Managing Director’s Message

LOOK FOR GREEN LIGHTS ON OUR EQUIPMENT

To promote safer driving conditions this winter season, the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) has currently begun the installation of green lights alongside our amber lights to improve visibility of maintenance vehicles especially in winter.

The green cone in the human eye is the most sensitive, and has the longest wavelength. What this means to us, is the green lights appear brighter and can be seen from farther away than other color lights, making them more suitable for enhanced visibility in inclement weather conditions - like snow.

Our mission is always that of safety, we anticipate the green lights will help motorists and ensuring safe maintenance operations for our team as well.

So the RCKC is going green in another effort of supporting safety along our road network.

In This Issue

Winners of “Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day” Poster Coloring Contest………….2
Record Breaking Preventative Maintenance Construction Season………2
Who is responsible for picking up litter and roadside debris……………….2
Removal of Dead Animals………………2
Seasonal Weight Restrictions……….3
Snow & Ice Removal Priority………4
Winter Driving Tips………………….4
Shake your Mailbox………………….5

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
The RCKC had a record year for our preventive maintenance program, finishing approximately 180 miles of road improvements. The RCKC chip seal and fog seal program is the most efficient and effective method of maintaining our road assets in good condition longer. Performing applications of chip seal and fog seal will protect and preserve the new hot mix asphalt (HMA) surfaces 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 preventative maintenance. Thank you to our team for all their efforts in this area.

Winners of the 2017 “Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day” Poster Coloring Contest

In support of “Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day”, the RCKC sponsored a poster contest to bring awareness to distracted driving. Kids ages 4-12 were asked to demonstrate what “Put the Brakes on Fatalities” meant to them.

The 1st place winners are Ezra Neef (6) of Kalamazoo, Layla Fluty (8) of Portage and Molly Searles (12) of Portage.

Record Breaking Preventive Maintenance Construction Season

The goal of Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day is to unite the country in achieving one full day of zero traffic deaths by encouraging safer behavior and actions, promoting safer roadways and vehicles, and creating improved ways to handle medical emergencies and enforcement of traffic regulations.

Who is responsible for picking up litter and debris from the roadside? i.e. mattresses, garbage, furniture, etc.

Road Commissions are responsible for the construction or maintenance of public roads within the state per Public Act 51. We are not responsible for roadside litter of any type. Some townships may have litter ordinances that apply for possible enforcement.

Removal of dead animals from the road or side of the road

You see them all the time and you understand that they are a harsh reality of the clash between nature and civilization.

If the animal is causing a road hazard or blocking the traveled portion of the road, RCKC crews will move the dead animal to the side of the road and let nature take its course. Our crews will make an effort, if we find a tag or telephone number, to contact the owner of a domestic dead animal. We will not dispose of any dead animals.
“All-Season” roads are those that have been designed and built with the appropriate wide and pavement thickness to withstand truck traffic loads all year long. Thus they are not subject to the Seasonal Weight Restrictions that are placed on most roads during the early spring.

Roads not constructed to “All-Season” standards are subject to a reduction in allowable loading and speeds. During spring, thawing of the ground below these roads softens the roadbed and makes the surface susceptible to damage from heavy loads.

As a general rule, primary roads are constructed to all-season loading standards. However, there are a few primary roads that require reduced loading during seasonal weight Restrictions. All residential subdivision streets, most local roads, and all gravel surfaced roads in Kalamazoo County are subject to a 35% percent reduction in allowable loading when Seasonal Weight Restrictions are in effect per MCL 257.722 Section (8).

Seasonal weight restrictions are legal limits placed on the loads trucks may carry. During late winter and early spring, when seasonal thawing occurs, the maximum allowable axle load and speed is reduced to prevent weather-related deterioration of roads.

Roads thaw out from the top down each spring and moisture is trapped on the surface. Heavy loads cause the deterioration of gravel and bituminous surfaces during this thawing period.

Seasonal Weight Restrictions are very important for the longevity of roads. The RCKC employs a weighmaster for enforcement of Seasonal Weight Restrictions on county roads.

