



Newsletter

Spring/Summer

2015

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Did You Know?

The existing Road Commission public street names were set up to help the public to determine direction. For instance, typically the major North/South roads have a suffix of "Street" and the Major East/West roads have the suffix of "Avenue". Proposed new road names are submitted by developers to the Kalamazoo County Department of Planning and Development for approval and are reviewed by the municipality and the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC).


Road names shall not be adopted if they may be confused with similar sounding road names within the County. Proposed street names with the same first word or the same second word as an existing street are prohibited if there are more than five with the same first or second word in the county. Typically, the maximum length of a road name is eleven letters. No new street name can include a directional word in the prefix name, core name or suffix name. Per Public Act 283 of 1909, as amended "...The board may change the name of the road if it determines that a name change is necessary in order to conform to a general plan or avoid confusion or duplication. The name given by the board to any road under its jurisdiction, either originally or in case of a change as provided for in this section, is the official name by which the road shall be known...."

Suffix names that may be utilized are:

Street - North/South road
Avenue - East/West road
Circle/Court/Place/Way - cul-de-sac
Boulevard/Crescent/Drive/Lane/Parkway/Pass/Path/Road/Terrace/Trace/
Trail - roads that meander.

A complete list of street names in Kalamazoo County can be found on the Kalamazoo County website at <http://www.kalcounty.com/planning/documents.htm>

Managing Director's Message

We have finally made it through another Michigan winter and we now prepare for a busy construction season in Kalamazoo County. We are excited about our primary road projects and the large number of local road improvement projects planned including the \$9.75 million dollar resident supported infrastructure bond initiative in Kalamazoo Township. We also recognize the investments to be made by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) including projects such as US-131/Stadium Drive and the I-94/Cork Street interchange. These projects allow for great investments in our infrastructure. Remember this is progress as you tackle the many detours around the county this summer! A complete listing of Road Commission projects can be found on our website "Projects" page. Please keep up with project news releases on our website by subscribing to the  **RSS (Rich Site Summary)**; often called *Really Simple Syndication* to receive frequently updated information or Like us on Facebook for updates.

We are pleased to report our annual independent financial audit presentation by our auditors of Plante & Moran at our Board meeting of March 27, 2015 for year ended December 31, 2014. The Road Commission is a special purpose government engaged in a single government program of road and bridge maintenance, preservation, and construction. Our auditors conducted our audit according to auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that Plante & Moran plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements. Our 2014 financial audit continues to be an unqualified opinion, which is the best opinion possible regarding the Road Commission's Financial Statements. Our 2014 Financial Audit/presentation can be found on our website. We thank all our team who assist in internal controls/processes every day to ensure best practices.

As you review our infrastructure projects and 2014 Financial Audit/presentation, please continue to be reassured we are committed to providing the very best in public service.

Sincerely,

Joanna I. Johnson,
Managing Director

Road Commission Recognized

The Road Commission is proud to announce various recognition throughout the organization. “We are very proud of the recognition to our organization and to our employees for all their efforts in maintaining our infrastructure”, said Managing Director Joanna I. Johnson. “We are thankful for the recognition within our industry and among our peers in public service”.

Ryan Minkus, Project Engineer was honored along with Michigan Paving and Materials Company and Moore & Bruggink, Inc. at the Asphalt Paving Association of Michigan (APAM) banquet with the APAM / Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Award on December 11, 2014 for the N Avenue from 26th Street to 34th Street project for projects within the 10,000 – 30,000 ton category. 64 projects were evaluated in 10 different award categories. The judging committee visited each of the nominated projects, traveling 4,633 miles in 12 days. Each project was rated in the following areas: Appearance, ride, texture, uniformity, longitudinal and transverse joints, edges, utility cover adjustments and degree of difficulty. The Road Commission is proud to be 1 of the 18 projects which received awards.



Mark Worden, Project Superintendent was awarded with the County Road Association (CRA) Program Manager of the Year on February 4, 2015 at the CRA Engineering Conference. The CRA Engineering Committee recognized, Mr. Worden for his instrumental efforts on a number of projects both on the primary road and local road system. In 2014 Mr. Worden oversaw:

- 112 individual projects
- 139.38 miles of projects
- Approximately \$6,893,678 million worth of improvements



The Road Commission was also recognized by the CRA Best Practices “Impress Communications Award” for their “Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day” youth poster contest on February 19, 2015 at the CRA Annual Highway Conference. The award recognizes best practices in communication undertaken by a county road agency during calendar year 2014. The goal of the contest was to bring awareness to the dangers of driving distracted to school aged children (tomorrow’s future drivers) and by doing so bring awareness to their parents (today’s drivers). The intent was to heighten consciousness about what people can do to reduce traffic accidents and fatalities.

