

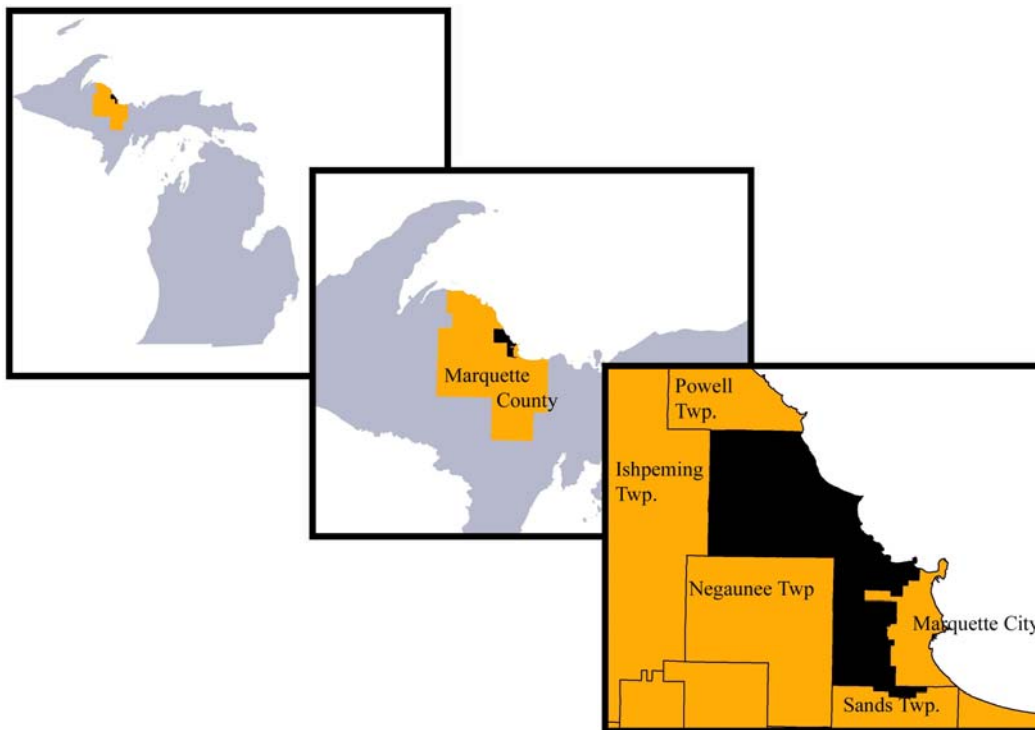
CHAPTER ONE- INTRODUCTION

Description of Marquette Township

The Charter Township of Marquette is located in the “central region” of Marquette County, Michigan which is itself located north centrally in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

The Township’s northeasterly boundary is formed by the shore of Lake Superior. Five “neighbor” communities, (clockwise) the City of Marquette, Sands Township, Negaunee Township, Ishpeming Township, and Powell Township share boundaries with Marquette Township, see Figure 1-1.

Figure 1-1 Location of Marquette Township



Source: Marquette County RMD

Marquette Township is just over 55 square miles in area. The landscape shows great variation in relief ranging from approximately 600’ at Lake Superior’s coast and gradually increasing as you move east to west exceeding 1,600’ near the Township’s border with Ishpeming Township. Much of the Township is forested predominantly with hardwoods though some pockets of pine are also present. Much of the Township remains in an undeveloped condition. The Township’s *Comprehensive Development Plan* indicates that just over 10% is actually developed. Marquette Township is a “bedroom community” of 3,286 individuals (US Census Bureau, Census 2000) which enjoy a rural setting within easy commuting distances of essential services and facilities.

Road Facilities Plan

Planning Process

In the summer of 2006, Marquette Township administration began discussions with Marquette County planning staff regarding road issues in the Township. As a result of these discussions, County planning staff developed a proposed scope of work which would address the Township's transportation interests. The County presented the scope of work to the Township Planning Commission where it was refined and moved on to the Township Board where in February of 2007, the project was approved.

The first step in preparing a plan is initiating a statutory planning process. Public Act 168 of 1959 (amended 2001) requires notice be provided to the Planning Commission of all adjacent municipalities, railroads, and utilities. Notices were distributed and a record of those wishing to participate was made.

The next step in development of the Plan was to initiate a public participation process. Over the course of the following two months, planning staff met with a number of entities to explain the Township's objectives in developing this plan as well as solicit comments to aid in drafting the document. The following entities provided comment:

- Marquette Township Board
- Marquette Township Planning Commission (2 public forums)
- Marquette Township Recreation Committee
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Marquette County Road Commission
- City of Marquette
- Marquette Township Business Association
- Marquette Township DDA
- MARQ-TRAN
- Trails and Greenways Committee
- Hiawathaland Snowmobile Club

The Township Planning Commission submitted the proposed plan to the Township Board for review and comment on December 12, 2007. On January 2, 2008, the Township Board approved the distribution of the proposed plan. After a 40-day public review period, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on February 27, 2008 that was continued on March 12, 2008.

A compilation of issues and comments can be found in Appendix A, Public Participation Issues and Comments.

The Road Facilities Plan was adopted unanimously by the Township Planning Commission on March 12, 2008.