

**News Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Pavement Ratings Show Condition of Roads in Northwest Michigan**

NORTHWEST LOWER, MI – An evaluation of roads in northwest Lower Michigan shows that 40 percent of the region’s federal-aid-eligible roads are in poor condition. That is up from 35 percent of the roads in poor condition in 2018.

Staff from county road commissions, the Michigan Department of Transportation, and Networks Northwest drove on over 2,800 miles of federal-aid-eligible roads in the 10-county region in 2019 to complete the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER). Federal-aid-eligible roads are defined as highways on the Federal-aid highway system and all other public roads not classified as local roads or rural minor collectors.

The PASER system is a visual method for evaluating the condition of roads and rating them on a one to 10 linear scale with one being poor and 10 excellent. The Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) groups the 1-10 rating scale into three categories: 1-4 is poor, 5-7 is fair, and 8-10 is good.

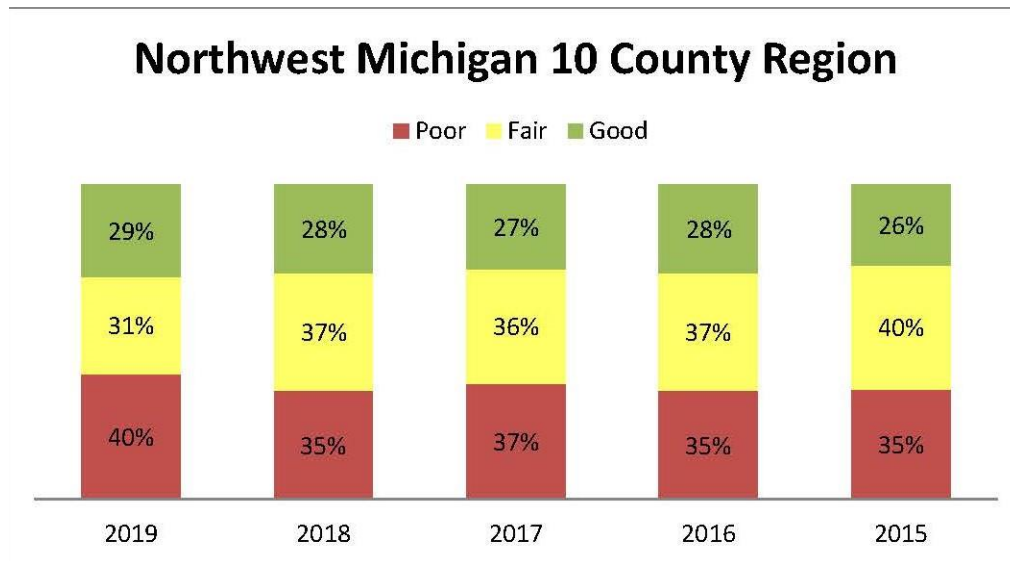
Good ratings are typically newly constructed or recently seal coated roads that require only routine maintenance such as street sweeping, drainage clearing, shoulder grading, and crack sealing. Roads with a fair rating can be managed with preventive maintenance measures that address pavement problems before structural integrity is severely impacted. Doing so protects the pavement structure, slows deterioration and corrects pavement surface deficiencies. Poorly rated roads require structural improvements like resurfacing or major reconstruction. Alligator cracking and road rutting are common examples of the roads structure failing.

(MORE)

The table below shows 2019 PASER ratings by lane miles broken down by county and PASER rating score.

2019 PASER Data (Lane miles by rating)												
	PASER 1	PASER 2	PASER 3	PASER 4	PASER 5	PASER 6	PASER 7	PASER 8	PASER 9	PASER 10	Not Rated	TOTAL
Antrim	0	3,714	69,698	56,969	7,431	14,369	44.87	41.115	49,628	0	0	287,794
Benzie	0	2,253	53,614	42,487	14,493	15,975	18,414	51,299	28,229	0	0	226,764
Charlevoix	0	14.58	22.05	58,523	12,889	31,399	26,824	57,745	22,015	1,814	0.576	248,415
Emmet	0	29,885	46,726	26.24	47,659	14,809	38,841	64,972	27,515	3,541	0	300,188
Grand Traverse	0	2,322	44.15	93,812	28,307	29,623	54,801	60,745	45,033	3,027	0	361,82
Kalkaska	0	11,209	63.05	47,666	12.93	41,219	12,218	30,446	9,366	9,662	2,733	240,499
Leelanau	0	8,012	7,801	44,017	17,911	42,222	25,231	53,356	43,896	0	0	242,446
Manistee	0.163	14,885	59,254	103,105	25,013	21.29	23,989	49,816	17,739	0.459	0	315,713
Missaukee	0	2,064	33,503	48,128	25,735	21,612	32.1	43,815	20,373	2,529	0	229,859
Wexford	0	5,978	30,466	82,306	33,822	68,038	64,195	70,369	20,276	2,505	0	377,955
Region	0.163	94,902	430,312	603,253	226.19	300,556	341,483	523,678	284.07	23,537	3,309	2831,453

The chart below shows the PASER rating groups for the region's roads over the past five years.



PASER maps and tables for each of the region's 10 counties are available on the Networks Northwest website at, [nwm.org/paser](http://nwm.org/paser). More details on PASER can be found on the Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council's website, [michigan.gov/tamc/](http://michigan.gov/tamc/).

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Dan Boss at [dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org](mailto:dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org) and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5047. Check our online Media Room at: [networksnorthwest.org/media](http://networksnorthwest.org/media)

Founded in 1974, Networks Northwest facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10 county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works, Small Business Development Center, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, various business services, and many different regional planning initiatives in response to our communities' requests and needs. You will see the broad spectrum of workforce, business and community services Networks Northwest offers if you visit our web site, [networksnorthwest.org](http://networksnorthwest.org). Networks Northwest's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.