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## *Important Dates:*

April 4, 9:00am  
Board Meeting

April 18, 9:00am  
Board Meeting

## *Office Hours:*

**Monday - Friday**  
**7:30am – 4:00pm**

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Managing Director

## Local Roads Matter!

County roads are funded by the Michigan Transportation Fund through user fees – fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees – that have not seen an increase since 1997.

Despite comprehensive studies and the recommendation of a legislatively appointed task force that Michigan needs to double our current level of investment in transportation; past legislatures have failed to increase these user fees that fund our roads and

bridges.

The Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) has reported that our roads are deteriorating faster than they can be repaired or replaced.

It is time our legislators address the needs of our roads and bridges, from your driveway to the highway and home again.

Governor Rick Snyder has laid out a plan to help stabilize the state's crumbling roads.

No one wants higher taxes, but more investment is needed to help the county roads.

Please take a moment to contact your state legislators. Tell them that local roads matter and ask them to properly fund our county road system.

**Local Roads Matter:** to schools; to businesses; to emergency response times; to families; to agriculture; to tourism; to revitalization; to the economy; and to every resident!

## Gentex Expansion Provides All-Season Route

Gentex, a manufacturer of components primarily for the automotive industry, is constructing a new manufacturing complex off of 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Zeeland Township. The expansion will create 960 new jobs.

The site was selected for the proximity to existing Gentex facilities and convenient access to the Gerald R. Ford Freeway (I-196). Trucks will utilize 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue to access Fairview Avenue in the City of Zeeland in order to get to I-196.

A grant was obtained

through the MDOT Transportation Economic Development Fund to construct 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue to all-season status for trucking operations.

The 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue improvements will include a center left turn lane from Riley Street north to the entrance of the new Gentex facility.

In addition, a traffic signal and designated turn lanes will be constructed at the intersection of Riley Street and 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Bids were recently

solicited, and the low bid of \$1,098, 973 was submitted by Dan Hoe Excavating, Inc. from Olive Township.

The economic development grant will cover \$744,969 of the project total. The remaining balance will be paid by the City of Zeeland, Zeeland Township, and Gentex through a cooperative development agreement.

Construction is anticipated to start in the middle of April with a completion date in August.

## M-231 Construction Taking Off



The above picture is a rendering of how the new M-231 bridge over the Grand River will look.

The Michigan Department of Transportation has started the construction of a new two-lane, limited access highway (M-231) from M-45 (Lake Michigan Drive) north to the I-96/M-104/112th Avenue interchange near Nunica in Crockery Township.

The new roadway alignment for M-231 will be located west of existing 120th Avenue.

A new bridge over the Grand River is under construction to accommodate the highway. This makes the M-231 bridge only the 4th river crossing of the Grand River in Ottawa County.

M-104 improvements near the M-231 intersection, a new I-96 interchange at M-231, and additional ramps at the I-96/112th Avenue interchange (westbound on and

eastbound off ramps) will be included in the M-231 project.

It is anticipated that this section of the M-231 project will be open to traffic at the end of 2015.

In addition, improvements to existing US-31 are also planned for short segments in Grand Haven and Holland Townships as part of the M-231 overall plan.

## Safe Roads for Everyone

### Can a road side ditch be filled in?

If there is a ditch along the road in front of your property, you should not fill it in - even if it does not drain water to a positive outlet.

The purpose of most roadside ditches is to prevent water from pooling on the roadway during or after a storm, and to lower the water

table beneath the roadbed.

Filling in even a relatively shallow roadside ditch can cause serious damage to the road and pavement due to frost heave, and also increases the chance that water and ice will build up on the road and create a hazard to motorists.

If an open ditch is not desired, a property owner

can obtain a permit to enclose the ditch with storm sewer to insure proper roadside drainage.

To inquire about getting a permit, please call our office at (616) 842-5400 and ask for the Special Services Department.

If the ditch is a county drain, then the Water Resources Commissioner would also have to review and approve the ditch enclosure.



Shown above is Cliff Kosminski, our new employee in the Sign Shop.

## Sign Shop Welcomes New Face

The Road Commission is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Cliff Kosminski.

Cliff will be working as a skilled laborer in the sign department assisting in the installation of signs throughout the county.

Cliff has a varied work history with an emphasis in well drilling. Cliff has also served 12 years in the Marine Corps Reserves with stints in Iraq and Africa.

Cliff resides in Coopersville and has

been married to his wife Julia for nearly 9 years. He is an outdoorsman who enjoys hunting and fishing.

Please give Cliff a warm welcome to the Road Commission as you see him out and about.