



County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

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Road Commission of Kalamazoo County honored with five statewide IMPRESS Awards!

LANSING, MI – The County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan honored the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) with three statewide IMPRESS Awards and two IMPRESS People’s Choice Awards at CRA’s Highway Conference in early March. IMPRESS Awards recognize county road agencies that demonstrate innovation on notable projects in the categories of Communication, Operations and Collaboration.

RCKC received an IMPRESS Award in Collaboration for “Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Public Act 51 Mileage Certification Maps” with County of Kalamazoo Planning and Development Department (County Planning); an Award in Communications for “Hybrid Board Meetings;” and an Award in Operations for “Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority and Active911.”

“RCKC has demonstrated excellence in a variety of categories this past year as they continually work to improve their county road network,” said Denise Donohue, CRA. “Their recognized projects are a strong example of how road agencies can make a difference in their communities.”

Collaboration

The RCKC partnered with County Planning to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to convert and present annual Public Act 51-required mileage certification maps. The new GIS mileage certification maps would be an improvement to RCKC’s previous system and offer a variety of possibilities and benefits in multiple departments. The collaboration also presented positive opportunities for County Planning and would mean that both County Planning and

RCKC would be able to present identical, more accurate maps to the public. This entry also won a People's Choice Award

Communication

In 2020 the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County began updating technology for virtual meetings, and implemented these modifications at their board meetings now following a hybrid format. These changes have provided both in-person and online forums for the meeting attendees. The hybrid meetings proved successful throughout 2021 when in-person meetings were discouraged and continue to increase attendance and communications in RCKC meetings.

Operations

The RCKC recently partnered with Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority (KCCDA) to introduce Active911, an emergency response software that coordinates with county dispatchers to send notifications to emergency responders, such as the RCKC, using a mobile application ActiveAlert. This communication tool between KCCDA and the RCKC assists both organizations in efficiently and effectively responding to emergency road-related situations. This entry also won a People's Choice Award.

An independent panel of communications and operations experts from several of Michigan's 83 county road agencies judged all IMPRESS Awards submissions. Award recipients were honored for projects that solved time constraints, labor costs, communication barriers and fostered collaboration.

The 83 members of the County Road Association of Michigan represent the unified voice for a safe and efficient county transportation infrastructure system in Michigan, including appropriate stewardship of the public's right-of-way in rural and urban Michigan. Collectively, Michigan's county road agencies manage 75% of all roads in the state, including 90,000 miles of roads and 5,700 bridges. County road agencies also maintain the state's highway system in 63 counties. Michigan has the nation's fourth-largest local road system.

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