



Ten Tips for Work Zones

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission (KCRC) would like to remind motorists of safe driving tips in work zones.

Ten Tips for Driving Safely in Work Zones

- Expect the Unexpected
- Slow Down
- Don't tailgate
- Keep a safe distance between you and the car ahead of you
- Pay attention to signs
- Obey traffic regulators
- Stay alert and minimize distractions
- Keep up with traffic flow
- Schedule enough time to drive safely and check radio, television, newspaper and websites for updates
- Be patient and stay calm

SAFER DRIVING, SAFER WORK ZONES FOR EVERYONE

Managing Director's Message

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission (KCRC) continues to explore collaboration opportunities, an effort identified in our 2011 goals. These efforts are identified and implemented with our local governmental and private partners.

I had the opportunity to attend the Kalamazoo County Government, City of Kalamazoo and City of Portage joint meeting on April 14th to explore this very topic. The purpose of this meeting was identified; "The purpose of the Collaboration/Consolidation Event is to focus the attention of our respective jurisdictions, the County of Kalamazoo and Cities of Kalamazoo and Portage, along with other local governmental partners, on optimizing taxpayer dollars through joint efforts which utilize economies of scale and expertise by effectively merging service delivery systems and other governmental functions to reduce overall costs, improve service, and/or enhance the quality of life and attractiveness of the region for economic development." I listened and considered how fortunate we are to have a County considering these issues, and approving next steps in this important dialogue.

Although the KCRC is a separate legal entity from general county government, we continue to work together with various governmental and private partners. To name a few of our efforts, beginning this April, the KCRC has partnered with the City of Kalamazoo in sharing the position of Traffic Engineer. Local road improvements are accomplished in conjunction with our townships. An example of a city partnership includes our 2011 project with the City of Portage for the Texas Drive/Milham @12th Street roundabout intersection improvement. We are sharing employee training opportunities with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Winter maintenance materials are shared with MDOT and many of our local units of governments and school systems. We share equipment with other transportation agencies in the state and we purchase goods and managed services with many private partners.

The forecast shows decreasing Michigan Transportation Fund revenue which reinforces our need to seek collaboration opportunities. Working collectively to find ways to provide high levels of service with reduced revenue will be a challenge for us all. I am inspired on the leadership from Kalamazoo County, the City of Kalamazoo and the City of Portage and their investment in exploring joint efforts that may reduce overall costs, and that strive to improve service and/or enhance the quality of life in Kalamazoo County together. KCRC will continue to be a leader, supporter and provide examples to this very effort.

Sincerely,

Joanna I. Johnson,
Managing Director

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Ten Tips for Work Zones
- 1** Managing Director's Message
- 2** New Transportation Report
- 3** 2011 Primary Road Capital Improvement Projects
- 4** Staffing Highlights/Your Board of County Road Commissioners/Educational Opportunities/Website

New Transportation Report Reveals Roads in Poor Condition

LANSING – Nearly three times as many federal aid roads in Michigan are in poor condition than there were seven years ago, according to The Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC), as they released its 2010 annual report.

The report revealed that 35 percent of federal aid roads, roads that qualify for federal transportation dollars, are in poor condition. Additionally, 46 percent of non-federal aid roads or almost half, which are typically residential streets or lightly traveled county roads, are in poor condition. In addition to the TAMC report, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) released an update on its five-year transportation program at a meeting of the State Transportation Commission in Lansing today.

“Once roads fall into poor condition, it costs five to six times more to fix them,” said Mike Nystrom, executive vice president of the Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association (MITA). “Today’s news is alarming – and the current funding levels will only result in the rapid worsening of Michigan’s transportation system.”

The TAMC report also showed that Michigan has a significantly higher percentage of structurally deficient bridges than other Great Lakes states. In 2010, 13.15 percent of all Michigan’s bridges were structurally deficient in Michigan – while Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin all had fewer structurally deficient bridges.

The MDOT five-year transportation plan shows that even if Michigan is able to match all of our federal aid from 2012-2015, the state will spend on average \$110 million less per year to repair and rebuild roads and bridges as compared to this year (FY2011).

“The TAMC and MDOT reports make it clear that Michigan is in a race towards the worst roads in the nation,” said Nystrom. “We continue to urge a long-term, sustainable funding solution to this transportation funding crisis – this is not only about safety, but about the health of Michigan’s economic future.”

In 2008, the Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2), an assembly appointed by the legislature and the governor, recommended that Michigan at least double its current investment in transportation.

Both new reports are attached to this press release, or they can be viewed in full in the [report section](#) at: www.drivemi.org.

The Michigan Transportation Team (MTT) is a broad-based, bipartisan partnership of business, labor, local government, associations and citizens with the common goal of improving Michigan’s transportation infrastructure. The Drive MI campaign is committed to promoting the development and maintenance of a safe, convenient and efficient transportation network that serves the public, private and economic development needs of Michigan. Please visit www.drivemi.org or www.facebook.com/fixmichiganroads for more information on transportation funding. Citizens can also follow MTT on twitter @drivemi or visit our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/FixMIRoads

Note: (under the jurisdiction of KCRC)

FEDERAL AID ELIGIBLE ROADS IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY that are in poor condition is approximately 48 miles: *Poor Condition - A road that requires structural improvements or reconstruction and is rated in “poor” condition (4 or below on the asset management PASER rating system for the federal aid system).*
BRIDGES IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY that are currently rated as structurally deficient is six (6): *Structurally Deficient (SD) Status - A highway bridge is classified as structurally deficient if the deck, superstructure, substructure, or culvert is rated in “poor” condition (0 to 4 on the NBI rating scale). A bridge can also be classified as structurally deficient if its load carrying capacity is significantly below current design standards or if a waterway below frequently overtops the bridge during floods.*

