

STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT

# Barcia Press Release

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## **SENATOR BARCIA APPLAUDS TUSCOLA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT FUNDING**

*Barcia: "Improved roads mean more jobs and more attractive communities."*

**LANSING**—Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) today applauded the announcement of \$702,129 in Transportation Enhancement (TE) road improvement funding which will pave six-foot shoulders on M-15 for non-motorized use from Emerson Street in Vassar to M-46 in Tuscola County. The funding is being provided in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Federal Department of Transportation. The project includes \$268,159 in federal transportation enhancement funds and \$67,040 in matching funds from MDOT.

"This is great news for Tuscola County, as well as for the state," Sen. Barcia said. "With Michigan's current fiscal challenges, federal funding is essential for these much needed roadside improvements. This project will create jobs and enhance the quality of life for Tuscola County residents."

The shoulder paving will be done in conjunction with a Capital Preventative Maintenance overlay project on M-15, scheduled for 2008.

Under federal law, ten percent of transportation funds are set aside for TE projects. The grants allow communities to invest in landscapes, streetscapes, and bike path development. Administered by MDOT, the TE funds provide a maximum of 80 percent of required funding for each project, with the remainder coming from state and local government and the private sector.

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*Sen. Barcia represents Senate District 31 that includes Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. He is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee where he serves as Minority Vice Chair of the State Police & Military Affairs and Higher Education subcommittee as well as on the Department of Community Health and the Department of Human Services subcommittees.*