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Our view: M-30/Meridian Road plan a good surprise

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The news from Rep. Dave Camp's office that the Midland County Road Commission had secured \$2.4 million of the \$3 million it needs to connect M-30 with Meridian Road came as a surprise to Deepak Gupta, the road commission manager.

And, quite frankly, it surprised the rest of us who have been aware of the road commission's desire to directly connect traffic plying both U. S. 10, M-20 and/or M-46 for at least the last dozen years.

And we remember talking with the late Carl Gerstacker about routes around the city, so that truckers could have better access to their destinations, and the M-30 connector was one of his ideas.

For those of us who regularly travel around the county, getting from M-20 to the northwest side of Midland, and vice versa, is problematic. Right now, residents can travel the two-lane Nine Mile Road, come into the city and access via Eastman Road, or take Meridian Road, which has a 2.5-mile detour through Sanford.

And during periods when roads are out of commission, as when the current bridge over the Tittabawassee River was being redone, it was nearly impossible to tell a non-native how to get from one side of Midland County to the other.

While it is merely an inconvenience for most of us, for truck drivers it is downright costly, in terms of time, wear and tear on their rigs and added fuel costs.

All that said, we are pleased that work will begin on the connector. It makes sense.

Now, if we could just get another bridge connecting Stark with Sandow roads, we would have a better semblance of tying Midland County together.