For more information on Seasonal Weight Restrictions, permit applications and route notifications in Kalamazoo County visit the permits tab on our website at www.kalamazoocountyroads.com and throughout Michigan, visit www.micountyroads.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spacing Between Axles</th>
<th>Normal</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Feet or over</td>
<td>18,000 Lbs</td>
<td>11,700 Lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 3 ½ feet, but less than 9 feet</td>
<td>13,000 Lbs</td>
<td>8,450 Lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When part of tandem axle assembly</td>
<td>16,000 Lbs</td>
<td>10,450 Lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When less than 3 ½ feet, the combined weight shall not exceed</td>
<td>9,000 Lbs</td>
<td>5,850 Lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum load on any wheel shall not exceed (pounds per inch of tire width)</td>
<td>700 Lbs</td>
<td>450 Lbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How does RCKC prioritize snow and ice removal?

One of the most frequent questions we hear from residents during winter season is, “When will you plow my road?”

When winter weather affects road conditions, our goal is to provide safe traveling conditions. As part of the RCKC’s ongoing winter maintenance assessment for the 2017-2018 winter seasons, we have identified a level of service to provide improved and advanced coverage during peak travel and commute times. RCKC has incorporated a 3 shift program. 4:00 pm, 12:00 am, 7:30 am and 4:00 am when necessary. These changes incorporate our limited staffing and equipment for optimal coverage during winter storms to cover over 1,267 miles of roadway. The priorities within these shifts will continue to be;

- Designated snow route roads,
- balance of primary roads,
- through local roads,
- subdivision or plat streets, PLEASE assist in ensuring vehicles are not parked in roadways,
- and dead-end and cul-de-sac roads

Unfortunately, we do not have a specific time frame as to when roads will be cleared; it depends on winter maintenance conditions. Our staff monitors roads cleared to ensure all roads are plowed and not missed accordingly.

Snowplows Need Room to Groom

- Snowplows have limited visibility and drivers cannot see directly behind their trucks
- Snowplows often throw up snow clouds, reducing visibility on all sides of the truck
- Motorists should never attempt to pass a moving snowplow on the right. With new wing-plow technology, the blade can clear the shoulder and the lane of travel simultaneously. Motorists attempting an illegal pass through a snow cloud on the right and/or shoulder of the road most likely won’t see the plow blade and run the risk of a serious crash.

Don’t Shovel Snow Into the Road

REMINDER:
MCL 257.677a prohibits pushing snow and ice onto, or across, roadways and requires that people do not obstruct the safety vision of motorists.

Winter Driving Tips

- Avoid passing slow plows keep a safe distance
- Don’t use cruise control when roads are icy
- Accelerate and brake slowly. Avoid abrupt steering maneuvers, especially when changing lanes.
- Be extra cautious on bridges as they can icy when roads are dry. Take it slow and leave yourself extra time.
- Wear a seatbelt and avoid distractions while driving
- Don’t over or under-inflate tires

Upcoming Office Closures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 23</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 24</td>
<td>Day after Thanksgiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 22</td>
<td>Christmas Eve (Observed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 25</td>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Road related emergencies should be reported to 911. General service requests can be sent through our "contact us page" on our website at [www.kalamazocountyroads.com](http://www.kalamazocountyroads.com) or left on our after hours voicemail at 269-381-3171.
Shake Your Mailbox

RCKC is urging residents to help prepare for the snow and its removal by shaking their mailbox. In most instances where mailboxes are damaged the snow plow doesn’t actually hit the mailbox, the force of snow thrown from the roadway is enough to knock down a loose mailbox. Damage to these posts and receptacles can often be prevented by proper routine maintenance. Taking time to tighten screws and secure mail receptacles now can prevent serious headaches later, if the mailbox moves when shaken, the mailbox and/or post may not withstand standard snow removal operations and should be repaired or replaced prior to the onset of winter.

The RCKC regrets any damage to mailboxes and/or supports that occur as a result of road maintenance activities. RCKC will not assume responsibility for mailbox damage that may be caused by snow/ice that is being plowed from the roadway. An owner must clearly demonstrate the damage was caused by direct contact by RCKC equipment to receive consideration of a claim settlement per policy.

Remember to give your mailbox a good shake – and if it moves, it might be a good idea to replace before winter sets in!

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.

We welcome Jim Hoekstra, Traffic and Project Engineer; Tara Hendricks, Administrative Assistant—Operations; Rich Hassenzahl, assisting our Superintendent Team; Robert Robinson, Brent Thomson II, and Marvin Dake in our field operations team!

Visit our Website

- Board Meeting Information
- 2016 Annual Report
- Construction Guidelines
- Budget
- Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan
- Brochures
- Permit Applications
- Purchasing/Bid Information
- Road Data

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

Your Local Road Professionals for Over 107 Years Fall/Winter Newsletter 2017—Page 5 of 5