

March 2021 | Volume 11 | Issue 3 | [SHARE](#)

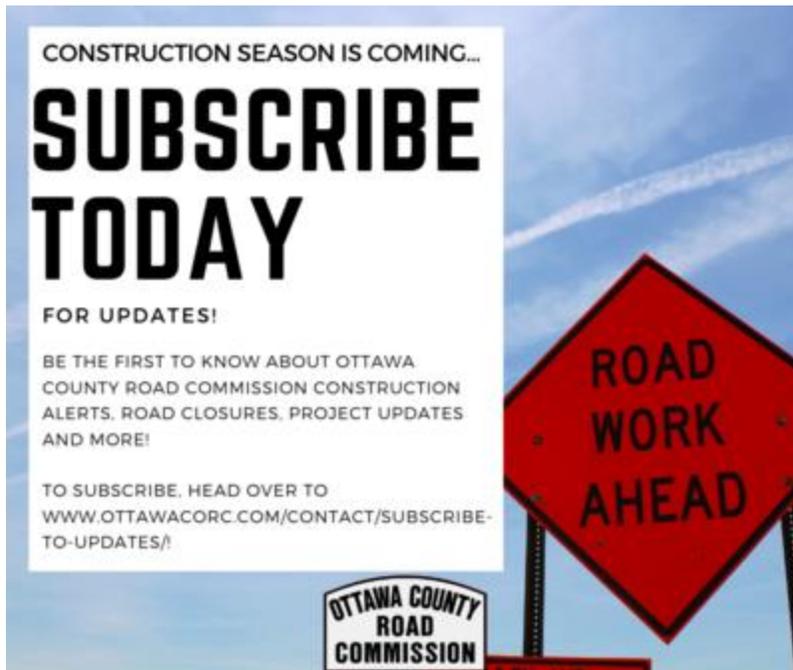
2021 construction season moves into focus



Spring is right around the corner, and the team at the Ottawa County Road Commission is getting ready for all the road improvements planned for this construction season in Ottawa County.

The Road Commission will once again be very busy with road reconstruction, resurfacing, and preventative maintenance projects.

There are scheduled to be more than 30 miles of combined primary and local road improvements consisting of resurfacing and reconstruction work, and a slew of preventative maintenance projects, including more than 52 miles of seal coat "chip seal" surfacing and more than 21 miles of cape seal surfacing.



Some projects of note in 2021 on our primary road network include the reconstruction of Cottonwood Drive in Georgetown Township. Work will take place this year to widen Cottonwood Drive to three lanes between Bauer Road and Taylor Street.

Due to the nature of the work, the road will be closed between these two streets during this project. We will communicate detour information and project

announcements once we have information available.

We also have resurfacing work planned throughout Ottawa County. Some of the larger resurfacing projects this year include:

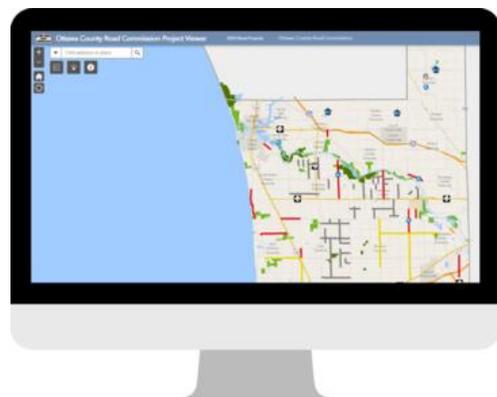
- Croswell Street: Lakeshore Drive to U.S. 31
- 48th Avenue: Bauer Road to Pierce Street
- 68th Avenue: M-45 to the Grand River
- Lakeshore Drive: Fillmore Street to Buchanan Street
- Quincy Street: 120th Avenue to 96th Avenue

Local road improvements include funds from townships as well as general transportation funds. They include resurfacing of several local roads and subdivisions. Local road improvements also include the re-graveling of some of the dirt roads in Ottawa County, which is performed through a 50/50 cost sharing program between the Road Commission and the township.

