

Shake YOUR Mailbox before Winter



The Kalamazoo County Road Commission (KCRC) regrets any damage to mailboxes and/or mailbox supports that occur as a result of road maintenance activities. KCRC will not assume responsibility for mailbox damage that may be caused by snow/ice that is being plowed from the roadway. *An owner must clearly demonstrate the damage was caused by direct contact by road commission equipment to receive consideration of a claim settlement.*

Statewide the County Road Association of Michigan and the United States Postal Service partner in “**Shake Your Mailbox Day**” held **Saturday October 20, 2012**. Mailbox owners are encouraged to regularly inspect and perform routine maintenance on their mailbox. Mailboxes should withstand wet heavy snow and slush coming off from the snow plow. Visit our website for a Mailboxes and Support brochure.



Managing Director's Message

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission (KCRC) continued to have a busy construction season in 2012. We completed primary road projects including P Avenue /27th Street/PQ Avenue, 37th Street and 9th Street. We also had the opportunity to replace the River Street Bridge which was originally built in 1939. These larger projects were in addition, to our primary/local road preservation projects and routine maintenance operations. We continued to receive the support of our Township partners for our local road improvements this construction season. All of these efforts keep us on the road to continuous infrastructure improvement.

Our improvements come at a time of recently released data from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) showing a continued trend in the erosion of transportation revenue. As the average Miles per Gallon of Fuel has increased, the fuel use per vehicle has declined...with 2010 representing the lowest amount of fuel per vehicle in *more than 60 years*. The data also indicates that payments per licensed driver fell from approximately \$155 in year 2000 to \$126 in 2010. With approximately 7 million licensed drivers in Michigan, that means a loss of about \$203 million per year. Additionally, increased fuel efficiency has whittled the amount of fuel tax revenue generated per mile traveled. As of data published by FHWA's Office of Highway Policy Information in June 2012, Michigan motorists pay less per mile traveled than the United States average. As the “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) was approved by Congress after nine extensions and two years, we will need to continue to tackle the fiscal challenges in transportation funding as MAP -21 is scheduled to expire September 30, 2014.

Keeping in mind our limited revenue, many of the projects added on our primary network this construction season were the result of the many efficiency adjustments supported by our Board and employees in our operations over time. These added projects were completed without federal funding. As we continue to look at our operations, we are thankful for the opportunities to use our expertise, energy and funds to provide the safest and most convenient road system possible throughout the county.

As we move into the 2013 New Year, we will be updating our Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan through 2017, putting final touches to our 2013 construction season projects, and continued work on asset management with our local officials, along with our routine and preventative maintenance.

Our team continues to be dedicated to enhancing our road network and putting those limited transportation dollars to efficient use.

**Wishing you a safe holiday season and
All the BEST in the New Year.**

Sincerely,
Joanna I. Johnson,
Managing Director

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WINTER MAINTENANCE

As part of the KCRC's on-going winter maintenance assessment for the 2012-2013 winter seasons, we have identified a level of service adjustment to provide improved and advance coverage during peak travel and commute times. KCRC has incorporated a 3 shift program;

4:00p.m.

12:00a.m.

7:30a.m. (also available at 4:00 a.m. if necessary)

These changes incorporate our limited staffing and equipment for optimal coverage during winter storms. The priorities within these shifts will continue to be;

**Designated snow route roads,
balance of primary roads,
through local roads,
subdivision or plat streets,
and dead-end and cul-de-sac roads.**

One important fact has not changed, road crews must have ample room in order to safely clear the many miles of roadway of snow and ice. In collaboration with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM), the Kalamazoo County Road Commission announced their participation in an education campaign aimed at urging motorists to remember good driving habits in winter weather conditions, "Snowplows Need Room to Groom!"

MDOT, CRAM and the Kalamazoo CRC offer the following reminders for motorists:

- **Snowplows have limited visibility and drivers cannot see directly behind their trucks**
- **Snowplows often throw up snow clouds, reducing visibility on all sides of the truck**
- **To remain focused on driving, motorists should not text or talk on cell phones while they are behind the wheel**
- **Motorists should never attempt to pass a moving snowplow on the right. With new wing-plow technology the blade can clear the shoulder and the lane of travel simultaneously. Motorists attempting an illegal pass through a snow cloud on the right and/or shoulder of the road most likely won't see the plow blade and run the risk of a serious crash**
- **Always wear your safety belt and allow extra time to reach your destinations this winter.**

Remember – in Ice and Snow, Take it Slow!

