name and Address

* I am
at 4836 happier

Return Comments to Staff
Or Mail To:

Road Commission for Oakland County
Design Division
31001 Lahser Road
Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Safer choice since
the trail goes
under the Rd
with no crossing

any of the
E-W roads
are being
paved just
worried about
speed on cars coming
down hill (already fast)

and those deriving from Oregon and
safety of trail users.

Thanks Jedy

Road Commission for Oakland County - Service Request

Request ID: 606304

Date Initiated: 4/6/2026 7:46:25AM

Problem Type: ENG General engineering question

Initiated By: WALKER, STACY

Status: Not Started

Submitted To: OBRIEN, JEFF

Number of Callers: 1

Dispatch To: KITTELL, JENNIFER

Call-Out Made: NO

Call-Out Notes:

PROBLEM INFORMATION:

District: ENG

Road Type: PRI

Address: Gallagher & Silver Bell

Township Code: Oak

City: Oakland

Location Details:

Comments: WALKER, STACY 4/6/2026 7:46:25AM

email 535 pm 4/2/2026 Aaron Fales aaron@afaleslaw.com
Hi RCOC,

My family resides in the Goodison Place neighborhood off Gallagher and we fully support this paving project. This will substantially alleviate the cut through traffic in our neighborhood and make it safer for our family and others. This will also alleviate unnecessary wear and tear on our private roads as there will no longer be a need to "cut through on our paved roads" to avoid the dirt and potholes. This should generally create a better and safer overall community traffic flow. That said, we do have a couple of questions or concerns though.

1. There is a portion of the side walk that has not been completed in front of the new build at 4620 Gallagher. This house was in a dispute over the taking at the time the rest of the Sidewalks and trails were completed and its uncompleted sidewalk is a huge safety concern. THIS MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS PROJECT TO ALLOW SAFE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AND PASSAGE DOWN GALLAGHER AND TO THE TRAIL. This sidewalk cannot remain disjointed. In all honesty the Twp. building department should have required this prior to granting site plan approval...but for whatever reason they failed to do so...this puts pedestrians at risk everyday and needs to be remedied.

2. There is currently significant storm water drainage and run off impacting this safe sidewalk between goodson place dr and hidden glen and this part of sidewalk is often not passible after even mild rains. This should be remediated and reviewed by your engineers prior to commencing your construction to ensure you adequately capture the runoff and slope impacting this area. This trail may even need to be raised up as part of this.

3. You note the cost as a \$13 mil. est. paid for from "federal funds and contributions from RCOC and Oakland Township" but without any additional details. Can you please provide a breakdown of the sources and uses of this estimate? Will Oakland County residents be assessed any additional taxes to cover any portion of this?

4. What will be the anticipated speed limit on this road? This is a residential corridor and while the current dirt road does create an unstated 55 MPH technical limit, I am sure the local residents would prefer a significantly slower posted speed limit. Please advise.

Thanks for your feedback. We are in full support of the project overall but we do want to make sure the trailway safety concerns are addressed and accounted for prior to or in conjunction with the project.

Thanks,

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Call-Out Made:	NO	Call-Out Notes:	

-Aaron Fales

LAW OFFICE OF AARON M. FALES, P.C.

248-767-9840

aaron@afaleslaw.com

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE

OBRIEN, JEFF 4/10/2026 9:30:45AM

Thank-you for your comments. In response, I offer the following:

1. The project would include a complete path connection between the existing walks on Silverbell to the Paint Creek Trail, including any areas that do not currently have path. The RCOC is not aware of Township requirements relating to site plan approvals and/or requirements for such.
2. Drainage would be addressed as part of the paving project.
3. The total cost of the project is currently estimated at 13.2 million, with approximately 8.16 million in federal funds and the remainder paid for by RCOC/Twp. A full breakdown of costs including engineering, right-of-way etc can be found in the documents posted to the Oakland Twp website from the board meeting on the project held March 10, 2026.
4. Any speed limit posting would be set upon completion of the project in accordance with current state laws. The Township would need to request the speed study, agree to abide by its results upon completion of the project prior to one being conducted. The speed study and its limits are set by the Michigan State Police.

