



Ten Tips for Work Zones

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission (KCRC) would like to remind motorists of safe driving tips in work zones.

Ten Tips for Driving Safely in Work Zones

- Expect the Unexpected
- Slow Down
- Follow designated DETOUR ROUTES
- Keep a safe distance between you and the car ahead of you
- Pay attention to signs
- Obey traffic regulators
- Stay alert and minimize distractions
- Keep up with traffic flow
- Schedule enough time to drive safely and check radio, television, newspaper and websites for updates
- Be patient and stay calm

2012 National Work Zone Awareness Week April 23-27

**SAFER DRIVING, SAFER WORK ZONES
FOR EVERYONE**

Managing Director's Message

We are very proud to report another year of meaningful projects in Kalamazoo County. These projects are being delivered as part of our on-going effort to prioritize the many infrastructure improvement projects necessary throughout the county.

The road commission prioritizes projects annually for improvements to best serve the public. The goal is to maintain our roads in good condition, making periodic investments in the pavement, rather than letting it deteriorate to a level that requires a major investment to bring it back to a good condition. Periodic maintenance investments typically total less than the major investment required to rebuild a road.

As we face economic challenges, the KCRC continues to review overall operations for improvement. We are happy to report these additional primary road projects for this 2012 construction season. As a result of our Board's leadership and continued dedication to put as many of our gas tax dollars out on our roadways, we are able to add these projects at a time of decreasing revenues and increasing expenses. These projects are in addition to over \$7 million dollars of 2012 primary road capital improvement plan projects, local road projects in partnership with our townships and routine maintenance operations.

- MN Avenue – 35th Street to Mercury Drive, Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay (Comstock/Charleston Townships) \$805,473
- 26th Street – H Avenue to M-43, Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay (Comstock Township) \$127,615
- 9th Street – O Avenue to Cracker Barrel Drive /O Avenue 8th Street to 9th Street, Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay (Texas Township) \$282,065

The 2012 National Work Zone Awareness Week is scheduled for April 23-27 – so remember this construction season that those orange barrels = progress in improving our infrastructure for the future. Please be patient and observe construction work zone signs.

Please watch for our weekly press release and/or subscribe to KCRC's news feed for updates at www.kalamazoocountyroads.com.

Along with our great team at KCRC, we continue to collaborate with our many contractors and vendors to bring you the best in quality workmanship in our roads, bridges, culverts, signs, and overall services.

Sincerely,

Joanna I. Johnson, Managing Director

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2012 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan Projects

37th Street from D Avenue to G Avenue

The roadway will be widened by 2 feet on each side with 2 foot gravel shoulders; a 2.5" hot mix asphalt overlay will be placed and minor roadside grading for drainage. The culvert at the Gull Lake outlet will also be replaced.

Ross Township

Funded by KCRC

Estimate \$950,000

River Street Bridge over Kalamazoo River

The River Street Bridge over the Kalamazoo River will be replaced. The bridge approaches will be resurfaced with hot mix asphalt from Comstock Avenue to M-96 (King Highway).

Comstock Township

Funded by KCRC/Federal State Bridge Program

Estimate \$2,900,000

Douglas & G Avenue

An intersection improvement project including reconstruction of the storm sewer, roadside grading for site distance and guardrail replacement.

Cooper Township/Kalamazoo Township

Funded by Federal Safety Program

Estimate \$214,600

9th Street from KL Avenue to M-43 (West Main Street)

9th street will be reconstructed and widened to three lanes between KL Avenue and Lexy Lane. Concrete curb and gutter and drainage improvements will be installed in this section. Between Lexy Lane and M-43 the roadway will be milled and resurfaced with 2 inches of hot mix asphalt.

Oshtemo Township

Funded by Surface Transportation Program

Estimate \$1,010,000

Nichols Road from Ravine Road to Barney Road

The roadway will be reconstructed and widened to three lanes. Concrete curb and gutter will be installed and drainage improvements will also occur.

Kalamazoo Township

Funded by KCRC

Estimate \$575,000

11th Street/ON Avenue from N Avenue to 12th Street

The ON Avenue section; the roadway will be upgraded to all season standards with trenching, ditching and a hot mix asphalt overlay. New curb will be added at the intersections, drainage improvements and guardrail replacement will also occur. For the 11th Street section; the roadway will be pulverized and surfaced with hot mix asphalt. The intersection of ON Avenue and 12th Street will receive a 3.5" concrete surface overlay.

Oshtemo Township/Texas Township

Funded by KCRC/Surface Transportation Program

Estimate \$710,000

Q Avenue from 43rd Street to 44th Street

The roadway will be upgraded to all season standards with a hot mix asphalt overlay and intersection improvements.

Climax Township

Funded by KCRC

Estimate \$230,000

Mosel Avenue at Riverview Drive

The traffic signal will be replaced and mast arms installed.

Kalamazoo Township

Funded by KCRC

Estimate \$180,000

Kalamazoo River Valley Trail Segment 3

The Kalamazoo River Valley Trail will be constructed from Mayor's Riverfront Park to Sprinkle Road. The trail includes a crossing at the Kalamazoo River just east of Mayor's Riverfront Park.