You can view a complete list of these and all other resurfacing projects on our website, <http://www.ottawacorc.com/>.

We understand that construction season can be a temporary inconvenience, but it brings long term benefits.

The Road Commission wants to help make construction season easier on everyone and so we will be working to inform residents about the ongoing projects and their status.



You can find information on our website and social media, including: a list of all the roads with planned improvements, a map showing road closures and construction projects, updates about detour routes for closures, and information for residents whose street is being resurfaced.

As projects get closer and more details are decided, the Road Commission will keep residents updated. We hope you find all this information useful and look forward to driving some of the newly improved roads across the County!

A primer about Michigan's 'pothole season'

Michigan's Pothole Season!
Michigan winters provide prime conditions for potholes to form.

1. Rain or snow seeps through the road surface into the base and sub-soil.
2. Low temperatures cause the wet soil and base to freeze and expand (frost heave).
3. When temperatures warm up, the soil contracts, leaving air pockets underneath the road surface.
4. Traffic driving over the weakened pavement causes it to collapse and form a pothole.

During periods of thawing and freezing potholes are likely to form.
Contact the Road Commission with questions or to report a pothole.

OTTAWA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
www.ottawacorc.com
Facebook & Twitter: @ottawacorc
616-842-5400

The arrival of the spring thaw means the arrival of pothole season.

These pesky obstacles occur when snow and ice melt as part of Michigan's seasonal freeze/thaw cycles.

During the winter months, cold patch, also known as cold asphalt, is the most common method used to fill potholes because it can be applied right from the truck without heating.

Cold patch is not dependent upon warm weather.

Road crews like cold patch because it retains its pliable properties when the temperature drops, so it can be used year-round.

Permanent repairs are typically made during the summer maintenance season using hot mix asphalt, once these materials are more readily available.

Additionally, preventative maintenance projects help prevent potholes by improving pavement integrity, preventing water penetration, and directing water away from the roadway.

If you notice a pothole, please contact our office at 616-842-5400 or utilize our [online service request form](#) to report the pothole location for our crews.

A reminder about spring thaw and gravel roads



Paved roads aren't the only roads that fall victim to the spring thaw and springtime weather conditions.

These conditions can have a severe impact on the condition of gravel roads, as well.

The effect of frost leaving the ground is compounded by large amounts of rain and/or snow melt during the late winter/early spring season.

The fines (silt and clay) in the gravel road that are needed to bind the sand and gravel together under normal conditions now become oversaturated and weak. The fines also hinder the excess moisture from draining through the gravel.

What was once a frozen and solid road turns soft, unstable and muddy. The best cure for these “muddy” gravel roads is warm, dry temperatures and a good wind to allow them to dry out.

Attempts to grade and/or place gravel on top of this “muddy” condition can turn the road into a bigger mess than if it were left alone. As the saying goes, when you add sand or gravel to mud, you just get more mud.

The Road Commission monitors the gravel roads, and once conditions warrant, we will grade and reshape them as necessary.

Until then, motorists are advised to use caution while traversing on “muddy” gravel roads.

Important Dates:

March 11, 2021 | 9 a.m. | Board Meeting

March 14, 2021 | Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 25, 2021 | 9 a.m. | Board Meeting



14110 Lakeshore Drive | Grand Haven, Michigan | 49417
616-842-5400 | [Contact Us](#) | Office Hours: Monday-Friday; 7:30AM-4PM

The Ottawa County Road Commissioners:

Tom Bird | Tom Elhart | Betty Gajewski | Kurt Van Koevering | Jim Miedema

Managing Director

Brett Laughlin

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Who manages the roads and how are they funded?

The Ottawa County Road Commission manages the roads. The Ottawa County Road Commission is funded by fuel taxes, vehicle registrations and millage dedicated to the Ottawa County roads. Other property taxes you pay to Ottawa County do not fund road repairs or snow removal. Concerns about roads should be directed to the Ottawa County Road Commission. Questions? Use their [contact](#) form.