FIRST CALLER CONTACT INFORMATION:

First Name	Last Name	Address	Home Phone	Work Phone	Customer Email
AARON	FALES		248-767-9840		AARON@AFALESLAW.COM

FIRST CALLER QUESTION/INFORMATION:

Question	Answer
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Road Commission for Oakland County - Service Request

Request ID: 606415

Date Initiated: 4/6/2026 9:51:47AM

Problem Type: ENG General engineering question

Initiated By: WALKER, STACY

Status: Not Started

Submitted To: OBRIEN, JEFF

Number of Callers: 1

Dispatch To: KITTELL, JENNIFER

Call-Out Made: NO

Call-Out Notes:

PROBLEM INFORMATION:

District: ENG

Road Type: PRI

Address: Gallagher & Silver Bell

Township Code: Oak

City: Oakland

Location Details:

Comments: WALKER, STACY 4/6/2026 9:51:47AM

email 412 pm 4/3/2026
Craig Wolanin CWolanin@frankrewold.com
Good Friday!

Thank you for your efforts and due diligence. There is no need to respond to this email. Considering it, would be appreciated.

Literally, I live on Gallagher Rd! 4891. My front door is 30 feet from it. My driveway is 400 feet from the stop sign on Gallagher at Silverbell. A traffic sign directly across the street, at the crest of the hill, displays a red stop sign. Last Saturday (3/28), while my wife and I were cleaning up the yard, we had a pickup truck pass another vehicle between my drive and the stop sign. Not the first time.

Trustee Casadei and I have spoken. He was kind enough to address my concerns. But I thought I should create a paper trail too.

Concerns:
Enforcement. Safety. Speed. Size.

Enforcement.

I understand one of the primary reasons for paving the streets is emergency response. Understood and appreciated but how will non-emergency response traffic be controlled?

Have any speed studies been done on Gallagher ever? I know traffic has and will increase if it is paved.

What is being considered to control speed? Speed humps. Camera ticketing. Slow down signage, blinking lights, patrol, etc.

Safety

Every driveway on Gallagher has a blind spot. It could be a hill, curve, trees, bushes, etc. We all "inch" out into the road with caution.

Pedestrian traffic. Neighbors, bikers, runners, and walkers still use the street.

Speed

Prima facie, at first sight, Gallagher would be 40 mph. Silverbell would be 55 miles an hour.

We know that 40 mph really means 45-50 mph and 55, probably 60?

There is nothing prima facie about my observance over 20+ years. I have witnessed all kinds of risky driving.

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From AI: Fatality Risk: The risk of fatality in a 40-mph crash is roughly 46%. For pedestrians hit at this speed, the risk of death is over 80%.

Analytics vs. Manalytics.

I understand the MSP evaluation and design intent of the road as it relates to speed, but they do not live on the road.

I hear speed before I see it. When I see it, I worry. As they turn from Silverbell on to Gallagher, the acceleration can be heard and high speed attained by the time they get to my driveway. Then it reaches the crest of the hill. A bit faster now. Then, if it's a weekday, maybe my neighbors' special needs bus. After, the soft curve where it is signed 25 MPH. Followed by, a bigger curve, at the T intersection of Goodison Place, And, then a sharper curve at Hidden Glen Circle. By now, he should be hitting 50, perfect timing, as he continues downhill to the intersection of Cider Hill Drive, the Paint Creek Trail, pedestrian traffic, and Orion Road. Speed kills, at 40mph, on Gallagher Rd, it's just of matter of where. At least the response team will get there quickly.

Size

IMO, vehicle sizes must be controlled too. They will exacerbate every potential negative aspect described above especially since these drivers will not be locals. They will not understand the hidden dangers of our roads.

Conclusion

Oakland Township prides itself on preservation. Gallagher is signed 25 MPH at its most dangerous section. Preserve it. 25MPH for the entire road. End to end, it will take drivers a couple of minutes. People love our street. The canopy of trees, country-like setting, and pedestrian traffic is neighborly. The pathway adds to that value as will the pavement. I am for Gallagher being paved. But, not at 40MPH.

Happy Easter!

Craig Wolanin
a: 303 E. Third Street | Suite 300
Rochester, MI 48307