City of Kalamazoo/Kalamazoo Township

Funded by Federal Enhancement /Parks Foundation

Estimate \$1,255,000

Kalamazoo River Valley Trail Segment 4A

The Kalamazoo River Valley Trail will be constructed from Sprinkle Road to River Street, adjacent to M-96 (King Highway).

Comstock Township

Funded by Federal Enhancement /Parks Foundation

Estimate \$490,750

MN Avenue – 35th Street to Mercury Drive **ADDED MARCH 13, 2012**

The roadway will be cold milled with a hot mix asphalt overlay. Two foot gravel shoulders will also be placed.

Comstock Township/ Charleston Township

Funded by KCRC

Estimate \$805,473

26th Street – H Avenue to M - 43 **ADDED MARCH 13, 2012**

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

Two foot gravel shoulders will also be placed.

Comstock Township

Funded by KCRC

Estimate \$127,615

9th Street – O Avenue to Cracker Barrel Drive/ O Avenue 8th Street to 9th Street **ADDED MARCH 13, 2012**

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

Texas Township

Funded by KCRC

Estimate \$282,065



What you need to know about right-of-way encroachments

The KCRC reminds residents of policies for encroachments or obstructions in the county road right-of-way.

At the Board of County Road Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 the Road Commissioners voted to maintain current policies for Encroachment and/or Obstructions, including the Accommodation of Mailboxes.

“The Board understands encroachments and/or obstructions vary, however items located in the public right-of-way should not interfere with the safety of the traveling public or the maintenance and operation of the road system”, Chairman Kent McCauley said.

We recognize our time is limited to identify and follow up on all encroachments. Therefore, taking the time to review the road right-of-way and willingly address any issues can prevent headaches later.

The KCRC prohibits and, if necessary, removes any encroachments or obstructions in the county road right-of-way. The encroachments and obstructions range from vegetation, landscape, earthwork, signs, fences, buildings and other objects, including oversized mailboxes or posts.

Specifically, mailboxes are one of the only objects allowed by law to be placed in the road right-of-way.

What you need to know about mailboxes?

- The location and construction of mailboxes must conform to specific rules and regulations.
- Although steel tractor wheels, milk cans filled with concrete, bricks and other items are artistic, they present a serious roadside hazard to motorists.
- They also present a liability risk for residents. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) warns “private individuals and corporation, as well as governmental entities, may be liable for their roles in creating or maintaining highway hazards.”
- Non-conforming mailbox encroachments may pose issues with removal during road projects and are considered an unauthorized use of highway right-of-way.
- Michigan’s state and local road agencies follow the standards published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) in the Roadside Design Guide.
- Only one support should be used per box or group of boxes.
- Wood posts should be no more than 4 ½ inches diameter if round, 4x4 inches if rectangular.
- Metal pipes should be standard steel or aluminum with no more than a 2 inch inside diameter.
- Supports should yield or collapse if struck. They should bend or fall away from a vehicle and not create a severe deceleration.
- Supports cannot be fitted with an anchor plate (metal post), embedded over 24 inches into the ground, or set in concrete.
- Mailboxes shall be located on the right-hand side of the roadway in the direction of the delivery route except on one-way streets where they may be placed on the left-hand side. The bottom of the box shall be set at an elevation, established by the United States Postal Service (USPS), usually between 42 inches and 48 inches above the roadway surface.
- Mailboxes shall be constructed of plastic, aluminum and/or lightweight galvanized steel and conforming to requirements of the USPS. Newspaper delivery boxes shall be of light steel or plastic construction of minimum dimensions suitable for holding a newspaper.

These policies are not new to the KCRC or Road Commissions throughout the state. The policy review by the Board was a positive effort to ensure policies continue to be relevant and in public education.

Staff Highlights

General Superintendent: Travis Bartholomew
Citizens can call our office directly for routine service requests and/or your primary contact for service related issues by township is as follows:

- Jim Beaudoin, Area Superintendent
 - Alamo, Oshtemo, Prairie Ronde, Schoolcraft, Texas
- Bill DeYoung, Area Superintendent
 - Charleston, Comstock, Cooper, Richland, Ross
- Jeff Daughtry, Area Superintendent
 - Brady, Climax, Pavilion, Kalamazoo, Wakeshma



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 emergencies.

Visit our Website

- Board Meeting Information
- 2012 Budget
- 2012 – 2016 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan
- Road Data
- Project Updates
- Brochures
- Permits
- Maps
- Purchasing

Subscribe to our news feeds for up to date information.

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

Board of County 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:

Kent L. McCauley –2012 Chairman;
Brady, Climax, Pavilion

Daniel J. Moyle – 2012 Vice Chairman;
Alamo, Oshtemo, Richland

Kenneth R. Oscarson – Kalamazoo,
Prairie Ronde, Wakeshma

Jeffrie M. Maddox –Comstock, Cooper, Ross

Dennis J. Berkebile – Charleston, Schoolcraft, Texas

Educational Opportunities

To provide educational opportunities for local officials we are planning the following presentations at KCRC in 2012;

Traffic Safety Training for Elected/Appointed Officials
April 24th
8:00a.m. – 12:00 noon

The cost of the workshop is \$60.00; however the Michigan Department of Transportation is providing a \$40 scholarship to Michigan government agency personnel therefore reducing the cost to \$20 per person. To register, please contact the Center for Technology & Training 906-487-2102, so they may coordinate any scholarships as well.

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