

Ultimate challenge: driving the roads in Bedford, Ida

Did you ever wonder if a car or truck was made to withstand road abuse? Try the new Bedford and Ida townships' auto, tire, strut, spring and shock testing grounds. There, the true strength of tires, struts and the firmness of springs and shocks can be tested. Yes, drivers should come and visit the townships where the roads will take them through jaw-chattering, bone-jarring country roads.

Start the adventure in Lambertville where the roads start smooth and even. Approaching Temperance Rd., drivers will see the cars approaching, weaving on either side of the road and they will realize the fun has begun. They will drive between deep potholes on the edges with several holes in the middle and side as they try to dodge these holes passing approaching cars.

At M-151 (Samaria Rd.) take a right, where the next test is to maneuver over heaved-concrete sections of the road while trying to miss flying stones and rocks from passing cars and trucks.

Now cross over Lewis Ave., (don't forget to slow for major uneven cement and black top) and the next road will be Crabb. Drivers can turn right (either direction will be okay) on Crabb Rd. (This is not a road; it really is a narrow lane), and they can test their brakes and steering as they try their best to stay on anything that is together and smooth. They will have to stop to let approaching cars pass; there is no road to drive on. If they drive on the side some part of their car will break.

Here comes the final testing ground: Rauch Rd. Congratulations! Those whose car has held up on Secor, M-151 and Crabb will have arrived at the "worst road" in Monroe, Mich. They are guaranteed to blow a tire, break a strut or wear out their shocks. Between the deep holes and the large mound patches of black top, something has to give and it will be the car.

Yes, people should come to Bedford and Ida where everyone is proud of the road conditions surrounded by beautiful homes and farmland. They should just make sure they have their towing company on speed-dial.

Really! Maybe the auto industry, instead of making thousands-to-million-dollar testing grounds, should come to Bedford and Ida for free to test their products.

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