

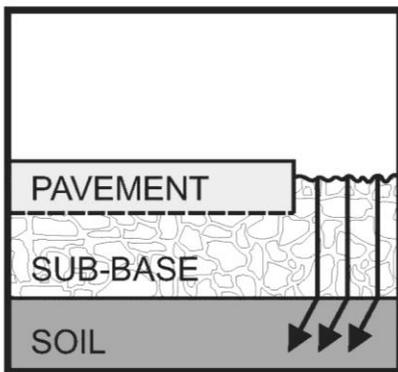


The Road Newsletter, Volume 6, Issue 3

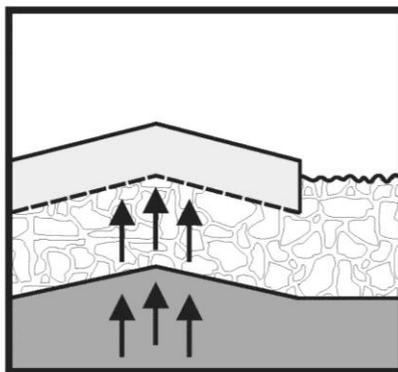
March 2016

Pothole Season

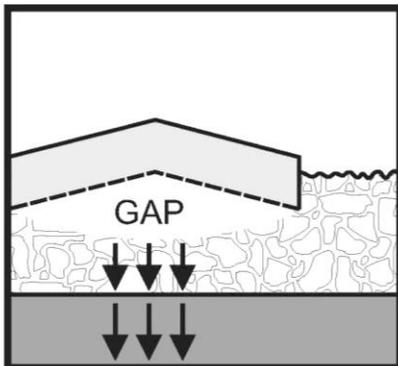
Winter is almost over, but as the warmer weather starts to develop, so do potholes. [So what is a pothole?](#)



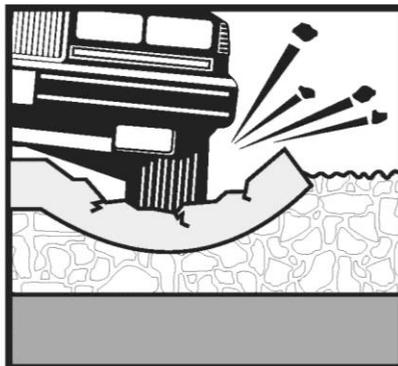
Potholes begin after snow or rain seeps into the soil below the road surface.



The moisture freezes when temperatures drop, causing the ground to expand and push the pavement up.



As temperatures rise, the ground returns to normal level but the pavement often remains raised. This creates a gap between the pavement and the ground below it.



When vehicles drive over this cavity, the pavement surface cracks and falls into the hollow space, leading to the birth of another pothole.

The number of potholes on the 1,360-plus miles of paved county roads and 522 lane miles of state highways maintained by the Road Commission grows larger every year.

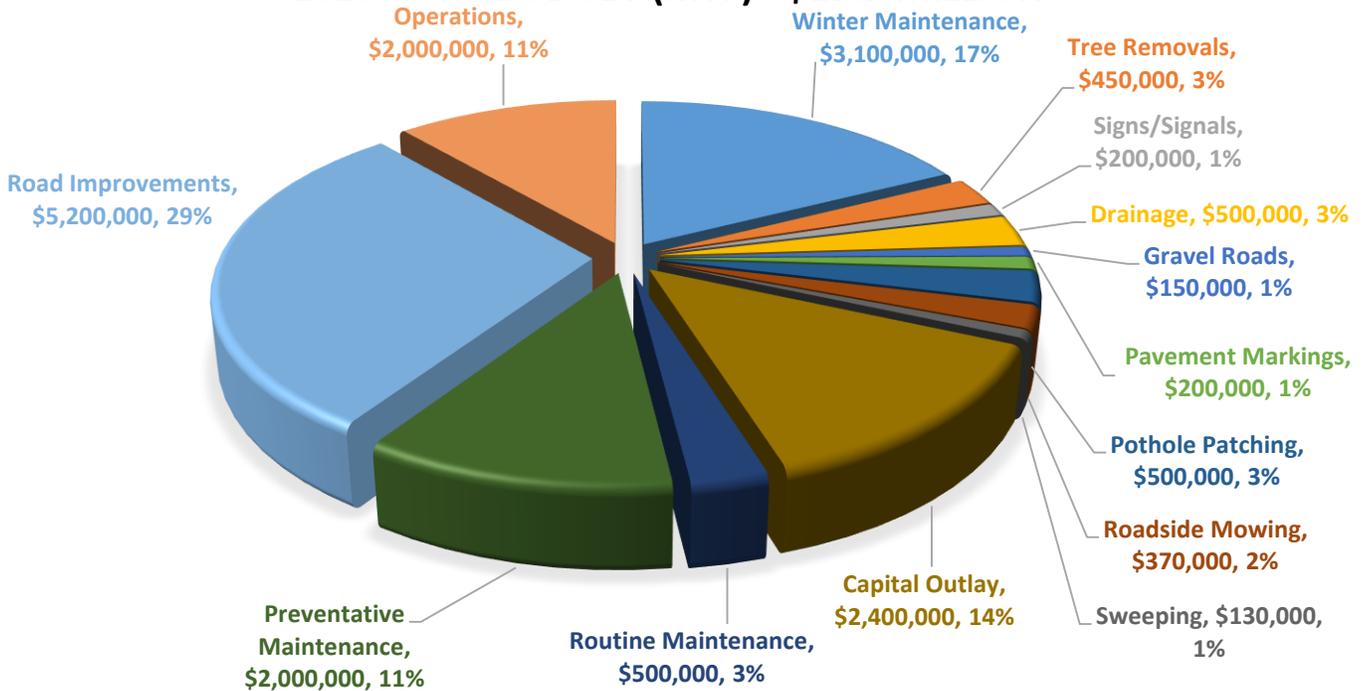
Potholes are a major problem in Michigan. The older, deteriorated roads can no longer withstand the constant freeze-thaw climate. As a result, every year, road crews hand shovel millions of pounds of cold and hot patching material into potholes. Including labor, material, and vehicle usage, the annual cost of repairing potholes is approximately \$500,000.

