



Spring/Summer 2019 Newsletter

Managing Director's Message

As I came to my final chapter as the County Road Association (CRA) President for 2018—2019, I was honored to serve and impressed by all of our county road agencies dedicated to public service. I could probably share in this newsletter the various accomplishments and lessons learned as CRA President this last year. However, I would prefer to focus on our 83 County Road Agencies and our RCKC team here at home.

Wikipedia defines public service as a service which is provided by government to people living within its jurisdiction for which certain services should be available to all, regardless of income, physical ability or mental acuity. It goes on to say that public policy when made in the public's interest and motivations can provide the best of public services. Public service may involve outputs that are hard to attribute to specific individual effort or hard to measure in terms of key characteristics such as quality. They often require high levels of training and education. They may attract people with a public service ethos who wish to give something to the wider public or community through their work.

I have had the opportunity to work with many of our County Road Agencies, and visit CRA District Councils (my apologies to my friends in the Upper Peninsula—Great Lakes Region!) and have found the heart of our work in each of these public service people. Our County Road Agencies work to be good stewards of Michigan roads and bridges, collaborating with townships and other local governmental units, and industries that need the roads to do business. I have worked with our CRA Board, and CRA Standing Committees with people who have spent countless hours supporting the very work that is available to all, because after all our infrastructure touches everyone. I am thankful to our industry who work hard to promote and maintain a safe, efficient county road and bridge system, including stewardship of the county road right-of-way, in rural and urban Michigan. I have seen our members come together and address good public policy and speak loudly together for that which is not.

Most importantly, I am grateful to our RCKC TEAM who supported and recognized the value in representing RCKC in this capacity, 20 years since we had that opportunity.

So as I look at my rear view mirror, driving along one of our 90,000+ county roads, I simply say thank you to each of our public service teams and industry partners dedicated to our industry across this great State. I am forever grateful for the opportunity and trust put in me in yet another form of public service in 2018/2019.

In This Issue

Oxcart Permit Systems.....	2
Toward Zero Deaths.....	2
RCKC Invest in New Equipment	3
Tree & Woody Vegetation	4
Recognition Corner	4
Chip Seal Program.....	4
How to Lower Speed Limit.....	4
Put the Brakes on Fatalities.....	5
Nat'l Work Zone Awareness Week.....	5
Touch A Truck	5
Welcome Board Members.....	6

Changes to Transportation Permit Process

RCKC is partnering with Oxcart Permits Systems to process and issue all transportation permits electronically. Beginning February 4, 2019, all transportation permit applications must be submitted via www.oxcartpermits.com and RCKC will no longer process transportation applications using the previous walk-in or fax application forms.

This new process will speed up permit approvals and eliminate the tedious paper-oriented processes. Oxcart will send online permit approvals to your inbox and approved permits can be downloaded to your computer or mobile device. No software is required to be downloaded or installed. Oxcart is available wherever there is an internet connection. Dashboards, account management, and permit approvals can all be viewed in real-time. If assistance is needed in the process, please feel free to contact our office.

So, here is what has changed as of February 4, 2019:

- All transportation permits will be submitted via oxcartpermits.com. RCKC will no longer process applications using the previous forms or methods.
- All fees will be paid online with a credit card. RCKC will no longer invoice for transportation permits or accept checks for payment.
- RCKC permit fees will stay the same, until which time the administrative costs can be reviewed further. Oxcart will require both a nominal processing fee for its service and a credit card processing fee for each permit processed.



RCKC PARTICIPATES IN TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

Toward Zero Deaths is a statewide safety campaign based on the national strategy on highway safety intended to influence driver behavior and improve safety. With over 35,000 fatalities occurring on US highways each year, road-way safety remains one of the most challenging issues facing Michigan, and the nation.



Single-lane roundabouts in Michigan not only reduce fatal and incapacitating crashes by 88 percent, but they also provide an economic benefit of almost \$600,000 per year per roundabout, based on crash reduction and user cost delay.

Crashes on curved roadways account for more than 27 percent of all traffic deaths every year. In an effort to reduce crashes on curved roadways, road agencies install a variety of countermeasures to keep your vehicle on the road such as centerline rumble strips, curve delineation, speed warning systems and high friction surfaces.

