



# HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

### Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

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1. The sponsoring representative's first name:  
Gregory
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:  
Markkanen
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.  
N/A
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
Keweenaw County Road Commission (KCRC)
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:  
Keweenaw County Road Commission (KCRC)
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:  
Brockway Mountain Drive Reconstruction/Resurfacing
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:  
Brockway Mountain Drive Reconstruction/Resurfacing
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. KCRC seeks legislatively directed spending for the reconstruction/resurfacing of Brockway Mountain Drive. It is on the National Register of Historical Places and is recognized for its scenic overlooks making it a major tourist and outdoor recreation attraction for Keweenaw County and surrounding area. The 9.3 mile road was originally constructed in 1933 during the Depression by the WPA and has not been resurfaced since the 1960's. The road has become severely deteriorated, due to increased traffic, and has several safety items that need to be corrected. Brockway Mountain Drive have an

average daily traffic (ADT) of approximately 600, but can see an ADT of 2000 during July 4th Holiday and Fall foliage viewing periods. This roadway has a significant positive impact on local businesses, the community and is in dire need of repair to maintain safe public access.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

9000000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["None"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Not applicable

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

N/A

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

Start in construction 2026/2027. Several months will be required for design and permitting of the proposed construction. Due to short construction season (5 months) in this area, and the need to be construction in two phases to maintain traffic, completion would be the following year.

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes

**BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN DRIVE RESURFACING (9.3 MILES)**  
**KEWEENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**  
**GRANT AND EAGLE HARBOR TOWNSHIPS**  
**Page 1 of 6**



Location Map – Eagle Harbor to west / Copper Harbor at east



P.O.B. at west end at Highway M-26

**BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN DRIVE RESURFACING (9.3 MILES)**

**KEWEENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**

**GRANT AND EAGLE HARBOR TOWNSHIPS**

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Deteriorated Pavement (Typical)



Deteriorated Pavement (Typical)

**BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN DRIVE RESURFACING (9.3 MILES)**

**KEWEENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**

**GRANT AND EAGLE HARBOR TOWNSHIPS**

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Deteriorated Pavement (Typical)



Deteriorated Pavement (Typical)

**BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN DRIVE RESURFACING (9.3 MILES)**  
**KEWEENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**  
**GRANT AND EAGLE HARBOR TOWNSHIPS**  
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Scenic Lookout at Summit