Joanna I. Johnson, Managing Director was elected to the CRA Board of Directors on February 19, 2015 at the CRA Annual Highway Conference for a 3-year term which term begins April 1, 2015. The CRA represents the interests and concerns of Michigan’s 83 county road agencies. Mrs. Johnson also serves on the Southern Association of Road Commissions and is the current Past-President.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2015 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Projects

D Avenue from Adobe Road to Rolling Meadow Drive

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

Cooper Township

Funded by KCRC/Federal Rural Task Force

Estimate \$1,065,000

35th Street from Galesburg City Limit to 1000 feet south of G Avenue

The roadway will be pulverized and reconstructed with a HMA overlay. The project will also include widened HMA shoulders.

Comstock Township

Funded by KCRC

Estimate \$1,400,000

38th Street Bridge over Little Portage Creek

The 38th Street Bridge over the Little Portage Creek will undergo preventive maintenance improvements. These improvements include an epoxy overlay of the bridge deck, replacement of the concrete railing and bridge HMA approach work.

Wakeshma Township

Funded by KCRC/Local Bridge Program

Estimate \$155,000

42nd Street Bridge over Little Portage Creek

The 42nd Street Bridge over the Little Portage Creek will undergo preventive maintenance improvements. These improvements include an epoxy overlay of the bridge deck, replacement of the concrete railing and bridge HMA approach work.

Wakeshma Township

Funded by KCRC/Local Bridge Program

Estimate \$170,000

Sprinkle Road from East Michigan Avenue to East Main Street

The roadway will be cold milled including adjusting manholes with a HMA overlay. The project includes shoulder widening, concrete shoulders and median, centerline and shoulder rumble strips, super elevation corrections and signage.

Comstock Township

Funded by KCRC/Federal Safety Transportation Program

Estimate \$1,100,000

U Avenue at 8th Street

The roadway will be cold milled and resurfaced with a HMA overlay. The project includes shoulder widening, installation of a center-left turn lane and replacing the overhead flashing beacons at the intersection.

Prairie Ronde Township

Funded by KCRC/Federal Safety Transportation Program

Estimate \$245,000

Sprinkle Road at Covington Road

The traffic signal will be replaced at the intersection of Sprinkle Road and Covington Road.

Kalamazoo Township

Funded by KCRC

Estimate \$95,000

East Main Street from Wallace Street to Nazareth Road

This safety project is a joint project with the City of Kalamazoo. Three traffic signals will be replaced with activated mast arm traffic signals (East Michigan Avenue, Humphrey Avenue and Nazareth Avenue). Sidewalk ramps and associated pedestrian signals will be improved. East Main Street from East Michigan Avenue to Craft Avenue will have a widened shoulders by converting from four lanes to three lanes wide.

Kalamazoo Township

Funded by KCRC/Federal Safety Transportation Program/City of Kalamazoo

Estimate \$415,000

S Avenue Bridge over Portage River

The S Avenue Bridge over the Portage River is scheduled for full bridge replacement along with bridge HMA approach work.

Pavilion Township

Funded by KCRC

Estimate \$450,000

D Avenue/Sprinkle Road from Riverview Drive to DE Avenue

The roadway will be cold milled including adjusting manholes and resurfaced with a HMA overlay. The project includes HMA widening on D Avenue between Riverview Drive and 24th Street along with roadside and intersection drainage improvements.

Cooper/Richland Townships

Funded by KCRC

Estimate \$800,000

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*



Road Commission
of Kalamazoo County

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Branding Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

Q. Why are we changing from the Kalamazoo County Road Commission (KCRC) to the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) and why now?

A. We are changing for reasons which include:

- There are 2 other KCRC's in the State and this change sets us apart from the road commissions of Kalkaska & Kent (KCRC);
- "Refresh" our logo;
- It clearly defines us as a Road Commission ; similar to "City of", "Village of", "Township of", "County of"
- It continues to set us apart from other road commissions in the State;
- We are getting a new sign for our building and now is the time to avoid any large future costs for such a change; and
- Ensures consistency with our legal name of: Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Kalamazoo (Public Act 283 of 1909)

We have thought about this for a long time; similar to what Oakland County did years ago and a similar time of when the County Road Association changed their branding in 2014.

