

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Managing Director's Message/ Did You Know?
- 2 Barricade Stripes and Their Meanings
- 3 Non-Motorized Facilities/ Roadside Vegetation Management Q & A
- 4 2014 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan Projects
- 6 Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day/ Temporary Campaign Signs
- 7 Staff Highlights/Educational Opportunities

Did You Know?

Did you know that the KCRC's annual revenue from the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) is approximately \$13,150,000 to maintain 1,267 miles of county roads and 60 bridges?

Keep in mind that the average road maintenance/improvement project costs per mile are:

Crack Seal, \$6,000/mile
 Chip Seal, \$32,000/mile
 Resurfacing, \$200,000/mile
 Structural Resurfacing, \$350,000/mile
 Road Reconstruction, \$1,000,000/mile

The costs above do not include the costs of routine maintenance and repair activities that are ongoing around the county!

Managing Director's Message

2014 Construction Season = Progress



While state revenues available for road and bridge repairs continue to be a challenge, the Kalamazoo County Road Commission (KCRC) is committed to focusing available revenues on preserving our county roads and bridges.

KCRC has prioritized pavement preservation as a way to preserve the county road network. By conducting preventative maintenance tasks while the pavement is still in good condition rather than letting it deteriorate into poor condition, KCRC saves revenue over the long term, allowing more projects to be completed. Every one dollar invested in preventative maintenance today, prevents spending six to fourteen dollars later as pavements deteriorate and become more costly to repair.

It is hard for many residents to understand why we are working on roads that appear to be in good condition when many roads are in worse condition. Over the long term this approach is how we can get the best bang for the limited amount of money we have to maintain our roads. It is much like changing the oil in your car – pay me now, or pay me much more later.

As construction season is on its way it is filled with a "mix of fixes" on our county roadways. As we move throughout the County please keep in mind the safety of our crew and contractors. Many of our operations do not include road closures, but rather are part of a "moving operation" activity. These moving operations have limited disruptions in traffic, so be patient as we will keep you moving. Our larger projects may include road closures. If that is the case, please use the signed detour routes to keep production moving and crews safe. We have project information available in press releases and on our website at www.kalamazooountyroads.com and Facebook to keep you informed.

Although these projects can result in allowing additional time to move throughout the County, for KCRC and citizens, it means progress for projects that may have been in the planning process for years, that extend the life of a road, or that address a maintenance program which will ultimately save expenses in the long term.

So when you travel around the County and you see orange barrels and barricades think improvement, think safety and think progress.... Our road network is vital to families, schools, emergency response, businesses, agriculture, tourism, and economic revitalization. Local Roads Matter!

Joanna I. Johnson,
 Managing Director

What do the different barricade stripes mean?

We have all been driving in Michigan and seen the "Road Closed" barricade signs, but did you know the stripes on the barricade have specific meanings?



Left Directional

When the barricade stripes slope downward in the left direction from the center of the barricade(s) the vehicles are allowed to turn left and/or pass on the left side of the barricade.



Right Directional

When the barricade stripes slope downward in the right direction from the center of the barricade(s) the vehicles are allowed to turn right and/or pass on the right side of the barricade.



Uni-Directional

When the barricade stripes slope downward in both directions from the center of the barricade(s) the vehicles are allowed to turn left and right and/or pass on either side of the barricade.



Total Closure

When the barricade stripes downward in both directions toward the center of the barricade(s) vehicles are not permitted to turn and vehicles shall not pass the barricade.

Non-Motorized Facilities

At our January 28, 2014 Board Meeting the Board of Road Commissioner of Kalamazoo County approved a Non-Motorized Facilities Policy. The policy provides a guideline for the development of non-motorized facilities in the public right-of-way. KCRC is committed to working with local governments to develop safe and efficient non-motorized transportation.

The policy outlines different non-motorized options within the county, and provides guidelines and requirements. Providing non-motorized facilities is generally considered a responsibility of the local unit of government in which it will be located. The KCRC may be involved in certain instances in providing in whole or in part similar non-motorized facilities as they may determine. Non-motorized facilities may be part of a primary or local road or stand-alone project.