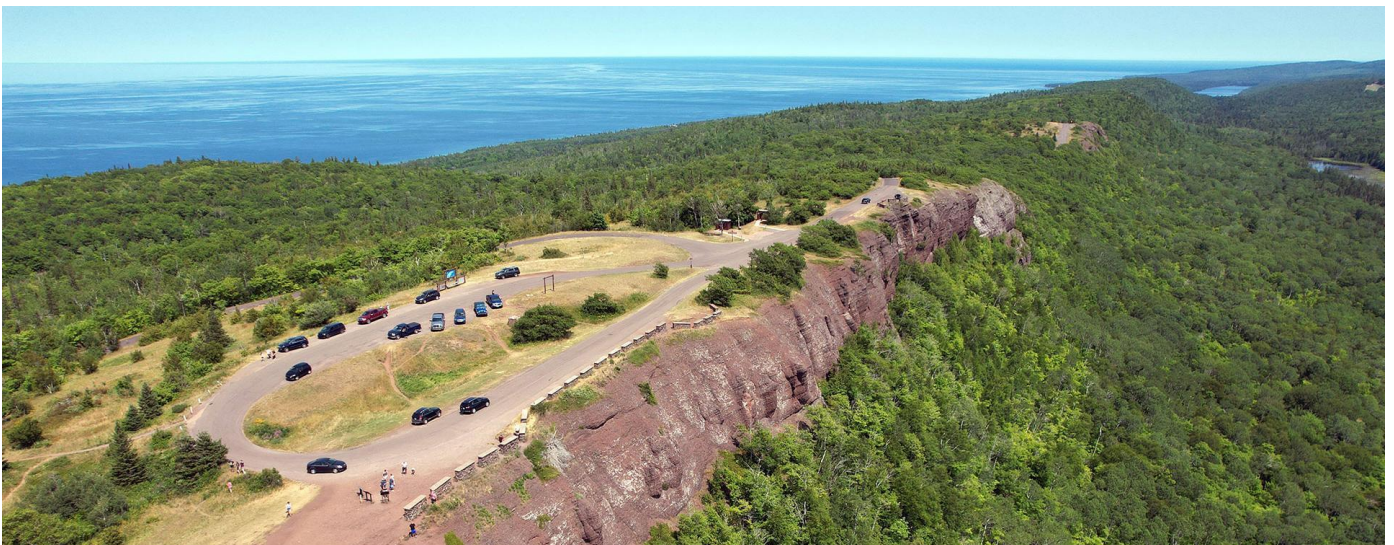


Scenic Lookout at Summit

**BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN DRIVE RESURFACING (9.3 MILES)**  
**KEWEENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**  
**GRANT AND EAGLE HARBOR TOWNSHIPS**  
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Scenic Lookout at Summit looking west to Eagle Harbor



Scenic lookout at westerly summit



**BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN DRIVE RESURFACING (9.3 MILES)**  
**KEWEENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**  
**GRANT AND EAGLE HARBOR TOWNSHIPS**

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Scenic Lookout at East towards Copper Harbor



Deteriorated pavement at eastern look-out approach (Typical)



Meg Vivian North, Grant Township Supervisor  
220 Gratiot Street  
Copper Harbor, MI 49918  
March 21, 2025

**RE: Letter of Support – Funding Request for Brockway Mountain Drive, Keweenaw County**

Dear Representative Markkanen,

On behalf of Grant Township, please accept this letter of support for the Keweenaw County Road Commission's (KCRC) application for Legislatively Directed Spending for the reconstruction and resurfacing of Brockway Mountain Drive.

We are providing this letter of support because 2.2 miles of Brockway Mountain Drive are located within Grant Township. This iconic roadway is a critical asset to our community and region, serving not only as a vital transportation corridor but also as a gateway to some of the most spectacular natural features in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Brockway Mountain Drive provides unparalleled opportunities for outdoor recreation, scenic viewing, and ecotourism—all of which are central to our township's identity and economy.

Numerous Michigan Nature Association hiking trails are accessed directly from this route, offering visitors immersive experiences in our unique boreal and northern hardwood forests. The mountain is also home to world-class biking trails, connecting cyclists to an expansive and challenging terrain popular with both residents and tourists. The Brockway Mountain Hawk Watch, which has been conducting bird migration counts for fifteen years, draws local schools, ornithologists and birding enthusiasts from across the country. In recent years, school buses are opting out of this valuable field experience because the road is in need of repair. Additionally, the summit of Brockway Mountain is one of the premier locations in the Midwest for stargazing under dark skies and offers panoramic views of Lake Superior that are both breathtaking and internationally recognized.

Brockway Mountain Drive also plays a central role in regional tourism during the fall color season, where its elevation provides a rare opportunity to drive above the forest canopy—a feature that attracts thousands of visitors each year and supports local businesses in Copper Harbor and beyond. In the winter months, it draws in travelers from all over the country who come to snowmobile and dog-sled through the Northwoods and over Brockway.

These attributes align closely with Grant Township's Master Plan goals of supporting sustainable tourism, promoting outdoor recreation, and protecting access to natural and scenic resources. As a community heavily reliant on nature-based tourism, the condition of this road is critical to our local economy, public safety, and overall visitor experience.

On behalf of Grant Township, we fully support KCRC's pursuit of Legislatively Directed Spending for the rehabilitation and resurfacing of Brockway Mountain Drive. We understand this scenic byway is not eligible for other annual State and Federal funding streams available to the Road Commission. Therefore, a special appropriation is the only viable means to restore the road to a safe and resilient condition that can serve residents and visitors alike for decades to come. This investment is not only necessary but urgent, as continued deterioration of the road would jeopardize public safety, economic activity, and access to treasured public lands.