Q. Who designed and picked the new logo?

A. The new logo was designed in-house, keeping with our same color/theme. Board/staff chose the new logo from three options all created in house.

Q. How much money will this new logo/branding cost?

A. The new logo was designed in-house;

- Sign in front of administrative building \$120.00
- Sign for Board meetings \$0
- Truck Decals as needed \$8.00/each – previously \$10.00/each (not new costs)
- Website approximately \$200.00
- Other items including name tags, business cards, letterhead, envelopes, checks, will be updated as needed - most are electronic updates (not new costs)
- Email address changes \$0

Q. When will this change occur?

A. The change will occur gradually throughout 2015 and beyond as items are reprinted and/or re-ordered/replaced. Electronic material is in progress of being updated and many items are no longer printed in hardcopy making updates easy.

Please update our staff email extensions to first initial-last name@kalamazooountyroads.com.

We appreciate your positive comments received with this update!

At our March 10, 2015 meeting the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Kalamazoo approved the following resolution regarding Proposal 1 which will be before voters on May 5, 2015:

Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Kalamazoo
Resolution of Support for Proposal 1 Transportation Revenue
March 10, 2015

WHEREAS, Michigan drivers deserve a safe and reliable road and bridge network. Investing more in our roads will improve safety, road surface, and bridge conditions; and

WHEREAS, 38 percent of Michigan's state-and locally-owned urban roads and 32 percent of the rural roads are in poor condition; and

WHEREAS, approximately 268 miles of Kalamazoo County roads are in poor condition and 5 Kalamazoo County bridges are structurally deficient; and

WHEREAS, every \$1 invested today to keep our roads in good condition will save as much as \$6 to \$14 later as conditions deteriorate. The longer we wait to fix Michigan's roads, the more it will cost; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's roads are vital to business and economic development, to families and schools, to public safety and health care, to agriculture and tourism, and to every aspect of our lives; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Kalamazoo has optimized the efficiency of road commission operations under the existing revenue allocation and is unable to maintain the high level of service which the county residents have come to expect; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 1 on the May 5 ballot would provide additional revenue to fix roads and bridges; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated the Road Commission will receive approximately \$9,029,000 in new revenue over three years if Proposal 1 is adopted by Michigan voters.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; The Board supports Proposal 1, which goes before Michigan voters on May 5, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to all Kalamazoo County State Legislators, all Kalamazoo County Elected Officials, all Kalamazoo County Mayors, all Kalamazoo County Village Presidents, and all Kalamazoo County Township Supervisors.

Daniel J. Moyle, Chairman

March 10, 2015

Board Member/Staff Highlights

We welcomed **Deb Buchholtz to the Road Commission Board January 2015**. Ms. Buchholtz, Member, is a Cooper Township resident who was appointed to the road commission in January 2015. She is the founder and owner of Synergy Health Strategies, L.L.C., a company dedicated to improving the wellbeing and vitality of both individuals and organizations. She was elected to the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners from 2000 to 2011, serving as chair for 4 years and vice-chair for 4 years. Her previous work experience included Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Vice President of Operations and Finance for her family's carbon commodities and global transportation business, Business Development Analyst at Pfizer, and various consulting projects. Deb will serve on the Kalamazoo County Board of Public Works representing the road commission. Her term expires 12/31/2020. Township liaison representation: Climax, Kalamazoo and Pavilion townships.

We are pleased to share **Mark Worden, Project Superintendent** has been promoted to lead our roads/engineering related projects and **Ryan Minkus, Project Engineer** has been promoted as our county highway engineer – congratulations to them both!

Visit our Website

- Board Meeting Information
- 2014 Financial Audit/Presentation
- Construction Guidelines
- 2015 Budget
- 2015 – 2019 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan
- Brochures
- Permit Applications
- Maps – view our new interactive map
- Purchasing
- Road Data

OR



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Board of County Road Commissioners

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 – 2015 Chairman;**
Brady, Prairie Ronde, Wakeshma
- Kenneth R. Oscarson – 2015 Vice Chairman;**
Charleston, Schoolcraft, Texas
- Dennis J. Berkebile – Comstock, Cooper, Ross**
- David Q. Worthams – Alamo, Oshtemo, Richland**
- Deb Buchholtz – Kalamazoo, Climax, Pavilion**

Educational Opportunities

- Asset Management for Local Officials training held February 19th.



- DOT Pothole Filler Demonstration held March 19th – do you recognize who is using this equipment?



The goal of the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Kalamazoo 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.

