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Important Dates:

April 7, 9:00am
Board Meeting

April 21, 9:00am
Board Meeting

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:30am – 4:00pm

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Managing Director

Primary Road Program

The Road Commission maintains over 424 miles of primary roads. Primary roads typically have higher traffic volumes and connect established population, business, or industrial areas to each other.

Each year, the Road Commission develops a primary road improvement program based on anticipated revenues from the State. Approximately 70% of these revenues are allocated to maintain primary roads.

The 2011 primary road program includes resurfacing and reconstruction projects that total over 6 million dollars.

This year’s resurfacing projects include over ten miles of improvements. They are: **Taylor Street** - 96th Avenue to 72nd Avenue, **144th Avenue** – M-45 to Lincoln Street, **24th Avenue** - Ottogan Street to Byron Road, **12th Avenue** – Port Sheldon Street to Baldwin Street, and **120th Avenue** – Riley

Street to Quincy Street.

In addition, there are approximately two miles of proposed reconstruction projects for this year. They are: **Riley Street** – 112th Avenue to 100th Avenue and **8th Avenue** – 44th Street to Port Sheldon Street.

For more information about the Road Commission primary and other programs, please visit our website and review the [Strategic Improvement Plan](#).

“Muddy” Gravel Roads

Have you ever heard the expression, “Adding dirt to mud, just makes more mud.” That is also true for gravel. Trying to haul and place gravel on a “muddy” road usually just makes a bigger mess.

Gravel roads typically turn “muddy” either in the Spring as the frost is coming out of the roadbed or during times of heavy precipitation. These events turn what once was a solid road into a soft and unstable “muddy” gravel road.

The gravel road will

remain this way until all of the moisture has come out. Warm weather and windy days will help the road dry out and stabilize.

Once the frost is gone and before the grass starts to grow, Road Commission crews will start pulling the shoulders into a windrow in the center of the gravel road. This process is done for the following various reasons:

- Reclaim the gravel that was washed or has been pushed out to the shoulder.

- Remove the berm that has developed on the shoulder to restore drainage.
- Reshape the road to establish a crown.

Throughout the Summer, the Road Commission will periodically grade gravel roads after a light rain when the road is soft or before the application of dust control materials.

Dust control applications are funded and controlled by the Townships. Please contact your Township for more information.

Winter Maintenance Budget



Photo taken by Roger Olthof from the North Holland garage.

The Road Commission develops a winter maintenance budget based on past expenditures and the implementation of effective service strategies while controlling the use of salt and other materials.

The budget is broken down into three areas; Primary, Local, and MDOT Systems. MDOT contracts the Road Commission for winter

maintenance services. Below are the actual winter maintenance costs for the past 2 seasons.

2009/2010 Actual Cost

Primary	\$970,125
Local	\$1,227,858
MDOT	<u>\$1,004,099</u>
Total	\$3,202,082

2008/2009 Actual Cost

Primary	\$1,365,541
Local	\$1,688,887
MDOT	<u>\$1,340,017</u>
Total	\$4,395,445

Winter is almost over and it is anticipated that the winter maintenance expenditures will slightly exceed budget for this season.

2010/2011 Budget

Primary	\$1,200,000
Local	\$1,400,000
MDOT	<u>\$1,144,254</u>
Total	\$3,744,254

More information about winter maintenance can be found on our website.

Safe Roads for Everyone

Every aspect of road construction requires the necessary precautions to provide a safe work environment for motorists and workers. Later this Spring, training will be provided to employees and supervisors on the different techniques in open trench construction safety.

The Road Commission primarily uses open trench construction to install,

replace, or repair culverts and storm sewer lines.

Our employees and supervisors will gain knowledge of how excavation cave-ins occur, how to avoid them, and how to protect workers below grade. In addition, the OSHA guidelines for minimizing the risks to workers in excavations will be presented.

Throughout the year,

other construction safety topics will be reviewed with the employees.

Shown below is a crew from the North Holland garage replacing a culvert on 32nd Street in 2009.



Shown from left to right are Clark Tibbe, Kevin Wierenga, Mark Winchester, and Joe Hebert, the Public Utilities Department Operators.



The Road and "The Waters"

The Road Commission is unique to have a Public Utilities Department that is designated by Act 342 as the "County Agency" for Public Works activities.

The Public Utilities Department assists the local units of government

for the planning, financing, construction, operation, and maintenance of water and wastewater systems within Ottawa County.

The operations staff, pictured to the left, are responsible for systems throughout Ottawa

County. Their hard work and dedication keeps the water and wastewater services safe and reliable for customers.

Coming soon will be "The Waters" newsletter that will highlight the Public Utility Systems.