



*The Road Newsletter, Volume 7, Issue 10*

*October 2017*

## Wrapping Up a Busy Season for the Road Commission



Construction season is winding down across Ottawa County. While road construction is a headache to some, the short-term inconvenience has provided great benefits countywide. The Ottawa County Road Commission had a very successful year improving the roads and bridges across the county.

It was a very busy year for the Road Commission with projects including the resurfacing of approximately twenty-four miles of primary roads and seven miles of local roads; preventative maintenance performed on over sixty miles of roads; bridge maintenance; and multiple drainage projects.

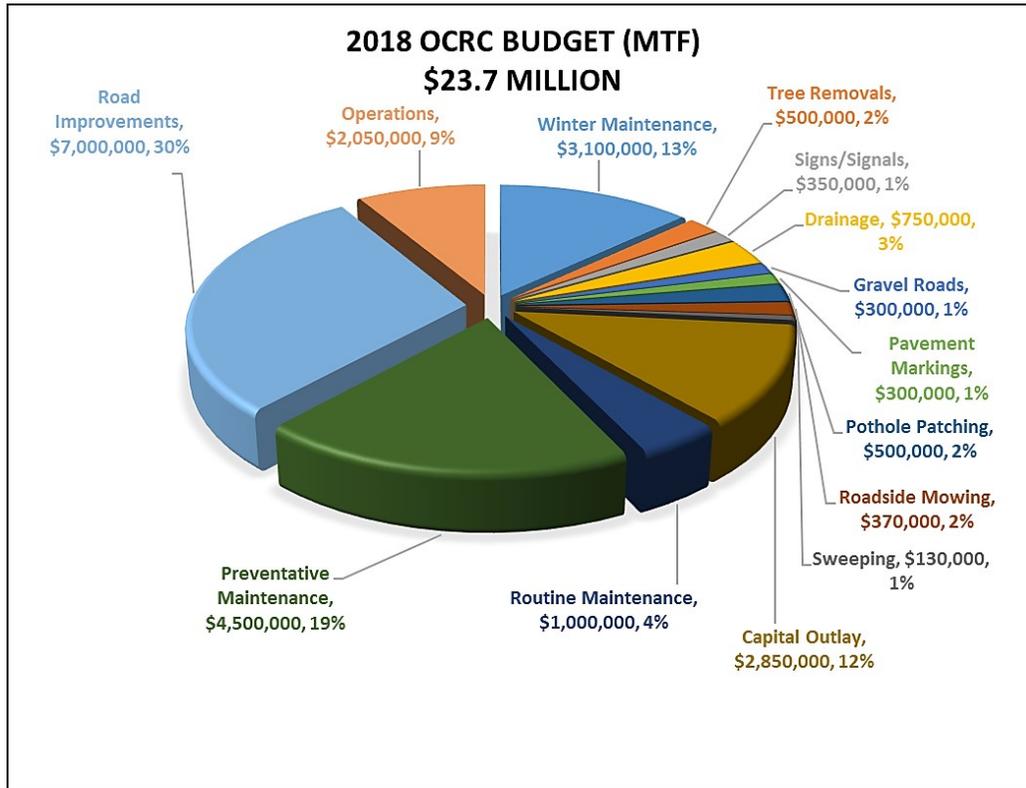
The resurfacing projects performed often not only included adding a new surface to the existing road but also adding turn lanes and paved shoulders to help increase safety. The preventative maintenance included cape sealing and seal coating (discussed in past issues of [The Road](#)) that help extend the life of the road five to ten years. Culverts were placed under ten different roads to help improve drainage and protect the life of the road.

The busy season was made possible because of increased revenues from the Michigan Transportation Fund and continued funds from the Countywide Millage. These sources (discussed in September's [The Road Newsletter](#)) have increased the amount of improvements the Road Commission can make to the roads in Ottawa County. Anticipated funding from these sources allows for even more improvements to Ottawa County's road system (see article below).