For additional information, please visit the KCRC website at www.kalamazooountyroads.com for the Non-motorized Facilities Policy.

Roadside Vegetation

Q & A

The KCRC is the jurisdictional authority over all public roads lying outside the incorporated cities and villages within Kalamazoo County, exclusive of any State trunkline highway. Often residents have questions regarding roadside vegetation management, including trees and brush control. The information below, questions (Q) and answers (A) is being provided to assist in answering those questions. For additional information, please visit the KCRC website at www.kalamazooountyroads.com for the complete Roadside Vegetation Management Policy.

Q. Who is responsible for the removal of dead/dying trees in the right-of-way?

A. Dead/Dying trees located in the right-of-way are the responsibility of the property owner for removal. The KCRC may remove trees from the public right-of-way that is not designed for vehicular travel, but has the discretion not to do so. If a property owner wishes to remove, trim or prune a tree that is located in the right-of-way they must fill out a permit to work within the public right-of-way with the KCRC. The permit fee may be waived.

Q. What right does KCRC have for trees in the road right-of-way?

A. The KCRC has exclusive right to remove any obstruction within the highway right-of-way. In addition, to expressly granting authority to the KCRC to maintain trees within the right-of-way, the legislature has also expressly prohibited anyone else from “cutting, destroying or otherwise injuring any shade or ornamental tree or shrub growing within the limits of any public highway within the state of Michigan without consent of the authorities having jurisdiction over such road.” If a property owner seeks to have a tree that is located in the public right-of-way, removed, trimmed or pruned, KCRC permission must be sought and granted through a permit application (see Permit tab) process before the owner engages in any such removal. The permit application fee may be waived at KCRC’s discretion.

Q. If a tree falls in the traveled portion of the roadway designed for public travel; what do I do?

A. Please call the KCRC office immediately and/or 911 after normal business hours. The KCRC are first responders and will respond accordingly. The relocated fallen trees as part of emergency response will be moved outside of the road right-of-way when possible. The relocated fallen tree will be left for the property owner’s use and/or disposal unless they contact the KCRC within 15 days of the fallen tree being relocated that they request it be cut and/or removed. For those property owners that do contact KCRC accordingly, the KCRC will return as determined within other KCRC activities and priorities.

Q. What about trees that may impact a project improvement?

A. In situations arising from a road improvement project, the property owner may complete a tree removal notification form that will be provided by KCRC to request that any trees to be removed be cut or request it be removed. Informational meetings may be held accordingly for each project. Project information is also listed on our website.



2014 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan Projects

Drake Road from Grand Prairie Road to Ravine Road

The roadway will be cold milled including adjusting manholes with a hot mix asphalt overlay. A left turn lane will be added and the asphalt shoulder will be widened. Improvements will also be made to the storm water drainage system.

Oshtemo/Kalamazoo Townships

Funded by KCRC/Federal Surface Transportation Program

Estimate \$850,000

Drake Road from Grand Prairie Road to Ravine Road

Kalamazoo and Oshtemo Townships are partnering with the KCRC to construct sidewalk and non-motorized trail along Drake Road. Sidewalk will be added along both sides of Drake Road from Grand Prairie Road to West H Avenue. A non-motorized asphalt pathway will be added to the west side of Drake Road from West H Avenue to Ravine Road.

Oshtemo/Kalamazoo Townships

Funded by Oshtemo/Kalamazoo Townships

Estimate \$414,210

East Michigan Avenue Bridge over Comstock Creek

The East Michigan Avenue Bridge over the Comstock Creek will undergo construction/rehabilitation to replace the bridge beams, deck and railing. The bridge approaches will be resurfaced with hot mix asphalt.

Comstock Township

Funded by KCRC/Federal-State Bridge Program

Estimate \$1,152,000

East Michigan Avenue from Kalamazoo City Limit to Sprinkle Road

The roadway will be cold milled including adjusting manholes with a hot mix asphalt overlay. Cross culverts will also be replaced.

Kalamazoo/Comstock Townships

Funded by KCRC/Federal Surface Transportation Program

Estimate \$1,100,000

N Avenue from 26th Street to 29th Street

The roadway will be cold milled including adjusting manholes with a hot mix asphalt overlay. The project includes hot mix asphalt widening with the addition of a center left turn lane at Pavilion Estates, culvert replacement, slope flattening and roadside drainage improvements.

