The Township of Hartland is authorized under the provisions of the Township Public Improvements Act, which is Act 188 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1954, as amended ("Act 188") to construct, improve, and maintain public roads within the Township. This policy has been adopted by the Township Board to establish guidelines for the Township Board with respect to undertaking those types of improvements authorized by Act 188.

In accordance with Act 188, a public road improvement project may be initiated in one of two ways: (1) by initiation of the Township Board or (2) upon the circulation and submittal of petitions signed by property owners having frontage on the road to be improved. As described more fully in this policy, while it is generally the policy of the Township Board to require petitions from property owners before proceeding with a public road improvement project, in accordance with Act 188, the Township Board reserves the right to proceed with a public road improvement project on its own without first requiring petitions from property owners.

Once a project has been initiated under Act 188 and this policy, the Township Board may designate and establish a special assessment district, undertake a road improvement project, and assess all or a portion of the project cost to the properties benefited by the road improvement project.

Recognizing, however, that road improvement projects, and in particular road construction projects, may be costly and that local governments such as the Township and the Livingston County Road Commission may have limited financial resources to dedicate to road improvement projects, the Township Board has adopted this policy to address the terms and conditions upon which the Township will proceed with creating a special assessment district and undertaking a road improvement project.

This policy only addresses road construction, improvement or maintenance projects for public roads and applies to both public through-streets, which are streets that provide access to the general public throughout the Township (e.g., Bergin Road) and public subdivision streets, which although such roads are public, the roads primarily provide access from through-streets to private homes located within a residential subdivision and therefore serve either homeowners, their visitors, and limited commercial traffic.

This policy does not apply to improvements to private roads. Improvements to private roads are governed by the Township's "Private Road Improvement Special Assessment Policy," which was adopted by the Township Board on December 2003.