Hopefully you have enjoyed some of the recently improved roads here in Ottawa County, perhaps making any delays from construction well worth the wait!



## New Fiscal Year Budget and Strategic Improvement Plan



The Board of County Road Commissioners approved the Road Commission's budget and "Strategic Improvement Plan" for 2018. The sources of revenue for the Road Commission were discussed in September's edition of *The Road* (You can find it [HERE](#)). Now you can see how those funds will be broken down and used.

The graph above is the primary budget with anticipated funds from the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF). Expenses are broken down into the many services that the Road Commission performs, such as road maintenance, drainage, and improvement. The Road Commission's budget is always dependent on receiving the anticipated revenue from the MTF and other revenue sources. The funding can also change based on how much money is used for winter maintenance.

Here are the budget targets for all the Road Commission's revenue categories in 2018:

- MTF: \$23,700,000
- Federal and State Grants: \$4,725,000
- Countywide Millage: \$3,470,000
- Township Contributions: \$4,000,000

While the MTF is broken down into our operating budget (see above) the rest of the revenue from other sources goes directly into roads, through either preventative maintenance or road improvements.

Passed along with the 2018 budget was the "2018-2022 Strategic Improvement Plan". This plan utilizes the anticipated revenues and road ratings to develop a plan for the maintenance and improvement of the roads in Ottawa County. You can find the "Strategic Improvement Plan" on our website.

## Autumn Advice from the Road Commission

Winter is on its way here in Ottawa County! Many people use the fall season as a time to clean up and get prepared for the colder months. As you're doing yard cleanup and preparing for the snowfall, the Road Commission has some advice to help you avoid problems later.



### Raking Leaves and Yard Cleanup:

Raking your leaves is one of the biggest fall tasks in Michigan. And sometimes it can be frustrating figuring out where to put all the leaves, sticks, and other yard debris while cleaning up your lawn. We ask that you don't pile them in ditches or alongside the road.

Leaves and sticks piled in the ditches can lead to drainage issues. Restricted drainage could cause water to pool and not properly drain off the road and driveway. Problems with drainage and pooling water is not only an issue now, but in wintertime this can lead to ice buildup and cause even more problems. So, please remember to dispose of your leaves somewhere other than the ditch or roadside.

The Road Commission doesn't provide pickup for leaves or sticks on the side of the road. Piles of debris left on the side of the road, or in the road, can pose a hazard to drivers. If you are looking for a place to dispose of your leaves please contact your township or a local waste management company for options. Properly disposing of your leaves and sticks from your yard can help save you a headache later!

### Shake Your Mailbox:

Road Commissions across Michigan and other local and state government departments always encourage residents to "Shake your Mailbox" before winter. This isn't just a shaky exercise, but it has great importance. This recommendation comes because the chance for disconnection and damage to mailboxes increases during the winter, with the heightened risk to drivers if mailboxes come loose.

To make sure your mailbox is ready for winter you can shake it and make sure it is strong and secure. If your mailbox "gives" at all when you shake it, then it is likely that it could break during a winter storm. Sometimes during bad winter storms, or periods of heavy snow and ice, your mailbox can still become damaged. By doing this check now, you can help prevent damage to your mailbox this winter decreasing the chances of it becoming a hazard to drivers.

There are also other ways to help protect your mailbox in winter, such as a snow deflector. You can find more information about the Road Commission's mailbox policy and snow deflectors by visiting our website ([Here](#)), or by contacting the Road Commission.

Remember to keep leaves and sticks out of the ditches and roads, and make sure your mailbox is sturdy for when the snow starts to fly. If you follow these tips, you might be able to prevent problems this winter.

Find us on Twitter  
and Facebook:  
@Ottawacorc



Visit our Website to learn  
more:  
[www.ottawacorc.com](http://www.ottawacorc.com)



#### Important Dates

Thursday – October 12, 2017 | 9AM | Board Meeting

Thursday – October 26, 2017 | 9AM | Board Meeting



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

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.