If you would like more information about Grant Township's support for this application, please contact me directly at (906) 289-4292 or [supervisor@granttownshipmi.org](mailto:supervisor@granttownshipmi.org).

Sincerely,

**Meg Vivian North**  
Grant Township Supervisor, Keweenaw



April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Rich Probst, Jr. – Township Supervisor  
Eagle Harbor Township  
321 Center Street  
Eagle Harbor, MI 49950

RE: Letter of Support - Funding Request for Brockway Mountain Drive, Keweenaw County


Dear Representative Markkanen:

On behalf of Eagle Harbor Township Board, please accept this letter of support for Keweenaw County Road Commission's (KCRC) application for Legislatively Directed Spending for the reconstruction/resurfacing of Brockway Mountain Drive.

Brockway Mountain Drive is a scenic, 9 mile historic roadway that parallels M-26 in Keweenaw County. We are providing this letter of support because 7.1 miles of Brockway Mountain Drive is located in Eagle Harbor Township. It is a very important roadway that provides exceptional opportunities for tourism, Lake Superior scenic views, fall foliage viewing and outdoor recreation. The Township supports activities such as an annual raptor count, HAM radio operators, night sky viewing, groomed snowmobile trail and the CopperDog sled dog race that yearly use this road because of the unique opportunity to traverse this beautiful forested land on a seasonal roadway. Eagle Harbor Township felt the importance of this roadway so much that in 2012 we pursued and received Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund money to purchase 320 acres along the roadway at the west bluff of Brockway Mountain – the most amazing part was that the \$172,000.00 local match for the grant was put together by residents, tourists and local and state conservation groups. This roadway, and its scenic location is the top destination for visitors to the area, its access and scenic benefits are second to none.

On behalf of Eagle Harbor Township, we fully support KCRC's pursuit of Legislatively Directed Spending for the rehabilitation/resurfacing of Brockway Mountain Drive. We understand that this roadway is not eligible for other annual State and Federal funding the road commission receives. Therefore, a special appropriation is the only means available to repair the roadway to an acceptable standard. Together, this investment will improve public safety and resilience of the roadway for decades into the future.

If you would like more information about Eagle Harbor Township's support for this application, please contact me directly at (906) 289-4407 or [supervisor@eagleharbortwp.org](mailto:supervisor@eagleharbortwp.org)

Sincerely,  
  
Rich Probst, Jr.  
Township Supervisor

• 321 Center Street Eagle Harbor, Michigan 49950-9722 • Phone: 906-289-4407 • Fax: 906-289-4462 •

• E-mail: [office@eagleharbortwp.org](mailto:office@eagleharbortwp.org) • Web: [www.eagleharbortwp.org](http://www.eagleharbortwp.org) •

Eagle Harbor Township is an equal opportunity provider and employer. TDD # 711



# KEWEENAW

**VISIT KEWEENAW**

56638 Calumet Avenue

Calumet, MI 49913

906.337.4579

[info@visitkeweenaw.com](mailto:info@visitkeweenaw.com)

**MARCH 26, 2025**

Brad Barnett, Executive Director

Visit Keweenaw

56638 Calumet Avenue

Calumet, MI 49913

**RE: Letter of Support - Funding request for Brockway Mountain Drive, Keweenaw County**

Dear Representative Markkanen:

On behalf of Visit Keweenaw, please accept this letter of support for Keweenaw County Road Commission's (KCRC) application for Legislatively Directed Spending for the reconstruction/resurfacing of Brockway Mountain Drive.

We are providing this letter of support because Brockway Mountain Drive is a critical asset to the Keweenaw's visitor economy and one of the State's most beloved scenic attractions. The scenic drive, which is the crown jewel of the Copper Country Trail National Byway, is frequently highlighted as a premiere natural and historic attraction by regional and national travel and leisure publications such as *Midwest Living Magazine*, *MLive*, *Rider Magazine*, *National Geographic*, and many others.

