

**US HIGHWAY 12 “ROAD DIET” – POSSIBLE CHANGE
FROM FOUR LANES TO TWO LANES WITH A CENTER TURN LANE**

The “road diet” that is proposed by the State of Michigan Department of Transportation will change US Highway 12 from four lanes to two lanes with one lane going in each direction and a center turn lane. This is proposed to begin at the Michigan state line and run through the City of New Buffalo.

It’s possible that the change in the lane configuration will leave the current lane closest to the railroad tracks available to be used as a buffer if there is a bicycle path constructed between the railroad tracks and the highway.

“Road diets” are generally used to reduce maintenance and paving costs to the State and to help with safety. The state will normally conduct a study to ensure that this change does not cause increased safety issues to those traveling.

The Village Council is very concerned with the ability of getting emergency vehicles in and out of the Village during heavy traffic times. They are also concerned about the ability for residents and visitors to the Village to be able to get out into traffic going in either direction because at times it will be a steady stream of traffic.

It is sometimes very difficult to get out in traffic now, especially during the summer months, weekends, holidays and times when I-94 has been closed due to an accident or road conditions.

Interim Police Chief Jamie Flick has written the following letter which was mailed to the Michigan Department of Transportation stating his concerns.

You can make your feelings known regarding the proposed “road diet” by composing your own letter and sending it to the following address:

Michigan Department of Transportation
5372 South 9th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009



GRAND BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
48200 PERKINS BLVD.
GRAND BEACH, MI 49117
(269) 469-5000

June 19, 2019

Michigan Department of Transportation
5372 South 9th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

To whom it concerns:

I am writing this letter to express my concerns for the Village of Grand Beach on the proposed "road diet" that the State of Michigan is proposing for US 12 in New Buffalo Township.

The proposed "road diet" will take US 12 from four lanes to three. By doing this, we will only have one lane of travel east and west from the State line to the City of New Buffalo. My concerns are for safety and getting emergency vehicles in to the Village. It will be difficult for emergency vehicles to get through traffic on busy summer days, holidays or at times when I-94 is closed due to an accident when traffic becomes very heavy along US 12.

Our ambulance comes from the City of New Buffalo, and not every call requires lights and sirens, but a response in a timely manner is very important to our residents. The ambulances' response will be very much delayed if they are unable to navigate traffic.

Our Fire protection comes from New Buffalo Township, and we have a station less than two miles from the Village. The Fire service will have to attempt to merge into one lane of traffic to go west. Even with four lanes now, sometimes it can be difficult.

Another concern is the ability for traffic leaving Grand Beach to enter a lane of traffic going in either direction safely with the volume of traffic that travels US 12, especially during the summer months.

If this "road diet" does happen, the Village would recommend the State consider putting a stop light at the entrance of Grand Beach from US 12. Putting a stop light in will at least slow traffic down and hopefully make it safer for emergency vehicles and residents leaving the Village of Grand Beach and Michiana.

I would be happy to talk further about our issues concerning the road diet project.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Interim Chief James Flick
Grand Beach Police Department
Jflick@grandbeach.org