Comstock/Pavilion Townships

Funded by KCRC/Federal Safety Program

Estimate \$1,000,000

N Avenue from 29th Street to 34th Street

The roadway will be cold milled and resurfaced with a hot mix asphalt overlay. The project includes hot mix asphalt widening and resurfacing along with culvert replacement and roadside drainage improvements.

Comstock/Pavilion Townships

Funded by KCRC/Federal Rural Task Force

Estimate \$1,200,000

9th Street at N Avenue

The traffic signal will be upgraded to add a left turn phase on 9th Street.

Oshtemo Township

Funded by KCRC/Federal Safety Program

Estimate \$280,000

D Avenue at 2nd Street

The roadway will be reconstructed to improve intersection sight distance and safety. The width of the paved and aggregate shoulders will be increased along with addressing roadside drainage ditches.

Alamo Township

Funded by KCRC/Federal Safety Program

Estimate \$400,000

12th Street from 0.63 miles south of Parkview Avenue to Parkview Avenue

The roadway will undergo a safety project which includes lane and shoulder widening, hot mix asphalt surfacing, centerline and shoulder rumble strips, super elevation correction and the addition of signage.

Texas Township

Funded by KCRC/Federal Safety Program

Estimate \$510,000

Q Avenue from 8th Street to 10th Street

The roadway will be cold milled including adjusting manholes with a hot mix asphalt overlay. A left turn lane will also be added at the intersection of Q Avenue and 10th Street after widening the roadway.

Texas Township

Funded by KCRC

Estimate \$400,000

Kalamazoo River Valley Trail Segment 5

The Kalamazoo River Valley Trail will be constructed from River Street to 35th Street.

Comstock Township/City of Galesburg

Funded by Federal Transportation Alternatives/Kalamazoo County Parks Fund

Estimate \$1,472,000

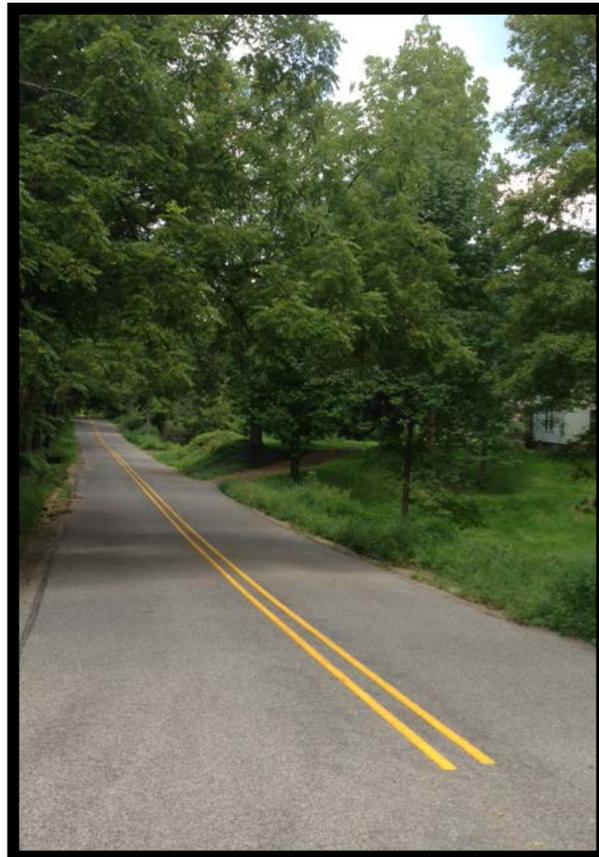
Texas Drive Trail

The Texas Drive Trail will be constructed from the Al Sabo Preserve to 12th Street.

Texas Township

Funded by Federal Transportation Alternatives/Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund/Texas Township

Estimate \$700,000



7th Street – G Avenue to Owen Drive

Poster Art Contest



Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

Traffic Crashes are the leading cause of death in the U.S. for people ages 3 to 34. "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day®" focuses on reducing traffic fatalities by encouraging motorists to take extra precautions.