Breaking down Michigan’s \$.19 state gasoline tax

All gas tax monies go to the Michigan Transportation Fund to be distributed as follows:

- \$.06 is used by the Michigan Department of Transportation to build and maintain all interstate, US and M numbered highways
- \$.06 is spread among 83 county road commissions
- \$.035 is split by 533 cities and villages to support local road projects
- \$.02 is dedicated to public transit
- Less than \$.01 is used to finance road projects critical to economic development and compensates other state agencies which provide support for the transportation system.
- \$.005 is used to support local bridges, railroad crossings and recreational areas

Unlike the sales tax which is a percentage of the sale price, the state excise taxes are fixed by the gallon. Michigan residents pay 19 cents per gallon for gasoline. The tax is the same if fuel costs \$2 or \$4.25 per gallon

2011 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan Projects

Parchmout Avenue from 840' W of Nazareth Road to Nazareth Road HMA

This project includes a 2.5" Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay.

Kalamazoo Township/City of Kalamazoo

Funded by KCRC

Estimate \$25,000.00

S Sprinkle Road from S Avenue to Zylman Avenue

This project includes a safety project at S Avenue and Nash Avenue to add a left turn lane on Sprinkle Road. Between S Avenue and Wells Street the roadway will be resurfaced with Hot Mix Asphalt. The roadway will be reconstructed to 3 lanes wide from Wells Street to Zylman Avenue. Drainage improvements will be made at S Avenue and Nash Avenue and between Wells Street and Zylman Avenue. DETOUR ROUTE

Pavilion Township, City of Portage

Funded by KCRC/STP/Safety

Estimate \$1,320,000.00

Safety Project Estimate \$320,000.00

Texas Drive at Milham Road at 12th Street Intersection Improvement

A Roundabout will be installed at this intersection to improve traffic flow.

Texas Township/City of Portage

Funded by KCRC/City of Portage/Congestion Mitigation Air Quality

Estimate \$700,000.00

Mosel Avenue at Riverview Intersection Signal Upgrade

This project includes the installation of mast arms and new signal.

Kalamazoo Township

Funded by KCRC

Estimate \$200,000.00

24th Street from Sprinkle Road to R Avenue

The roadway will be pulverized and a new 3" Hot Mix Asphalt surface will be placed.

Pavilion Township

Funded by KCRC

Estimate \$100,000.00

12th Street from C Avenue to North County Line All Season

This reconstruction of 12th street includes bringing the road up to all season standards. This project is a joint effort with The Allegan County Road Commission. The Roadway will be pulverized and surfaced with 5.5 inches of Hot Mix Asphalt.

Alamo Township/Cooper Township

Funded by KCRC/STP/RTF/TEDF

Estimate \$1,240,000.00

VW Avenue from Portage Road to 18th Street

This safety improvement project includes replacing a deteriorated culvert, new shoulders, ditching and a Hot Mix Asphalt overlay.

Schoolcraft Township

Funded by KCRC/Safety

Estimate \$485,000.00

Kalamazoo River Valley Trail Segment 3

The Kalamazoo River Valley Trail will be constructed from Mayor's Riverfront Park to Sprinkle Road. The 10 Foot wide Trail way includes a crossing of the Kalamazoo River just East of Mayor's Riverfront Park

City of Kalamazoo/Comstock Township

Funded by Federal Enhancement /Parks Foundation

Estimate \$1,254,633.00

36th Street Culvert Replacement

An existing deteriorated 72" corrugated metal pipe on the Climax No. 19 Drain will be replaced with a 14 foot wide by 6 foot high concrete box culvert.

Pavilion Township/Climax Township

Funded by KCRC

Estimate \$250,000

Visit our website for additional projects, detour routes and a complete listing of project details as they become available.

Staff Highlights



KCRC Managing Director Joanna Johnson was presented with a Crystal Vision Award by the National Association of Women in Construction at their Annual Construction Industry Appreciation event on March 23, 2011. The award is presented for outstanding achievement in the success of women in construction and specifically for the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail project. Toni Thompson, President of the Friends of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail and Rachel Hughes-Nilsson, O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates was also recognized. Thank you to Dave Rachowicz, Director of Kalamazoo County Parks & Recreation for the nomination.



KCRC Chief Engineer Tom Hohm was named the County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) Urban Engineer of the Year. Winners are selected for both Urban and Local categories and both are submitted to the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) for consideration in NACE's Engineer of the Year Award. **We Congratulate Chief Engineer Hohm and we appreciate all his efforts in our Kalamazoo County Infrastructure improvements!**



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.

Board of County 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 – Chairman; Brady, Climax, Pavilion
Kenneth R. Oscarson - Vice Chairman; Kalamazoo, Prairie Ronde, Wakeshma
Jeffrie M. Maddox –Comstock, Cooper, Ross
Dennis J. Berkebile –Charleston, Schoolcraft, Texas
Daniel J. Moyle –Alamo, Oshtemo, Richland

Educational Opportunities

To provide educational opportunities for local officials we are planning the following presentations at KCRC at NO COST in 2011.

Asset Management – Beyond Data Collection
Sign Retro Reflectivity Requirements
Guide to Traffic Safety

Watch for detailed information via email.

Website

Please VISIT OUR updated WEBSITE to find:

- 2011 Budget
- 2011 – 2015 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan
- Project Updates
- Brochures
- Board Meeting Information
- Permits
- Maps
- Purchasing

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