

## CITY MANAGER REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey & Clare City Commission  
FROM: Jeremy Howard, City Manager  
DATE: March 14, 2024  
RE: City Manager's Report

For the Agenda of March 18, 2024

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DDA Meeting. The DDA held a meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>. They had several items and discussion topics on their agenda which included:

- Discussion regarding ways to better reach DDA District Business Owners
- Approval of the site plan/façade improvement for Jay Trucks and Associates – 600 Pine Street
- Discussed and approved the draft budget for the DDA for FY24/25
- Approval of Financials and Payment of Bills – February 2024

Planning Commission Meeting. The Planning Commission held a meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> and had several items on their last agenda which included:

- Appointed a new 2024 Vice Chairperson – Nick Wyman
- Approval of the site plan/façade improvement for Jay Trucks and Associates – 600 Pine Street
- Excused absence for the meeting of March 13<sup>th</sup> for Ken Hibl

Lake Shamrock Dredging and Dam Project. Mechanical dredging by the City is still paused as well as hydraulic dredging by Savin. As of the writing of this report, we have not received a new permit from EGLE. They had told us they hoped to get it to us the week of the 10<sup>th</sup>. The Dam feasibility study work is essentially complete and we are now waiting to hear back about additional grant funding to help with the next phases of the project.

Rail Trail. As I have reported previously the Rail Trail Project to complete the “Clare Gap” is slated to start this Spring. It was tentatively scheduled to begin in April but has been moved up to Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. The tentative completion date is the end of July 2024. This project has been in the works for many years and will be a welcome addition to the City and the surrounding communities. The completion of the longstanding “Clare Gap” will allow users continuous access to the shared-use path safely from both the East and West into and through the City of Clare without having to navigate directly on any high-traffic main roads. The establishment of a trailhead along with new signage at the City of Clare Union Railroad Depot building will also be a welcome addition. The City is thankful for all the hard work from city staff and other state and private agencies as well as funding for the project from the Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Trails Fund, and Friends of Clare County Parks and Recreation, along with private donations, endowments, and fundraisers that helped make up the city’s required matching funds. Attached to this report is the press release from MDOT regarding the project as well as some simple schematic maps showing the path from the Moose Lodge to the Depot.

Equipment Purchases. The new mower purchase for the Cemetery and the new UTV grass rig for the Fire Department will be parked outside of City Hall Monday night for you to check out. Please take a minute either before or after the meeting to take a look at them and ask any questions that you may have regarding these recent purchases.

Attachments:

1. MDOT Rail Trail Press Release.
2. Rail Trail Map of New Path.



## Pere Marquette Rail Trail work begins March 18 in Clare County

*Michigan DOT sent this bulletin at 03/12/2024 01:22 PM EDT*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2024

### MEDIA CONTACT

Caitlyn French

989-573-1274

[FrenchC4@Michigan.gov](mailto:FrenchC4@Michigan.gov)

## Pere Marquette Rail Trail work begins March 18 in Clare County

**MT. PLEASANT, Mich.** - The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is investing approximately \$2.4 million to build 2.3 miles of shared-use path along M-115 from west of the southern branch of the Tobacco River to Beech Street in Clare County. The project includes bridge rebuilding, concrete sidewalk, drainage, approach, and pavement marking work.

### County:

Clare

### Highway:

M-115

### Closest cities:

Clare

### Start date:

Monday, March 18, 2024

### Estimated end date:

Wednesday, July 31, 2024

### Traffic restrictions:

Traffic will be maintained using single-lane closures with traffic regulators and shoulder closures.

### Job numbers:

Based on economic modeling, this \$2.4 million investment is expected to directly and indirectly support 34 jobs.

### Safety benefit:

This work will connect the Pere Marquette Rail Trail in Clare County to provide continuous access to shared-use path and outdoor recreation opportunities.

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Work zones are temporary,

Bad decisions behind the wheel can last forever.



SCALE: 1" = 400'

**LEGEND**

-  10' Shared Use Path
-  Shared Lane
-  6' Sidewalk

CLARE COUNTY

**PERE MARQUETTE STATE TRAIL**





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