



The Road Newsletter, Volume 5, Issue 9

September 2015

GPS Small Cost for Big Savings

The Road Commission is in the process of installing global tracking system (GPS) devices to our fleet of snow plows and equipment. The technology will be installed in time to help increase maintenance efficiency and effectiveness this winter. The GPS system will allow the tracking of material use, such as salt, sand, and liquid anti-icing agents. It will also provide engine information for maintenance and operating times, as well as real-time information for citizen inquiries.



Prior to this technology, radio communications were utilized to contact drivers on the road. This narrow-band radio communication is not as comprehensive as what the GPS system can provide. With a GPS system, there is virtually no limit to the data that is available.

The cost to implement the GPS system on the fleet will be \$15,000. However, it is anticipated that the GPS system will pay for itself within the first year. The collected data will be utilized to help reduce costs for material usage, fuel consumption, and equipment maintenance.

The photo on the left shows Robert Franklin from the North Holland garage installing a GPS unit on a snowplow truck.

There will be approximately 90 units installed on snow plow trucks and equipment over the next few months.

The GPS software will give real-time data of the route and location of each snow plow truck as they manage a storm. Supervisors can review this information to adjust responses for the next big storm. The system should also help identify overlapped, missed, and redundant snow removal routes to provide a better service for the residents of Ottawa County.

Regional Pavement Preventative Maintenance

Through the efforts of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC), a regional pavement preventative maintenance program was implemented for the area communities. Over 25 miles of surface improvements, including crack seal, chip seal, cape seal, and slurry seal treatments, at 23 various locations in the cities of Cedar Springs, East Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids, Grandville, Kentwood, Rockford, and Wyoming; and the counties of Kent and Ottawa.

The multi-jurisdictional project was recently bid with the Kent County Road Commission acting as the project sponsor. Over \$700,000 in federal funds were allocated by the GVMC to help offset the 1.1 million dollar project. Included in the project is Fillmore Street from 72nd Avenue to 48th Avenue. This roadway will be cape sealed to match the improvements that were done from US-31 to 72nd Avenue in 2014. A cape seal is a combination of a layer of seal coat without a fog sealant, that is then covered by a layer of micro surfacing (thin layer of asphalt).

It is the goal of the GVMC to continue the regional pavement preventative maintenance program on an annual basis.

Countywide Road Millage Projects Underway

In November of 2014, the residents of Ottawa County passed a millage of ½ mil per year for ten years (2015-2024) for the purposes of providing a fund for the reconstruction, resurfacing, and preventative maintenance of roads in Ottawa County. The first year of the countywide road millage will be added to the 2015 winter tax bills, with a majority of the revenue being disbursed to the Road Commission in February 2016. Even though the revenues will not be available for the 2015 construction season, 2 projects were constructed in advance as part of the countywide road millage program.

The first project, Douglas Avenue, was milled and resurfaced with hot mix asphalt from River Avenue to



144th Avenue in Holland Township. The photo on the left shows the milling operation along Douglas Avenue. The cost for the 1.3 miles of improvement was \$625,000. The Road Commission funded the project until the 2015 countywide road millage revenues are available for reimbursement.

The second project is also in Holland Township on Riley Street. The project involved resurfacing the existing surface with hot mix asphalt and providing 3-foot paved shoulders from Butternut Drive to 136th Avenue. In addition, a new driveway and improvements were coordinated with West Ottawa Public Schools. The cost for the ¾ mile improvement

was \$350,000 and was funded in advance by Holland Township until the 2016 millage revenues are available for reimbursement.

Safe Roads for Everyone

A crosswalk is a designated location for pedestrians to safely cross a road. Determining where to provide appropriate crosswalk treatments, such as pavement markings and pedestrian signing, is often complicated. Elements that can affect decisions on whether to install crossing treatments and the appropriate type include:

- Posted speed limit of the roadway
- Volumes of vehicular and pedestrian traffic
- Number of travel lanes
- Geometry of the roadway at the crossing location
- Type of roadway
- Setting (urban or rural)
- Available pedestrian facilities

These elements can influence decision making on whether a crosswalk should be installed at a given location, and if additional or alternate treatments should be considered. Not providing a uniform approach to crosswalk treatments can create confusion for both motorists and pedestrians, resulting in a potential to lessen the effectiveness of pedestrian crossings.

More information on crosswalk installation is provided in the “Guidance for Installation of Pedestrian Crosswalks” developed by MDOT, which can be found at www.michigan.gov/mdot/.

Comments Encouraged for Strategic Improvement Plan

The Road Commission is pleased to present a draft 2016-2021 Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) for review and comment. A copy of the draft plan can be found on our website at www.ottawacorc.com.

On an annual basis, the Road Commission reviews the SIP to manage county road assets, identify improvement needs, and determine economical methods to finance improvement projects. The review of these factors helps determine the appropriate replacement, repair, and maintenance action/method to be incorporated into the SIP.

A public hearing for the 2016-2021 SIP has been scheduled for September 24th at 10:00am at the Road Commission administrative office. Written comments are encouraged and can be received any time prior to the public hearing.

Important Dates

September 3, 2015 | 9AM | Board Meeting

September 24, 2015 | 9AM | Board Meeting



14110 Lakeshore Drive
PO Box 739
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417
616-842-5400
Office Hours: Monday-Friday; 7:30AM-4PM



STAY CONNECTED. SUBSCRIBE:

The Ottawa County Road Commissioners: Tom Bird | Tom Elhart | Betty Gajewski | Tim Grifhorst | Jim Miedema
Managing Director: Brett Laughlin

Who manages the roads and how are they funded? The Ottawa County Road Commission manages the roads--not the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners or County staff. The Ottawa County Road Commission is primarily funded by fuel taxes and vehicle registrations. Concerns about roads should be directed to the Ottawa County Road Commission. Questions? [Contact Us](#)

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Receive fewer or more messages](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#)

This email was sent to balaughlin@ottawacorc.com using GovDelivery, on behalf of: Ottawa County, Michigan · 12220 Fillmore Street · West Olive, MI 49460

powered by
govDELIVERY
get the word out.