

The Livingston County 'Can-Do' Attitude Gets It Done Latson Road Project Proves County's Resolve, Cooperation

Livingston County residents are a tough-nosed bunch. Created from the first days of the county's existence when war of 1812 veterans first came here, our community today is one of independent, yet community-minded citizens who don't like to take no for an answer.

It all started fifty years ago when a new highway called I-96 opened for business across Michigan to Detroit, cutting right through the Latson farm. Since that time, there has been an effort underway by first the Latson family and then by local leaders to address this problem and improve transportation in our community.

Since that time, families have flocked to Livingston County to enjoy low taxes, good schools, beautiful lakes, and great towns. With this came congestion on a roads and a strain on our transportation system. So a group of community leaders got together to propose an interchange at Latson road. They refused to take no for an answer despite countless setbacks over 20 years.

There are too many names over too many years to list all of the people who helped make this project possible. Township, county, state and federal officials – both Republicans and Democrats alike – came together to make this project possible. Business leaders played an important role. School districts played a role.

In 2009, the Latson Road project was on life support. Money was short everywhere and it looked like it might fall by the wayside. That's when State Representative Bill Rogers and I called all the interested parties back to the table to figure out what we needed to make this project a reality. Over three year's time, everyone gave a little and everyone pitched in because we all realized this was our last chance to get something done the community desperately needs.

We all put our differences aside, brought some tenacity to the table and got it done. For the Latson Road project, that Livingston County 'can do' attitude yielded results those first veterans from the war of 1812 would be proud of.

And our entire county will be better for it.