

# Who is Responsible for Michigan's Roads

In order to understand the road issues in Tuscarora Township we need to first understand who is responsible for the roads

***Township governments have no direct authority over local roads.***



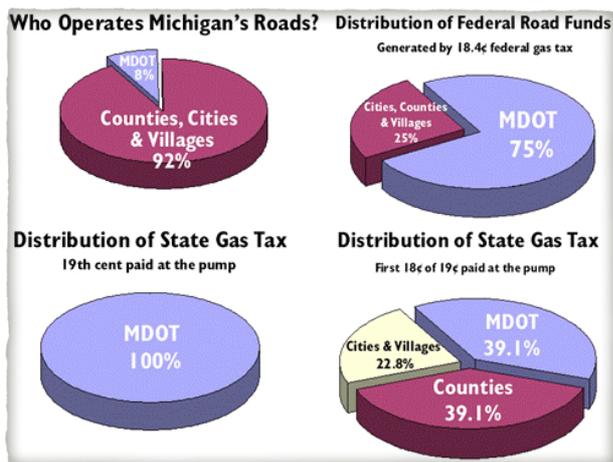
In Michigan, all roads fall into one of three categories of road jurisdiction:

- 1. State highways: MDOT - 9,679 miles (8%)
- 2. County roads: County road commissions - 90,040 miles (75%)
- 3. City or village streets: Cities and villages - 20,831 miles (17%)

A township has no legal obligation to maintain or repair county roads. There is also no legal requirement for a township to match funds expended by a county road commission for either maintenance or construction of county roads.

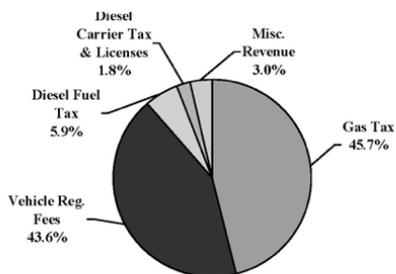
Townships may, however, choose to help finance local public road improvements with general fund monies, with a road millage not to exceed six mills approved by a vote of the electors, by establishing a special assessment district, and by issuing special assessment bonds. (MCL 247.670)

Townships cannot lawfully spend public funds on private roads. However, a township may establish a special assessment district to assess property owners for private road projects. (MCL 41.722)



## Besides the Gas Tax, What are the Other Sources of State Road Funds?

In addition to the state-collected gas tax, there are a number of other state-collected revenues that contribute to road funding in Michigan. The pie chart below shows those sources and indicates what percentage of total state road funds they account for (as of 2006).



It is interesting to note that Michigan is also one of only seven states in the nation that applies sales tax (6%) to gas and diesel sales. None of the revenue from that sales tax goes to the roads.

While townships have little direct authority over local roads, townships do have some authority to control utility franchises, regulate traffic and signage, provide special assessments for water, sewer, private roads, lighting and sidewalks.