For the RCKC we experienced:

2017: 17 Fatalities and 59 Serious Injuries

2018: 17 Fatalities and 66 Serious Injuries

To learn more about Michigan's efforts, visit:

www.michigan.gov/zerodeaths

To learn more about traffic accidents across the State, visit the Safety dashboard:

www.mcgi.state.mi.us/mitrp/tamcDashboards



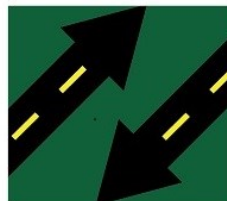
Sign-Up Today For Road Commission Alerts

RCKC CONNECT is a mass notification service that allows RCKC to send citizens voice and/or text messages to home phones, businesses, local agencies and mobile phones in just minutes regarding road closures, detours, and road construction projects. Citizens can choose to receive notifications about RCKC events that may affect their home, workplace, schools and more.

RCKC CONNECT is also a great way for the RCKC to remind citizens of upcoming public meetings and RCKC General News.

The following is the link to **RCKC CONNECT** sign up page.

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736724005#/signup>



RCKC CONNECT
RCKC ALERTS SIGN UP NOW

Have You Signed Up Yet?



RCKC Invests in a Trailer Mounted, Spray Injection Patching Unit

RCKC staff has spent considerable time over the years in research to determine the best patching unit for RCKC. The research included discussions and review of similar equipment from other road commissions, review of patching completed on our roads, manufacturer research, vendor discussions, and on-site demos.

RCKC rented a Total Patcher unit last season, as well as a Durapatcher unit. We did a side by side comparison of the units. Taking into account productivity, durability, and ease of operation and maintenance, RCKC equipment operators were impressed with the Total Patcher. They indicated that the machine was user friendly and more productive than the Durapatcher.

We continue to monitor the performance of the spray injection patching method and repetitively see extended service life compared to hot/cold mix asphalt repairs.



The concept of a tack coat of emulsion followed by a combination of aggregate and asphalt emulsion mix provides a 90%+ compacted material that becomes resistant to water infiltration within a few days of application. The spray patch method utilizes the same concept as our chip seal operations other than multiple layers are applied to fill the void over a localized area. Our observation concludes the compacted, weather resistant, spray patch repair has outperformed the conventional patching methods in most conditions. The patcher unit is not recommended to use with ambient temperatures under 50 degrees Fahrenheit. The hot/cold mix patching methods still have value within our maintenance operations particularly when the weather conditions limit spray patching options and large areas are being repaired.

We expect the use of this equipment and the spray injection patching method to become our primary patching option. The unit will be used in preparation for chip seal applications and various other routine patching, focusing on various roads with minor repairs. Heavy patching on roads in poor condition will still require the use of hot mix asphalt (HMA). Cold patch will remain an option during very cold conditions and/or during rain events where emergency repairs are necessary.

RCKC Invests in a 2018 Caterpillar Motor Grader

Motor graders are utilized in our daily operations for grading gravel roads, ditching, gravel shoulder maintenance, high shoulder removal and winter maintenance. Previously, we utilized three motor graders



for routine maintenance activities and project preparation. Our motor graders are used to maintain 106 miles of gravel roads along with ditching, high shoulder removal and shaping gravel surfaces to construct proper slope for road surface drainage after road pulverization. One of our motor graders has also been equipped with a benching wing to assist with snow removal in severe winter conditions.

The new motor grader includes:

- Benching wing plow – this right side, mid-mounted attachment is utilized on the motor grader for the winter season. The benching wing plow is used in winter operations to push back large amounts of snow (generally snow drifts) farther away from the traveled portion of the road to accommodate the storage of additional snow throughout the season.
- Disc (shoulder retriever) - this is a front mounted attachment designed to loosen shoulder gravel and break up vegetation allowing reclamation and reshaping of aggregate. We intend to use this disc attachment for routine gravel shoulder maintenance along with reclamation of gravel from high shoulders that are overgrown with vegetation.
- Roller attachments – This rear mounted attachment allows the grader operator to grade and compact the gravel surface simultaneously. The rear mounted roller is capable of lifting vertically when not in use along with side shift capability to offset the rolling operation from a the windrow generated by the motor grader. The rear mounted roller attachment is designed to be easily removed from the motor grader when not in use.
- Automatic cross slope technology – The automated cross slope control maintains a consistent cross slope (center line to shoulder) grade to allow for consistent drainage and improved ride quality. The automatic slope control option improves the overall ride quality of the road surface and improves the consistency of cut depth for more even compaction which extends the life of the finished surface and reduces overall fuel usage.

