



# *CITY OF MONROE*

**Engineering Department  
Questions and Answers about  
the Proposed Bridge Millage**

**Presented to City Council  
October 19, 2009**

# Questions and Answers about the Proposed Bridge Millage

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- 10 commonly-asked questions are presented here for information only.
- Presentation is also available on the City's web page at: [www.monroemi.gov](http://www.monroemi.gov)

# Questions & Answers about the Proposed Bridge Millage

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- Question: What is the proposed millage request?
- Answer: It is a request for an additional levy of up to 0.52 mills per year for the next 20 years. The City would issue bonds in up to 3 phases to perform heavy repairs to the Winchester, Macomb, and Roessler Bridges

# Questions & Answers about the Proposed Bridge Millage



- Question: How were the bridge deficiencies found?
- Answer: City is State-mandated to inspect bridges every 2 years, the Fall 2008 inspection found substantial worsening from previous inspection. Bridges also analyzed for load restrictions and Winchester and Macomb posted for reduced loads.

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- Question: Has other work been performed in the past to keep these in good repair?
- Answer: Yes, most recent work on Winchester was 1997, 2001, and 2005, Macomb in 1998 and 2002, Roessler in 1998 and 2004.

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- Question: How old are these bridges?
- Answer: Current Macomb Street bridge was built in 1951, Winchester and Roessler Streets in 1969-1970. Bridge overall life expectancies typically range from 75-100 years, depending on type and traffic.

# Questions & Answers about the Proposed Bridge Millage

- Question: What is the extent of the problem now? (Winchester)
- Answer: Winchester beam ends are in poor condition (see photo), design of expansion joints immediately above causes ends to rot prematurely. All 100 beam ends must be totally rehabilitated.



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- Question: What is the extent of the problem now? (Maccomb)
- Answer: Deck is in very poor condition, well over 50% is hollow. Due to beams and deck being tied together, full depth deck repair will need to be full replacement of both.



# Questions & Answers about the Proposed Bridge Millage

- Question: What is the extent of the problem now? (Roessler)
- Answer: Bridge design is the same as Winchester Street, type of distress is the same, but has not yet advanced quite as far as Winchester Street. Repairs will likely be the same.



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- Question: Aren't there some other funding sources?
- Answer: Yes, but all have some major limitations. Gas tax monies only allow around \$250,000 per year for construction after regular maintenance. State bridge monies are all committed until at least 2013 and not guaranteed at all. City's regular Federal Funds only \$400,000 per year for all type of projects.

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- Question: Would the entire millage need to be levied?
- Answer: No, the City Council will adjust the required amount each year based on actual costs. Further, we have submitted a request for an earmark, supported by Congressman Dingell, for the Macomb and Roessler Bridges through the Federal Transportation Bill, but will likely not know until 2010 or 2011. If these earmark requests become law, levy could be as low as 0.20 mills per year.

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- Question: How much would the millage cost?
- Answer: If the full amount is levied, up to \$5.75 million would be raised over 20 years.
- Average home in Monroe is valued at \$120,000, annual assessment would be \$12 - \$31 per year, depending on range levied (0.20 to 0.52 mils). Council to set each year based on actual needs.

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- Question: What happens if funding is not secured now?
- Answer: Like all infrastructure, bridges will continue to deteriorate, and further load postings are likely. Over time, some of these elements could become critical and require full closures if funding is not secured. Inflation in future years is also a large concern, as is scope of work expanding as conditions worsen.

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- Question: When would the work begin?
- Answer: Winchester work would occur in 2010 if passed. City would wait until 2012 and 2013 for Macomb and Roessler to see if Federal earmark comes through for those projects to offset our costs. Only one project would occur at a time, and bridges would likely all have to be completely closed during construction.

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- Question: How can I get additional information?
- Answer: Contact the City of Monroe Engineering Department at any time, and we will try to answer any questions for you.
- Hours: 8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. – Monday to Friday
- Phone: 734-384-9126
- Email: [patrick.lewis@monroemi.gov](mailto:patrick.lewis@monroemi.gov)
- Patrick M. Lewis, P.E., Director of Engineering and Public Services