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Important Dates:

January 12, 9:00am
Board Meeting

January 26, 9:00am
Board Meeting

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:30am – 4:00pm

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Driveway Snow Dilemma

Throughout the winter months, Road Commission crews will be out clearing the roads during and after snow events. At the same time residents will be clearing their driveways.

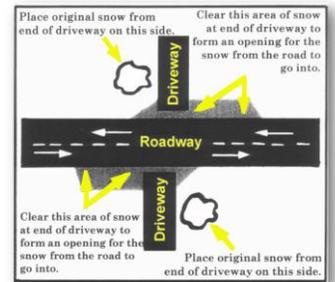
Many times while this is going on, a snowplow truck will go by and fill in the end of a freshly cleared driveway with snow from the road, causing frustration and more clearing for residents.

Please understand that

the Road Commission's first priority is the safety of the traveling public. Clearing the roads of snow and ice and pushing it off of the road and shoulders, and sometimes into driveways, is a necessary wintertime evil.

It is not always practical to wait and clear your driveway after the road has been plowed. However, there is a recommended method of clearing your driveway that can help minimize the amount of snow during the winter months.

When clearing your driveway, place as much snow as possible on the far side of the driveway. Then clear a pocket area on the near side of the driveway for the road plowed snow to accumulate. See the illustration below.



Partnering Pays Off for Everyone

Without local agency cooperation and partnering, some projects would not be possible.

For example, in 2011 the Road Commission, Drain Commission, and Holland Township worked together to replace the Brower Drain concrete box culvert in conjunction with the Riley Street improvements.



The previous photo shows the condition of the timber box culvert prior to the improvements. The next photo shows the completed Brower Drain concrete box culvert.



Also in 2011, Georgetown Township partnered with the Road Commission to implement sidewalks as

part of the 8th Avenue road improvements as shown below.



The Road Commission will continue to find ways to partner with local agencies on future projects in an effort to provide cost effective improvements to the infrastructure within the county road right of ways.

2011 Actual vs. 2011 Budget

The primary source of Road Commission revenue is obtained from the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF). The State of Michigan uses the MTF formula to disburse funds from the collection of the fuel tax, vehicle registration fees, and vehicle weight taxes.

\$15.80 million from the MTF. The actual disbursement of MTF funds to the Road Commission was \$15.93 million.

highway maintenance was \$3.15 million. The actual highway maintenance cost (as approved by MDOT) was \$3.02 million.

The 2012 Road Commission budget is based on anticipated MTF revenues of \$15.8 million. MDOT has stated that the highway maintenance contract will be reduced by 4% for 2012, which indicates a budget of \$2.65 million.

In addition to the MTF, MDOT contracts the Road Commission for the summer and winter maintenance of the state highway system in Ottawa County.

The 2011 budget for

The 2011 Road Commission budget was based on an anticipated

Safe Roads for Everyone

Why do bridges and overpasses freeze before the surface of the road?

Even while the air and road surface temperatures drop, the heat underneath the road keeps it warm enough to delay icing as temperatures drop below freezing.

Bridges have no way to trap heat and are exposed to cold air on all sides, so

they continually lose heat and freeze shortly after air temperatures hit the freezing point.

A bridge will follow the air temperature very closely. If the air temperature falls below freezing, a bridge's surface will fall below freezing very quickly causing rain or snow to freeze and stick to the road surface.

The Road Commission

will place liquid anti-icing materials on bridge surfaces when the temperatures are expected to be between 15°F and 35°F. If the surface is wet, then a 60/40 salt to sand mixture is treated with the liquid material (called pre-wetting) and then placed on the bridge surface.

Once applied, both treatments can last up to 72 hours.

Jingle Bell Parade

The first Saturday evening of December marks the date for the traditional Jingle Bell Parade located in downtown Grand Haven. Santa and Mrs. Claus are the featured guests, but the parade is also filled with "lighted" and decorated entries.

Since 2001, the Road Commission has participated in this popular annual event by driving some of our vehicles and equipment in the parade.

This year was no different as members of the Grand Haven garage added

some festive touches to a Road Commission truck.

The Road Commission would like to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year.



The chart above shows the MTF disbursements to the Road Commission over the past few years.



Shown above is Terry Svoboda from the Grand Haven garage driving the sign truck in the Jingle Bell Parade.