Each year, thousands of motorists and recreationalists travel the nearly 10-mile stretch of scenic road. It is a very important roadway in Keweenaw County that provides exceptional opportunities for tourism, Lake Superior scenic views, fall foliage viewing, bird viewing, dark sky viewing, and other outdoor recreation opportunities. Due to its high use, the roadway is in serious need of repair so that it can continue to attract visitors who contribute to the local economy supporting the livelihoods of many County families.

On behalf of Visit Keweenaw, we fully support KCRC's pursuit of Legislatively Directed Spending for the rehabilitation/resurfacing of Brockway Mountain Drive. We understand that this roadway is not eligible for other annual State and Federal funding the road commission receives. Therefore, a special appropriation is the only means available to repair the roadway to an acceptable standard. This investment will improve public safety and resilience of the roadway for decades in the future.

If you would like more information about Visit Keweenaw and our support for this application, please contact me via phone 906.337.4579 or email at [bbarnett@visitkeweenaw.com](mailto:bbarnett@visitkeweenaw.com). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Brad Barnett**

Brad Barnett

Executive Director

Visit Keweenaw

**VISITKEWEENAW.COM**

Please Recycle!



# Western U.P.

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGION

400 Quincy St, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hancock, Michigan 49930  
906-482-7205 Fax: 906-482-9032 e-mail: [info@wupdr.org](mailto:info@wupdr.org)

VIA E-MAIL

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Greg Markkanen, Representative  
Michigan State House of Representatives  
S-1489 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Letter of Support - Funding request for Brockway Mountain Drive, Keweenaw County

Dear Representative Markkanen:

On behalf of Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR), please accept this letter of support for Keweenaw County Road Commission's (KCRC) application for Legislatively Directed Spending for the reconstruction/resurfacing of Brockway Mountain Drive.

Brockway Mountain Drive provides critical access to one of the key scenic destinations of the Keweenaw for both residents and visitors. The need for major repair has been recognized for many years and has been addressed directly or indirectly in past regional planning efforts:

- The 2022 *Western U.P. Tourism Issues & Strategies* report, developed by WUPPDR with input from a regional tourism stakeholder group, included that low road quality was "prominent and problematic for local access roads to points of interest (used by both residents and visitors) that are not eligible for federal aid... A notable example is Brockway Mountain Drive in Keweenaw County."
- The 2024 *Corridor Management Plan* for the Copper Country Trail National Byway included among traffic and accident concerns that "Brockway Mountain Drive is in poor physical condition and needs to be reconstructed for enhanced safety and user experience."
- The 2022-2026 *Western U.P. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy*, developed through an ongoing planning process with input from a regional committee, includes objectives related to support for the tourism industry and support for maintenance of local road networks.
- The 2024 *Understanding Tourism Impacts in the Western U.P.* report had transportation and infrastructure, including road quality, as the top category of concerns expressed by visitors to the Keweenaw Peninsula in written comments.

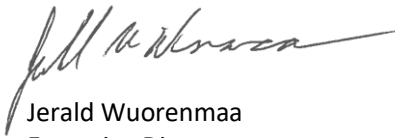
An input-output economic impact analysis in the *Understanding Tourism Impacts* report established that tourism industries directly supported 441 jobs in Keweenaw County, that 65 percent of all local jobs were supported by tourism, and more than half of local economic output was supported by tourism.

The Honorable Greg Markkanen  
Page 2  
March 24, 2025

We understand that Brockway Mountain Drive is not eligible for other annual State and Federal funding the road commission receives. Therefore, a special appropriation is the only means available to repair the roadway to an acceptable standard. This investment will improve public safety and resilience of the roadway for decades in the future.

If you would like more information about any of the planning efforts referenced above, please contact me via phone 906-482-7205 Ext. 111 or email at [jwuorenmaa@wuppd.org](mailto:jwuorenmaa@wuppd.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerald Wuorenmaa", written in a cursive style.

Jerald Wuorenmaa  
Executive Director