

TO: NEWS MEDIA
FROM: GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
DATE: October 5, 2017
SUBJECT: **SOUTH AIRPORT ROAD – MAJOR ROAD WORK WILL TAKE PLACE THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 9, 2017**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Traverse City.

The 2017 construction projects are winding down, but next week there will be much activity along one of the busiest corridors in Grand Traverse County – South Airport Road.

Manager Jim Cook explains, “Between US-31/South Airport and Veteran’s Drive/South Airport intersection, GTCRC crews will be excavating four exploratory holes which will be roughly 4’x4’. The purpose of the excavation is to determine the base material composition and design considerations for a future South Airport Road construction project. This work will result in the center lane being closed in certain segments of the road.” Expect this work on Thursday, October 11 between 8 AM and 2 PM in the center turn lane.

Next along South Airport between Cass and Garfield Roads, GTCRC crews will be updating road signs. Cook shared, “Our agency has been upgrading road signs along each of our road projects. Our goal is to do a *complete* project within the road right-of-way. That includes the road surface, shoulder, trees, drainage and signs.” This work should be done within one workday.

Finally, and the most anticipated and longest work will be the stretch essentially between the westerly George Street and Fly Don’t Drive intersections along South Airport Road. The question has continually been raised since Costco announced the construction of their Traverse City store - “What improvements will be incorporated to accommodate the additional traffic?”

Cook’s response has been, “Turn lanes will be added, as well as reconstruction of South Airport Road in front of and along the development.” He added, “Costco and Cherry Capital Airport have been good partners during this process. They will also be improving the traffic signal at the airport entrance. They have also added a non-motorized path. All these enhancements are being completed as part of the Costco development with no cost to our taxpayers.

Cook stated the road work will require at least four days. During the daytime, **one lane will be open** with traffic directed by flaggers. At night two lanes will be open. Motorists will experience significant delays and are advised to seek alternate routes.

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