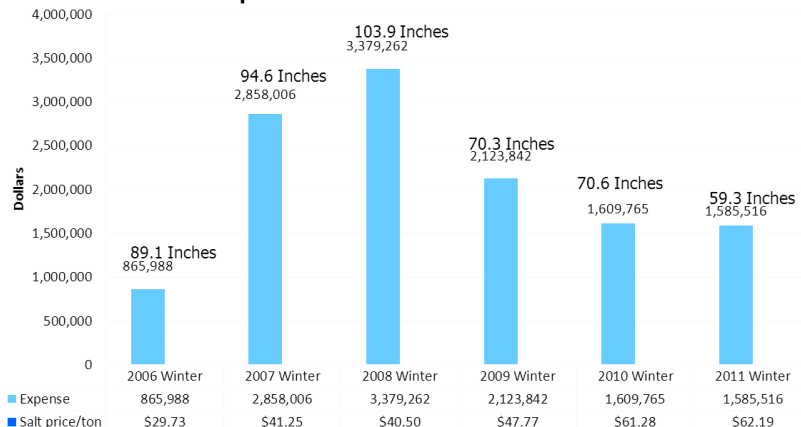
Help us also educate the children on the risks presented by snowplows and the dangers of playing on the high piles of snow and ice that are near the roadway during snow removal –

- **Please KEEP THE CHILDREN AWAY from roadside piles of snow**
- **Don't build snow forts, make tunnels, or play in or on snow banks next to roads**
- **Keep away from the edge of the roadway as you wait for the school bus, get the mail, or watch the plow trucks**
- **Stay away from the end of a driveway when a snow plow is approaching**
- **Hidden objects under the snow, when thrown by the plow truck could cause serious injury**
- **Keep sleds and toys away from the roadways at all times**

REMINDER:

- **MCL 257.677a prohibits pushing snow and ice onto, or across, roadways and requires that people do not obstruct the safety vision of motorists.**

Expenditure and Snowfall Totals





Bridge Management System

The KCRC employs a system for bridge management that is based upon the Michigan Department of Transportation Bridge Management System. The KCRC bridge system consists of 60 bridges; 10 restricted and 1 currently closed.

The bridge management system is based upon:

- Inventory: Data for structure and route on /under
- Inspection: Record of examinations and findings
- Work: Maintenance recommendations and / or rehabilitation / replacement

The KCRC maintains a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and maintenance operations which together represent the effort to preserve the county's bridge network. This effort is to insure safety and serviceability, while optimizing all available resources.

Bridge Inspections:

The KCRC utilizes a consultant bridge engineer to inspect all KCRC bridges on a schedule based upon the condition of the bridge. Bridges are inspected at least once every two years. Bridges that have deterioration that cause them to be posted are inspected on an 18 month or 12 month schedule depending on the severity of the deterioration.

The bridge engineer is required to generate a Structure Inventory and Appraisal Report and a Bridge Inspection Report upon each bridge inspection. The data included in the report is a numerical rating of the individual components of a bridge and a written description of the condition. These ratings are compiled statewide and the State of Michigan generates a sufficiency rating for each bridge.

Sufficiency Ratings:

The sufficiency ratings are used by the KCRC to identify possible future investments in the bridge network.

- Less than 80 points - Rehabilitation
- Less than 50 points – Replacement
- Preventive maintenance – no point limitation

Each Region in the State of Michigan receives an annual allocation of bridge funds that may be allocated to Replacement, Rehabilitation, or Preventive Maintenance projects.

