



Flooding washes out and over Cole Creek Road in Houghton County.

DISASTER IN HOUGHTON COUNTY

Over a year after flood, Houghton County roads in desperate need of state disaster assistance

On Father’s Day weekend 2018, multiple rounds of heavy rain slammed Houghton County, causing massive amounts of damage to roads in Houghton and Hancock and wreaking havoc upon 900 miles of county roads and bridges.

The storm, referred by the National Weather Service in Marquette as a **1,000-year rain event**, dumped over 7 inches of rain in a three-hour period on Houghton County. The result was **\$42.5 million in damages** to the Houghton County road system; 60 sinkholes created by flash flooding; 150 road washouts, including 15 massive washouts; and **more than 150 roads** affected by the flood with varying degrees of damage.

The destruction resulted in Gov. Snyder declaring a state of disaster for Houghton County as the Houghton County Road Commission (HCRC) went to work to restore service to impacted roads and bridges.

Nearly nine months later, progress has been made but slowly and at great cost to the area. In all, damages to county roads and in the cities of Hancock and Houghton and surrounding townships and villages totaled **over \$76 million**.

To secure \$30,175,000 in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding assistance for road and bridge damage, HCRC and surrounding communities must provide matching funds of **\$6,035,000**. That figure represents nearly all of HCRC’s distribution of Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) dollars of **\$5,056,572** in 2018, which goes toward servicing and maintaining 318 miles of primary roads, 526 miles of local roads and 34 bridges.

HCRC needs state assistance to receive federal funding that is critical to repairing and rebuilding the devastated local road and bridge system.

	Total damage	FHWA portion	FEMA portion	Local match FHWA (20%)
Houghton County Road Commission	\$42,500,000	\$22,500,000	\$20,000,000	\$4,500,000
City of Hancock	\$12,081,000	\$4,575,000	\$7,506,000	\$915,000
City of Houghton	\$14,640,000	\$3,000,000	\$11,640,000	\$600,000
Village of South Range	\$100,000	\$100,000		\$20,000
Townships of Franklin, Osceola, Torch Lake, Portage, Schoolcraft; and villages of South Range and Lake Linden	\$6,854,000		\$6,854,000	
Totals	\$76,175,000	\$30,175,000	\$46,000,000	\$6,035,000