RULES:

- Art **MUST** be on 8.5x11" paper.
 - Any materials can be used including paint, crayon, pencil, pastel, and collage
 - NO computer aided drawings
- ALL entries must be postmarked by **September 12, 2014** to be eligible
- Winners' names/artwork will be sent to media and posted on the KCRC website
- Mail entries to:
Kalamazoo County Road Commission
Attention: Leslie Barnebee
3801 East Kilgore Road

Kalamazoo County kids ages 5 through 13 are invited to enter artwork representing their thoughts on "Put the Brakes on Fatalities". There will be winners in all three age categories, and three overall winners!



More information to come!



All about safety: Temporary Campaign Signs must be placed properly in the Right-of-Way

KCRC:

The placement of temporary wire campaign signs within the right-of-way (county road right-of-way is typically 33 feet from the centerline) must not obstruct vision, especially at intersections. The placement of a large temporary sign supported more permanently in the ground is not allowed. Campaign signs that do not meet these criteria will be removed. Candidates are responsible for obtaining approval from adjacent property owners before placing signs. If the placement of a temporary sign is in the right-of-way and the property owner does not prefer that the sign be placed there, they should be immediately removed. Signs must be removed after the election.

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT):

Signs must be placed more than 30 feet from the edge of the roadway (or from the white line along the edge on highways) without barrier-type curbs. On highways that do have barrier curbs, the signs must be more than 3 feet from the back of the curb. Signs are not allowed within clear vision areas at intersections or commercial driveways, or within limited access rights of way. Campaign signs that do not meet these criteria will be removed. Candidates are responsible for obtaining approval from adjacent property owners before placing signs. Signs must be removed within 10 days after the election.

For more information on campaign sign placement standards, visit the MDOT Web site at www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-42456-147773--F,00.html. *Courtesy of MDOT Press Release*

Staff Highlights

We congratulate **Bill DeYoung** on his transition into the **General Superintendent** position. Bill has been an employee in many different areas at KCRC since 1996. Most recently Bill served as our Maintenance Superintendent. Bill is available to assist with both road maintenance and project inquires in the absence of the respective Maintenance and Project superintendents. Bill will also manage our Equipment/Facilities at KCRC. Bill's extension is 245. We said goodbye to Jim Wessing and appreciated his efforts in the position.

Zach Clothier has been hired as our new **Maintenance Superintendent**. Zach comes to us from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Southwest Region where he has worked since September of 2007. He has served as MDOT's Transportation Maintenance Supervisor since April 2011. While at MDOT he has developed goals, performed traffic incident management, completed daily scheduling and follow up, hired, trained, and supervised staff, and reviewed performance measurements for the region. Zach resides in Battle Creek, MI. We look forward to his first day at KCRC on July 7th. Zach's email will be zclothier@krcr-roads.com, and his extension will be 247.

Visit our Website

- **Board Meeting Information**
- **2013 Annual Report – Now Available**
- **Construction Guidelines**
- **2014 Budget**
- **2014 – 2018 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan**
- **2014 Project Listing Detail**
- **Brochures**
- **Permit Applications**
- **Maps – view our new interactive map**
- **Purchasing**
- **Road Data**

OR



- [Click to Like us on Facebook](#)

Subscribe to our news feeds for up to date information.

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



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:

Daniel J. Moyle – 2014 Chairman;

Alamo, Oshtemo, Richland

Kenneth R. Oscarson– 2014 Vice Chairman;

Brady, Prairie Ronde, Wakeshma

Dennis J. Berkebile – Charleston, Schoolcraft, Texas

Jeffrie M. Maddox – Comstock, Cooper, Ross

David Q. Worthams – Kalamazoo, Climax, Pavilion

Educational Opportunities

- **Transportation Funding 101**
August 6th at KCRC 10:00am – 11:30am
Presented by William E. Hamilton, House Fiscal Agency Senior Fiscal Analyst
This educational opportunity is for Local Officials. Please RSVP to Leslie Barnebee, Administrative Assistant, lbarnebee@krcr-roads.com by August 1, 2014.

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 road related emergencies.