



## Know your Road Commission driveway policies



The Ottawa County Road Commission is dedicated to providing roads and bridges that are maintained in a reasonably safe condition for public travel through construction and maintenance activities.

A surface type policy for the installation of all new driveways or any work on existing driveways within the road right-of-way was developed to provide the most efficient and cost-effective process for road improvement projects.



Road improvement projects that occur on roads without an asphalt or concrete curb result in the restoration of the adjacent driveways in order to match the new road elevation. Therefore, the policy does not permit the placement of a concrete driveway approach for any new or existing driveways being replaced

or restored.

Roads that have an asphalt or concrete curb typically do not involve any change in elevation during road improvement projects. As a result, concrete driveways are permitted on curbed roads because restoration on adjacent driveways is not necessary.

The driveway surface policy was developed based on the following:

- The restoration of concrete driveways with concrete is not very efficient or cost-effective for the Road Commission as compared to asphalt for the following reasons:
  - It takes much longer to saw cut, excavate, and remove concrete driveways that need adjusting versus the time it takes to mill an asphalt driveway.

- In order to maintain access for the property owner, concrete driveways are often required to be poured half width at a time, where asphalt can be placed the full driveway width.
- Concrete can take up to 28 days to fully cure resulting in project delays, where asphalt can be driven on the same day.
- In some cases, asphalt driveways can be placed at the same time the contractor is paving the lane of the road.
- Having rigid concrete driveways located in the shoulder of the road can pose safety risks to our maintenance staff and cause equipment damage. Our operators need to grade shoulders in the summer and plow in the winter. Flexible asphalt driveways minimize impacts to both our drivers and equipment.

## A Reminder About Driveway Permits

A permit **MUST** be obtained from the Ottawa County Road Commission in order to construct, reconstruct, relocate, surface, or resurface a driveway or private road approach adjoining a road under the Road Commission's jurisdiction.

Please [visit the residential driveway section of our website](#), or contact our office at 616-842-5400 and ask to speak to the Special Services Department regarding obtaining a driveway permit. Our team will be happy to assist you in completing this task.



## Draft 2020-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan now available to review

The Ottawa County Road Commission recently released [its draft 2020-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan for review](#).

The plan uses road ratings for county roads, and anticipated costs and funding sources to plan improvements, and preventative maintenance on primary and local roads.

A new plan is updated each year by evaluating our resources to best improve and maintain our road system in the coming years.

Part of the SIP process is to gather comment from the general public and local units of government.

Submit your comments on the draft plan to Ottawa County Road Commission Managing Director Brett Laughlin at [BALaughlin@ottawacorc.com](mailto:BALaughlin@ottawacorc.com).

A public hearing on the plan is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26, at the Road Commission office, 14110 Lakeshore Drive, Grand Haven.

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# 2020-2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan unveiled

The Ottawa County Road Commission recently [published its 2020-45 Long-Range Transportation Plan](#).

The plan is part of the transportation planning process for the region's Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).



Ottawa County has great partnerships with the following transportation organizations:

- The Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) is the transportation planning organization for Kent and Eastern Ottawa Counties
- The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) is the transportation planning organization for the Holland area.
- The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) is the transportation planning organization for the Muskegon and Northern Ottawa Counties.
- The Rural Task Force 8b is comprised of equal representation from the county road commission, the cities and villages, and the rural transit provider for transportation planning of the rural areas of Allegan, Ottawa, and Ionia Counties.

Since the 1962 Federal-aid Highway Act, federal legislation has required metropolitan area transportation plans to be developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process.

These plans serve to satisfy federal regulations outlined in 23 CFR 450 and ensures that Michigan Department of Transportation, transit agencies, and local transportation agencies are eligible to use federal transportation funds to construct or implement improvements to roadways and transit routes.

This document presents a list of proposed road improvements that can be constructed or implemented over the next 25 years with any available federal funding. Only the roads that are federal-aid eligible are shown. This eligibility is determined by the National Functional Classification (NFC) road designation values. The higher functions emphasize mobility, the lower functions have more property access.

The values from the highest mobility function down to the lowest include:

- Interstate
- Other Freeways
- Other Principal Arterials
- Minor Arterials
- Major Collectors
- Minor Collectors
- Local (Not eligible for federal funding)

Roadways are the most visible and productive component of the county transportation infrastructure and as such, the LRTP sets the framework for continuous, comprehensive, and coordinated transportation planning efforts for the next 25 years.

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## Be safe as students head back to the classroom

Many schools have started or will be starting in the coming week. With students heading back to class, that means we'll be sharing the road with plenty of students heading to and from school each day.

Here's a refresher on how to react when driving near a school bus:

Just remember to treat the bus lights like a traffic signal.

- **Flashing Yellow Lights**=Prepare to Stop.
- **Flashing Red Lights**=STOP!
- **Flashing Hazard Warning Lights**=Proceed with Caution.

This handy illustration below explains in full detail:



*Courtesy of Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning*

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## Looking Back: Ottawa Beach Road in 1976



*This photo from the Ottawa County Road Commission's archives takes a look back on work being done along Ottawa Beach Road between 144th Avenue and Pine Creek Bay. This photo was taken back in the fall of 1976. You can view photos from our archive each week on our various social media pages!*

### Important Dates:

**September 2, 2019 | Labor Day | Office Closed**

**September 12, 2019 | 9 a.m. | Board Meeting**

**September 26, 2019 | 9 a.m. | Board Meeting**



14110 Lakeshore Drive  
Grand Haven, Michigan 49441  
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