Local Bridge Program

The KCRC applies for the available Local Bridge Program funds annually. Applications are limited to five and are a competitive program where projects in the Southwest Region are rated and ranked. The highest scoring projects are identified for local bridge program funding. Recent and future local bridge program projects include;

2008 – 9th Street over Amtrak Railroad – Replacement

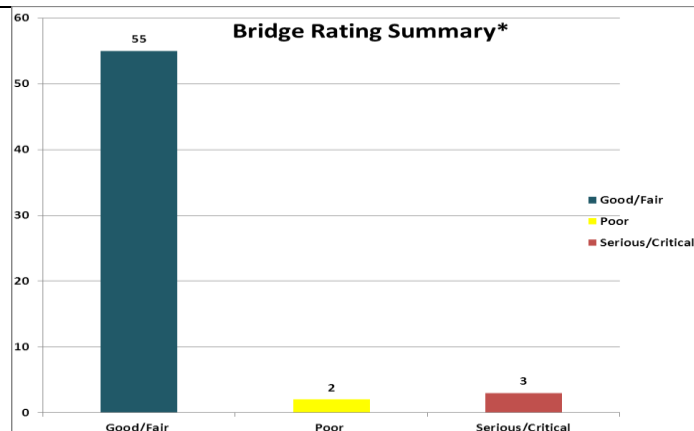
2008 – 35th Street over Kalamazoo River - Rehabilitation

2010 – 24th Street over the Portage Creek - Rehabilitation

2012 – River Street over the Kalamazoo River - Replacement

2013 – Sprinkle Road Bridges over the Kalamazoo River and over Norfolk Southern – Preventative Maintenance

2014 – E Michigan Avenue over Comstock Creek – Rehabilitation



- 2011 Data: 6 of the 60 bridges are noted as Structurally Deficient

Staff Highlights

Ann Simmons, Finance Director joins the KCRC team. Ann comes to KCRC from the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport where she served as the Assistant Director – Finance & Administration. Welcome Ann.



Leslie Barnebee, Administrative Assistant joins the KCRC team as well. Leslie is completing her Bachelor Degree in Psychology at Western Michigan University and previously worked at The Limited as the Assistant Manager. Welcome Leslie.



Travis Bartholomew has a new title; **Operations Director** and **Tom Hohm**, Chief Engineer also has a new title **Engineering Director**. These title changes better align the organizations leadership roles.

Citizens can call our office directly for routine service requests and/or your primary contact for service related issues by township is as follows:

- **Jim Beaudoin**, Area Superintendent
 - Alamo, Oshtemo, Prairie Ronde, Schoolcraft, Texas
- **Bill DeYoung**, Area Superintendent
 - Charleston, Comstock, Cooper, Richland, Ross
- **Jeff Daughtry**, Area Superintendent
 - Brady, Climax, Pavilion, Kalamazoo, Wakeshma

We are committed to providing a safe and convenient road system for our county motorists. As our customers and as residents of Kalamazoo County you are also entitled to excellent service from us at all times.

We aim to provide answers to your service requests. We encourage our residents and the motoring public to report road conditions that need attention. To make sure our service to you is prompt and courteous we strive to continually improve our methods of contact.

Office hours 7:30am – 4pm, Monday through Friday
269-381-3171 or info@krcr-roads.com
Call 911 for road related emergencies.

Road Commissioners of Kalamazoo County

To better serve our County and local officials, each Road Commissioner has also been assigned as a liaison to various townships we serve as follows:

Kent L. McCauley –2012 Chairman;

Brady, Climax, Pavilion

Daniel J. Moyle – 2012 Vice Chairman;

Alamo, Oshtemo, Richland

Kenneth R. Oscarson – Kalamazoo,

Prairie Ronde, Wakeshma

Jeffrie M. Maddox –Comstock, Cooper, Ross

Dennis J. Berkebile – Charleston, Schoolcraft, Texas

Educational Opportunities

Asset Management for Elected Officials

February 19, 2013 9:00AM – 12:00 Noon

Setting Realistic Speed Limits

March 13, 2013 10:00 – 11:30AM

Please Mark Your Calendars!

Visit our Website

- **Board Meeting Information**
- **2012 Budget**
- **2012 – 2016 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan**
- **2012 Local and Primary Road Project Listing**
- **2011 Annual Report**
- **Road Data**
- **Brochures**
- **Permits**
- **Maps**
- **Purchasing**

Subscribe to our news feeds for up to date information.

www.kalamazooountyroads.com or email us at info@krcr-roads.com



The goal of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Kalamazoo County is using our expertise, energy and funds to provide the safest and most convenient road system possible, and to contribute to economic development and high quality of life throughout the county.