



The Road Newsletter, Volume 5, Issue 10

October 2015

Budget Adopted for 2016

The Board of County Road Commissioners is responsible for adoption of an Annual Budget, and approval of all expenditures in accordance with accepted accounting principles applicable to governmental units. An annual audit is performed on the Road Commission by an independent audit firm, and the results are provided to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

The Road Commission's principal source of funding is the **Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF)**. This fund is supported by vehicle registration fees and the Michigan state gas tax. The Road Commission's allocation is based on a formula, which includes factors such as population, miles and type of certified roads, and vehicle registration fees.

Other revenues include federal and state funding programs, the countywide road millage, Township contributions to local road improvements, permit fees, and salvage equipment and materials sales. In addition, the Road Commission contracts with MDOT to maintain the state highway system within Ottawa County.

The Road Commission has adopted the Annual Budget for fiscal year 2016. As the Road Commission's primary source of funding, the budget was developed with anticipated MTF revenues of \$17.7 million.

2016 Road Commission Budget

Revenues

MTF	\$17,700,000
State General Fund Allocation	\$2,860,000
Federal/State Programs	\$4,000,000
Countywide Road Millage	\$4,000,000
MDOT Maintenance Contract	\$3,700,000
Township Contributions	\$5,000,000
Other Revenue	<u>\$135,000</u>
TOTAL	\$37,395,000

Expenditures

Primary Road Construction	\$10,000,000
Primary Road Maintenance	\$4,000,000
Local Road Construction	\$8,200,000
Local Road Maintenance	\$5,000,000
MDOT Maintenance	\$3,000,000
Operating Expenses	<u>\$7,195,000</u>
TOTAL	\$37,395,000

More information about the Road Commission annual budget and audit can be found on our website.

Leave a Ditch Alone

Fall has arrived and it's time to ask the annual question: What do I do with all these leaves?

Unfortunately, the Road Commission does not provide a leaf or yard debris pick up service. Residents should use a local refuse service, or if available, a Township drop off site to dispose of leaves. It is important to keep leaves out of ditches and storm drains in order to maintain proper drainage, prevent flooding and protect the water quality in local streams and lakes in Ottawa County.

Residents are reminded not to pile leaves in the street. Leaves piled in the street can be hazardous to both motorists and bicycles. Remember, property owners are responsible and bear the liability for leaves that are placed improperly in the street, or cause safety or flooding hazards.

It is also suggested to keep sidewalks and paths clear of leaves and other seasonal debris that can cause slipping or tripping hazards.

For more information concerning leaf disposal options, please contact your local refuse service or Township.

2 Culvert Projects Completed



The Road Commission recently completed culvert replacement projects along the Crockery #1 Drain and Stegeman Drain.

The Crockery #1 Drain project was located on 112th Avenue between State and Taft Roads in Crockery Township. The photo to the left shows Grand Haven garage crews installing a Concrete 60"x36"x56' Elliptical Pipe for the road crossing. An elliptical pipe was needed due to the limited cover available. The total cost was \$21,500 for the replacement project.



The Stegeman Drain project was located on Van Buren Street between 56th and 48th Avenues in Blendon Township. The photo to the left shows Hudsonville garage crews installing an Aluminized 87"x63"x60' Corrugated Metal Pipe for the road crossing. The total cost was \$18,700 for the replacement project.

Overall, the Road Commission has dedicated over \$150,000 so far in 2015 for the repair, maintenance, and replacement of road culverts. It has been estimated that the Road Commission maintains over 4,200 culverts within Ottawa County.

Safe Roads for Everyone

Can a roadside 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 fairly shallow roadside ditch can cause serious damage to the road and pavement from frost heave, and 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 the Road Commission office directly at (616) 842-5400 and ask for the Special Services Department or utilize the online permit request form on the Road Commission website.

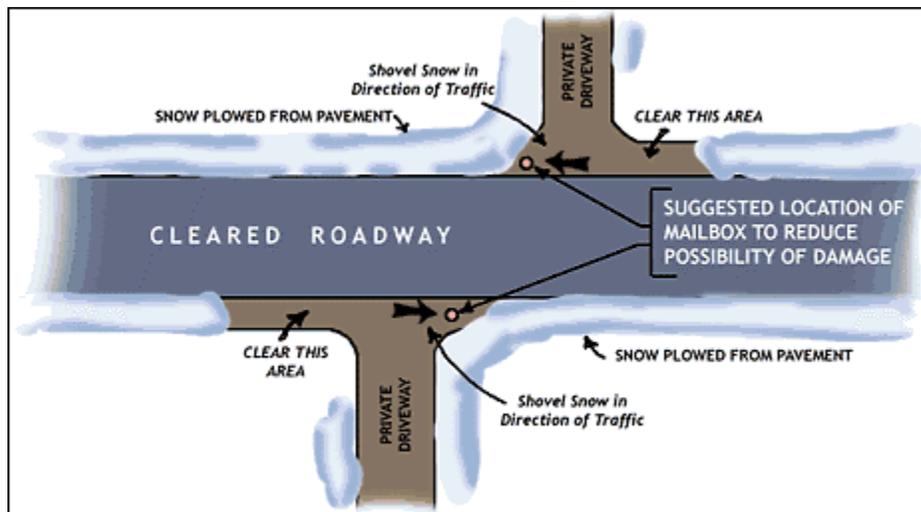
Shake Your Mailbox

The County Road Association of Michigan, in conjunction with local road agencies and the U.S. Postal Service, encourages you to check your mailbox your mailbox. The weather is conducive to shaking it out to see what repairs are needed. Doing it now will save many headaches as compared with waiting until winter. For the seventh year, keep your eye out for Governor Snyder's announcement of the official "Shake Your Mailbox" day this October.

A simple check:

If you can physically shake your mailbox and it "gives", even just a little, it will give out when the snow and ice removal operations commence.

In addition to making sure your mailbox is strong enough to survive winter, clearing snow to the right (the approach side) of your driveway will help reduce the amount of snow deposited in your drive and against the mailbox post during winter maintenance operations.



Did you know:

Flying snow makes it look like the snow plow trucks are traveling much faster than they are, but the speed of travel ranges from 15-35 mph.

Even at these speeds, the force of the snow being pushed off the road can damage mailboxes and other roadside objects.

Important Dates

October 15, 2015 | 9AM | Board Meeting

October 29, 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](#)

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