Tree and Woody Vegetation Control



Approximately one-quarter of the county is sprayed annually for tree and woody vegetation control, so a given area will only be sprayed once every three years. Tree and woody vegetation control is the RCKC's annual effort to control

roadside vegetation and overhanging tree branches that could obstruct motorists' vision, and create drainage obstacles. In 2019, the RCKC will apply Krenite S in unplatted (non-subdivision) and primary roads in Brady, Schoolcraft and Texas Townships, apply Vastlan in Wakeshma Township and apply Garlon 3A in Prairie Ronde Township. The herbicides are approved by both Michigan Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A copy of the Safety Data Sheets are available at the RCKC's office or on the [maintenance tab](#) of the RCKC website.

RECOGNITION CORNER RCKC Receives Numerous Awards

The RCKC was awarded by the American Public Works Association (APWA) the 2018 Branch Award in Public Works Project of the Year in Government Cooperation with Wakeshma Township for the Local Road Millage partnership.

The RCKC was also awarded the 2018 Branch Award in Public Works Project of the Year Transportation - Innovative Projects for the W Avenue Preventive Maintenance Scrap Tire Grant Project.



The RCKC was awarded by the Michigan County Road Association (CRA) at their 2019 banquet the 2018 Impress award for Excellence in Operations for Preventative Maintenance for the W Avenue Scrap Tire Grant Project.

RCKC also received the 2018 CRA Impress Award for Excellence in Collaboration for Municipal Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship.



Chip Seal Surface Treatment Program

Chip seal anticipated start date is May 14th, weather permitting.

The RCKC advanced our chip seal program to a higher level by applying the first chip/fog seal treatment at the beginning stages of the HMA surface life (1-2 years after a new HMA surface is place) for our primary network. Performing earlier applications of chip seal will protect and preserve the new HMA surface and prevent the initial deterioration of an HMA surface, which will also extend the timeline for future chip seal applications. Chip seal treatments performed at years 1-2 of age will also reduce the crack fill and HMA wedging costs due to improved surface condition and advanced preventive maintenance. **Typically chip seal operations will not be conducted if there is a chance of rain. Chip seal is a moving operation and therefore specific dates for each area/road will be provided in our weekly RCKC press release and on RCKC Connect. Traffic delays should be minimal. For a more information on chip seal, including a video please visit: <http://www.kalamazooountyroads.com/maintenance.php>**



How do I get the speed limit lowered?

Changing a speed limit is not a whimsical process. Any decision regarding speed limits must be based on facts and an objective analysis of the characteristics of the roadway and data.

When a request is received to lower the speed limit on a county road, the township, the Road Commission and the Michigan State Police



[\(Establishing Speed Limits\)](#) work together to conduct studies such as speed studies, accident analyses, and driving environment surveys. Recommendation is made based on an objective analysis of all the data collected. If a change in speed limit is in order, a Traffic Control Order is submitted to the Director of the Michigan State Police for approval. For more information see our [Speed Limits Brochure](#).

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day Thursday, October 10, 2019

Poster Art Contest For All Kalamazoo County Kids

Rules:

- Art MUST be on 8.5 x 11 paper
- No computer aided drawings
- ALL entries must be postmarked by September 27, 2019 to be eligible
 - Winners names/artworks will be posted to the RCKC Facebook page and posted on the RCKC website at www.kalamazooountyroads.com

