



# Dexter Township

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*"A Community For All Seasons"*

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## Frequently Asked Questions – Dexter Townhall Road/North Territorial Road Closure March 2024

**Question:** Why is the Road Commission doing this project?

**Answer:** Many traffic accidents occur at the intersection at North Territorial and Dexter Townhall Road. The steep hill on North T to the west of Dexter Townhall Road, plus periodic standing water and a sharp curve on North T east of Dexter Townhall Road, make this a dangerous intersection. The Washtenaw County Road Commission applied for and received Federal safety funds to make this a safer intersection.

**Question:** What will be different as a result of this project?

**Answer:** Four big improvements:

- (1) The steep hill on North Territorial will be six feet lower, giving drivers on North T a better view of the intersection as they approach, and giving stopped drivers on Dexter Townhall a better view of oncoming traffic.
- (2) Right turn lanes will be added on North Territorial in both directions.
- (3) The culvert on North T will be replaced, eliminating standing water during periods of rain or thaw.
- (4) There will be rumble strips on the center line of the sharp curve, keeping drivers alert.

**Question:** How long will the project take to complete?

**Answer:** The project began at the end of February 2024 and is anticipated to be complete by June 1 depending on weather and other factors. This is a short-term project for a long-term gain.

**Question:** Why are the detours so inconvenient?

**Answer:** Detours must direct traffic to county roads with the “primary road” designation; local and gravel roads are not eligible for formal detours. Primary roads are spread out in rural areas. This project highlights the importance of North Territorial Road as a critical connector throughout western Washtenaw.

**Question:** What do the detour barrier signs mean?

**Answer:** The detour barrier signs have two possible texts: “Road Closed to through Traffic” or “Road Closed: Local Traffic Only.” Both mean the same thing: there is no paved road egress beyond that point, and only residents, school buses, service vehicles, etc. should proceed. In some cases (but not always), there may also be no gravel road egress beyond that point. These signed barriers are in place at Stofer Road, Dexter Pinckney, North Territorial, Dexter Townhall, and Island Lake roads.

**Question:** What can we do about the increased traffic on Brand, Quigley, and, Madden Roads?

**Answer:** Brand, Quigley, and Madden roads are public roads that cannot be closed to through traffic. To mitigate the impact of increased traffic on these gravel roads, the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department has increased its traffic enforcement patrols. Also, the WCRC area foreman is actively monitoring road condition and adding gravel and grading the roads more frequently. The cost of increased maintenance is billed to the project budget.

**Question:** Can we lower the speed limits temporarily on the impacted local gravel roads?

**Answer:** No. Road conditions on unpaved roads vary widely. For that reason, gravel roads are “unposted,” meaning no speed limits are posted. The speed limit on unposted roads is “safe and reasonable,” not to exceed 55 miles per hour by State law.

**Question:** Why did so many trees get cut down?

**Answer:** This project – especially adding the right turn lanes – is increasing the footprint of North Territorial Road. Any trees within the right-of-way in the project’s “zone of impact” must be removed. The WCRC is communicating with adjacent property owners, who can choose between collecting the wood or having it removed.

*The Dexter Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon seven days’ notice to the Dexter Township Board.*

*Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Dexter Township Board by writing or calling the Office Manager at the address and phone number printed at the top of this agenda.*