If you notice a pothole, please contact our office at 616-842-5400 to report the pothole location, or utilize our online service request form. The link to our website is www.ottawacorc.com.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the Road Commission's annual revenue from the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) is approximately \$17,700,000 to maintain 1,688 miles of paved and gravel roads? That's only **\$10,485/mile!**

2016 OCRC BUDGET (MTF) - \$17.7 MILLION



Did you know that the Road Commission has to balance the following road maintenance and improvement costs with available revenues?

Crack Sealing, \$7,000/mile
 Seal Coat Surfacing, \$38,000/mile
 Cape Seal Surfacing, \$80,000/mile
 Resurfacing, \$220,000/mile
 Structural Resurfacing, \$400,000/mile
 Road Reconstruction, \$1,000,000/mile
 Pavement Markings, \$400/mile

Gravel Road Grading, \$400/mile
 Gravel Surfacing, \$30,000/mile
 Shoulder Grading, \$420/mile
 Ditch Cleanout, \$3,900/mile
 Roadside Mowing, \$300/mile
 Curb Sweeping, \$300/mile
 Guardrail Work, \$1,900/day

Pothole Patching, \$1,750/day
 Dead Animal & Trash Disposal, \$650/day
 Catch Basin Cleaning, \$2,500/day
 Sign Installation & Replacement, \$120,000/year

Tree Removal & Trimming, \$3,300 /day
 Culvert Work, \$1,500 to \$120,000/location
 Traffic Signal Installation, \$80,000/location
 Traffic Signal Maintenance, \$85,000/year

New Snow Plow Truck, \$225,000/each

Truck Fuel & Maintenance-Each, \$30,000/year

Winter Maintenance Services – County Wide, \$120,000 /day (No overtime)

The Road Commission relies on other sources of revenue to implement road improvement projects that are above the MTF funding constraints. These sources amount to approximately \$10,500,000 of additional revenue and include federal and state programs, countywide road millage, and township contributions.

Innovative Median Cable Guardrail Repair

Given the opposing directions of traffic on divided highways, cross median crashes are particularly severe. While median width plays a large role in the harshness of these crashes, increased width alone does not eliminate them. Quite often, the median must be shielded with a barrier. A median cable guardrail provides a cost-effective solution.



Median cable guardrail consists of steel wire cable mounted on posts. It is designed to prevent a vehicle from leaving the roadway and striking an object which would create a potentially more severe situation. It functions by capturing or redirecting vehicles while absorbing impact energy. With use of this system, MDOT is estimating a reduction in cross-median crashes by 90 percent.

One of the drawbacks of median cable guardrail is making necessary repairs after a collision. MDOT contracts with the Road Commission to maintain the state highways located in Ottawa County, which includes median cable guardrail repairs.

When a post is damaged; all three cables are taken off several posts, the post is then repaired, and the cable ends are replaced on the posts and re-tensioned using a block and tackle pulled by a truck.

Road Commission crews have found that the use of a wrecker truck in lieu of a block and tackle provides a faster and safer repair method because of the controlled pull of the wrecker's winch.

Accounting Department Change

For almost 40 years, Arinda Howell has been an integral part of the Accounting Department at the Road Commission. Starting in 1977 as an Account Clerk, she was involved in the areas of payroll, payables, billing, and general ledger work (pre-computer and server days). Arinda was eventually promoted to the Accounting Administrator where she took lead roles in essential Accounting Department functions and served as the systems administrator for the accounting software.

This past February, Arinda retired from the Road Commission and plans on spending time with her husband, enjoying her grandchildren, and doing more knitting. The Road Commission appreciates all of her dedication, hard work, and years of service.

Amy Fairchild has been hired as the new Accounting Administrator and brings over 18 years of diversified accounting experience to the Road Commission. The Road Commission was fortunate to have Amy on board for some training time with Arinda. Amy resides in the Muskegon area with her husband and two sons. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family and attending her son's athletic events.

Please congratulate Arinda on a well-deserved retirement and welcome Amy to the Road Commission!

Important Dates

Thursday – March 3, 2016 | 9AM | Board Meeting

Thursday – March 17, 2016 | 9AM | Board Meeting

Thursday – March 31, 2016 | 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.