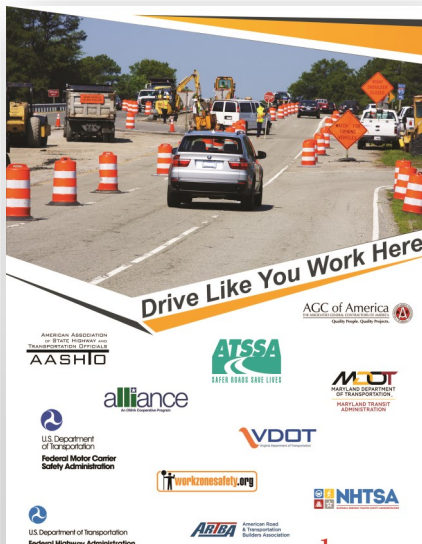


Age Categories

4 through 6 years old
7 through 9 years old
10 through 12 years old

National Work Zone Awareness Week April 8-12, 2019

The 2019 National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is observed across the country April 8-12. National Work Zone Awareness is an annual spring campaign held at the start of construction season to encourage safe driving through high-way work zones. This years theme is "Drive Like You Work Here". Driving in and around work zones requires motorists to constantly be alert and prepared for changes that a distracted driver may not notice in time to prevent a potentially fatal crash. Please avoid distractions while driving!!



Please Drive Slowly Safer Driving, Safer Work Zones For Everyone



We are looking forward to another
construction season

REMEMBER

ORANGE BARRELS = PROGRESS!



Touch A Truck Saturday, May 11, 2019



Join the RCKC for the 8th Annual **Touch-A-Truck Event** held on Saturday, May 11th at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center & Fairgrounds. Touch-A-Truck is a fun event for the whole family where kids, young and old, can learn about and touch an assortment of vehicles including police cars, National Guard vehicles, construction equipment, and many other unique items from those who protect, build and serve in our community!

Gates open at 10:00am for a 2 hour Siren-Free Zone (no horns or sirens) with general admission following from 12:00-2:00pm. We look forward to seeing you at the event.



Welcome Board Members



The RCKC welcomed Thom Brennan to the Road Commission Board March 2019. Mr. Brennan is a resident of Texas Township. He retired from automotive manufacturing after 32 years as an executive manager for General Motors and American Axle and Manufacturing. He then worked for Parker Hannifin Corporation for an additional 10 years ultimately responsible for World Wide Supplier Quality and Development. During his working career Thom served on the Kalamazoo – St. Joseph County Workforce Development Board for 16 years with several appointments as chair and vice chair of the Executive Committee. He currently volunteers as the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club - Community Liaison, Bike Friendly Kalamazoo, and various other bicycling advocacy organizations. Thom has been a Kalamazoo County resident for 34 of the past 38 years. His term expires 12/31/2024.



We also welcomed Michael Boersma to the Road Commission Board March 2019. Mr. Boersma is a resident of Oshtemo Township. He is an attorney with the Law Office of Michael E. Boersma, PC. He has been a transportation advocate at the state and local levels for over 15 years. He serves on the Board of the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, a local charitable non-profit. Michael has been a Kalamazoo County resident for over 30 years. His term expires 12/31/2024.



We thank Road Commissioners Daniel J. Moyle and David Q. Worthams for their combined 18 years of public service and wish them the best in future endeavors.

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.

Business hours 7:30am – 4:00pm, Monday through

Friday 269-381-3171 or call 911 for road related

emergencies after business hours.

Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Kalamazoo County

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

Deborah J. Buchholtz —2019 Chair

Alamo, Oshtemo, Richland Townships

David C. Pawloski —2019 Vice Chair

Prairie Ronde, Schoolcraft, Texas Townships

Larry Stehouwer

Comstock, Pavilion, Ross Townships

Thom Brennan

Brady, Climax, Charleston Townships

Michael Boersma

Cooper, Kalamazoo, Wakeshma Townships

Closed for the Holidays

April 19th

Good Friday

May 27th

Memorial Day

July 4th

Independence Day

September 2nd

Labor Day



Visit our Website

- Board Meeting Information
- Project Updates/News Releases
- 2019 Budget
- 2019-2023 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan
- Construction Guidelines
- Brochures
- Permit Applications
- Purchasing/Bid Information
- Road Data



Subscribe to our news feeds for up to date information.
www.kalamazooctyroads.com or email us at info@kcrs-roads.com