

Fee Schedule Update



The Kalamazoo County Road Commission (KCRC) updated its Schedule of Permit and Inspection Fees effective January 1, 2011.

The KCRC had not updated the fee schedule since 2001. Staff reviewed costs in each area. Other charges have been noted for any expenses of outside consultants or KCRC time above and beyond the customary service. A list of hourly charges for personnel and equipment will be furnished upon request.

Also added is a fee for the processing of Abandonment Requests of \$300, plus the requirement of a survey and any additional expenses associated with such a request.

We appreciate the economic realities faced by all those we serve, however the increases were necessary based on KCRC costs defined in each area.

Managing Director's Message

Happy New Year. As we begin 2011, it is important to reflect on our many accomplishments of 2010. The responsibility to serve the public can be difficult with limited resources, as a result, we continue to seek outside collaboration and partnership opportunities, and identify efficiencies and improvements within the organization.

Our Texas Drive and Kalamazoo River Valley Trail partnerships were recognized by the American Public Works Association Southwest Chapter. These are a few of the many great improvement projects completed locally with our partners.

We completed asset management local road data collection for 10 of our Townships with the remaining to be completed in 2011. This data is useful in project planning for our local road program.

The Miller Drive primary road realignment project was completed, and our Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan was updated to 2015.

During 2010, several organizational and operational changes were implemented that will benefit the KCRC in the long-term. Throughout these changes, we appreciate the efforts of our staff as we continue to align the organization to economic realities.

The forecast for 2011 shows decreasing Michigan Transportation Fund revenue and on-going review of operations and services. Working collectively to find ways to provide high levels of service with reduced revenue will be a challenge for us all.

Our goal into the New Year and beyond is to be the BEST road commission in the State. This is only accomplished by a team vested in the spirit of leadership and service.

Sincerely,

Joanna I. Johnson,
Managing Director

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2011 Winter Reminders

In an effort to provide the most efficient and effective snow removal on our County roads. Our goal is to provide the maximum level of service to the greatest number of people as quickly as possible. Our snow removal priorities:

1. Snow route roads

A SNOW ROUTE MAP is available on the "Publications" section of our website.

2. Balance of primary roads
3. Through local roads
4. Subdivision or plat streets
5. Dead-end and cul-de-sac roads

Every-day service is provided to priorities 1, 2 & 3 during snow events. Every other day service is our goal for plat streets, dead-end and cul-de-sac roads. If a storm is long lasting or a second storm starts before clean up on priorities 4 & 5 have been completed, crews will return to priorities 1, 2 & 3.

Help us educate the children of our county 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**
- **Keep garbage/recycle bins up in the driveway if it snows on garbage collection day**

Reminders for motorists:

- **Do not park or abandon a vehicle or other object in the right-of-way**
- **Don't attempt to pass a snow plow vehicle while they're plowing**
- **Never pass a plow on the right as wing plows are often hidden by the snow cloud being kicked up by the plow**
- **Plow drivers have limited visibility and they cannot see directly behind their trucks**
- **Motorists are advised not to travel next to a plow**
- **Plows can suddenly move sideways from hitting drifts or by cutting through packed snow**
- **Don't crowd the plow! Trucks in our fleet may also be utilizing a side mount wing plow.**
- **Wear your seatbelt and always allow extra time to reach your destination.**

Please be advised that it is a violation of the Michigan Vehicle Code, as well as a safety hazard, for contractors, excavators, and homeowners to push snow onto or across a roadway or the shoulder of a roadway. Any violation of the Michigan Vehicle Code, Act 300 of 1949, 257.677a "obstruction of safety vision by removal or deposit of snow, ice, or slush prohibited."

We encourage our residents and the motoring public to report road conditions that need attention by calling our office at 269-381-3171 or call 911 for emergencies. You may also visit our website at www.kalamazocountyroads.com



Seasonal Weight Restrictions

Annually KCRC implements weight restrictions as necessary to protect our road system during the freeze/thaw cycle. Weight restrictions are enforced to minimize the damage caused during Michigan's seasonal thaw. As the ground thaws in the spring, water is forced toward the surface and exerts pressure on roads, causing them to buckle and become more prone to damage. The heavier the vehicle, the greater possible harm to our roads. During the weight restriction period, commercial vehicles traveling on restricted roads must carry lighter loads and travel at slower speeds. We strive to not have our seasonal weight restrictions in force unnecessarily; however we must protect our investment within our road system. In prior years, we have implemented weight restrictions as noted below, which vary on weather conditions. Since 2003 the weight restrictions have varied as follows:

2003 – ON 3/12 OFF 4/4

2004 – ON 2/25 OFF 3/31

2005 – ON 2/14 OFF 4/6

2006 – ON 3/6 OFF 3/27

2007 – ON 3/1 OFF 4/2

2008 – ON 3/4 OFF 4/9

2009 – ON 2/12 OFF 3/30

2010 – ON 3/4 OFF 3/30

2011 – TO BE DETERMINED

KCRC will post notifications, issue press releases and provide information on our KCRC website and the County Road Association of Michigan website at www.micountyroads.org

An ALL SEASON ROUTE MAP is available on the "Publications" section of our website.

HOTLINE RETURNS IN 2011

For daily updates to the seasonal weight restrictions, citizens can call **269-381-3170 extension 272**. The hotline will be updated daily for any changes to the seasonal weight restrictions status.

For additional questions please contact

John Byrnes, Traffic Services Director

269-381-3170 extension 270

2010 RECOGNITION American Public Works Association



Pictured: Texas Drive Realignment and Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, Segment 2

The KCRC was honored December 9, 2010 by the American Public Works Association (APWA) Southwest MI Branch at their Annual Awards Banquet for the road improvement projects on Texas Drive and the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, Segment 2.

The Texas Drive Realignment at 8th Street included the abandonment of 660' of Texas Drive, construction of new portion of road that will meet 8th Street perpendicularly and also add a turn lane. Texas Township played a key role in the coordination of this project. The project was recognized in the Transportation <\$1M category.

The Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, Segment 2, City of Parchment, City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Township and Cooper Township began at the Intersection of Riverview Drive and Mosel Avenue, north along the Kalamazoo River, Westnedge and ending on D Avenue east of the Kalamazoo River; 5.82 miles of hot mix asphalt non-motorized path. The trail is operated by the Kalamazoo County Parks. The Parks Foundation, as well as the Friends of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail played a key role in the design and coordination. The project was recognized in the Quality of Life category.

Staff Highlights



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.

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
Call 911 for emergencies.**

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
- Brochures
- Board Meeting Information
- Permits
- Maps
- Purchasing

Subscribe to our news feeds for up to date information.

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