



## 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

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

## Managing Director's Message

Do you ever wonder what happens to those service requests you log into our website "Contact Us" page or when you call our office? Do we really follow up? Do we review issues/trends and progress for responding? What services do we provide to respond to the variety of issues?

Annually our Board of County Road Commissioners of Kalamazoo County adopts a series of organizational goals, including a goal of response time to service requests. Service requests also help us align our policies and procedures consistently throughout the county. We have a variety of services and resources to respond to the various needs in the county.

*2013 Service Request Goal includes:*

**Goal: KCRC is seeking continuous opportunities for improvement in communication with the public and organizational development in the pursuit of excellence.**

*Including:*

*50 days to complete (close) service requests with a response/update to the citizen if the request will take longer than 25 days to close*

Service requests received are tracked in a computer system by issue and location. Staff tracks their status and we use them to pin point areas of concern or necessary maintenance. With the miles of roads and limited staff, service requests from the public assist us in timely infrastructure solutions. We also provide an update to our townships on the type of service requests received annually in the township.

We track "thank you" service requests and share those with our team. These are important to us and we appreciate the time individuals take to let us know we are doing well.

Since we began our new service request system in 2008 we have entered 12,391 service requests. Each of these is important to us and in the hands of your local road professional team to provide the very best in public service.

Sincerely,

Joanna I. Johnson, Managing Director

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## KCRC Facts Then and Now

2007

### Road Commission Equipment Fleet:

Trucks:	32
Loaders:	2
Excavators:	1
Graders:	3
Tractors:	1
Pick Ups, including 1-ton trucks:	26
Miscellaneous:	16

### Employees:

Road Commissioners:	5
Employees:	59

### County Road/Bridge System:

Primary Road Miles:	449
Local Road Miles:	811
Bridges:	58

### Signs & Signals:

Signs posted on roads:	19,300
Stop Signs:	2,480
Traffic Signals:	42
Flashing Lights at Intersections:	41

2013

### Road Commission Equipment Fleet:

35
2
1
3
1
27
17

### Employees:

5
44

### County Road/Bridge System:

449
816
60

### Signs & Signals:

20,446
2,395
47
41

## The Life of a Pothole

A pothole is like a tooth cavity. Left untreated, it gets more decayed, more painful, takes more time and money to care for, and sometimes you end up having to urgently, call for a specialist.

Potholes occur when snow and ice melt as part of Michigan's seasonal freeze thaw cycle. The resulting water then seeps beneath the pavement through cracks caused by the wear and tear of traffic. As the temperatures cool to freezing at night, the water becomes ice and expands below the pavement, forcing the pavement to rise. As the shallow divot occurs under the surface, the pavement breaks forming a pothole.

Unfortunately, as long as there are roads and change of seasons in Michigan, there will be potholes. And that means pothole patching. The KCRC uses cold patch material which is the best alternative in cold or wet weather and hot mix asphalt. We work hard all spring to ensure that holes are patched and roads are safe for travel. We also rely on our preservation treatments to assist in extending pavement life. These treatments include crack sealing, patching, chip sealing and thin hot mix asphalt overlays. **Remember, if you see our KCRC crews patching potholes – slow down and please be careful!**

## Breaking down Michigan's \$.19 state gasoline tax

*All gas tax monies go to the Michigan Transportation Fund to be distributed as follows:*

- \$.06 is used by the Michigan Department of Transportation to build and maintain all interstate, US and M numbered highways
- \$.06 is spread among 83 county road commissions/departments
- \$.035 is split by 533 cities and villages to support local road projects
- \$.02 is dedicated to public transit
- Less than \$.01 is used to finance road projects critical to economic development and compensates other state agencies which provide support for the transportation system.
- \$.005 is used to support local bridges, railroad crossings and recreational areas

**Unlike the sales tax which is a percentage of the sale price, the state excise taxes are fixed by the gallon. Michigan residents pay 19 cents per gallon for gasoline. The tax is the same if fuel costs \$2 or \$4.25 per gallon.**

**The sales tax on gas does not go toward roads.**

## **2013 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan Projects**

### **Sprinkle Road Bridge over Norfolk Southern Railroad**

Epoxy overlay of the bridge decks and concrete approach slabs. Vacuum and clean out bridge joints. Repair several damaged areas of guardrail and bridge rail. Repair the north east and block of Sprinkle Road bridge over the railroad

*Comstock Township*

Funded by Federal /State Bridge Program/KCRC

*Estimate \$142,000.00*

### **Sprinkle Road Bridge over Kalamazoo River**

Epoxy overlay of the bridge decks and concrete approach slabs. Vacuum and clean out bridge joints. Repair several damaged areas of guardrail and bridge rail.

*Comstock Township*

Funded by Federal State Bridge Program/KCRC

*Estimate \$208,000.00*

### **V Avenue**

The roadway will be reconstructed starting east of the Grand Trunk Railroad crossing and continue east to the V Avenue and 29th Street intersection. A 5" hot mix asphalt overlay will be applied. The project includes widening the roadway 3' with pavement and additional 3' gravel shoulders. The Indian Lake drain culvert will be replaced and also reconstruction of the roadway intersection at 29th Street will occur. Driveway culverts, ditching, and drainage structures will be utilized to manage storm water runoff

*Brady Township*

Funded by Rural Task Force-Federal/KCRC

*Estimate \$1,600,000.00*

### **Sprinkle Road**

The roadway will be improved starting at 500' north of Cork Street and ending at Comstock Avenue. The project includes milling the existing surface, and applying a 3" hot mix asphalt overlay. The existing culverts at Market Street will be replaced with one culvert.

*City of Kalamazoo/Kalamazoo Township/Comstock Township*

Funded by Surface Transportation Program

*Estimate \$1,500,000.00*

### **G Avenue**

The roadway will be reconstructed starting at 39th street to M-96. This project will involve a 5" hot mix asphalt overlay. The roadway will be widened with a 3' paved shoulder and 1' gravel shoulder. Guardrail work will also be included along the northeast edge of G Avenue curb toward M-96.

*Ross Township*

Funded by KCRC

*Estimate \$700,000.00*

### **Q Avenue**

The roadway will be improved between 10th Street and 12th Street. This project will involve milling 2.5" and applying a 2.5" hot mix asphalt overlay.

*Texas Township*

Funded by KCRC

*Estimate \$400,000.00*

### **Kalamazoo River Valley Trail Segment 4B**

The Kalamazoo River Valley Trail will be constructed from River Street to 35th Street. The 10 foot wide non-motorized trail way will continue along the Kalamazoo River to the City of Galesburg.

*Comstock Township*

Funded by Federal Enhancement/Parks Foundation

*Estimate \$1,376,000.00*

## Staff Highlights



We welcome **Geoff S. Wilson, E.I.T.** April 1<sup>st</sup> as our **Project Engineer**. Geoff comes to us from Materials Testing Consultants in Ann Arbor/Grand Rapids. He is a graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor in Science – Civil Engineering with a specialization in Transportation. He also worked as a Co-Op/Technician at the Eaton CRC. Geoff's extension is 224.



We welcome **James Wessing** April 29<sup>th</sup> as our **General Superintendent**. Jim comes to us from the Kalamazoo Area Christian Retirement Association where he served as their Director of Facilities. Jim's extension is 247.

April 15<sup>th</sup> we began transitioning the current *three* Area Superintendent duties to *two* positions of Jim Beaudoin as Project Superintendent and Bill DeYoung as Maintenance Superintendent. Friday April 12<sup>th</sup> was Area Superintendent Jeff Daughtry's last day at KCRC. We wish him all the best.

**Jim Beaudoin, Project Superintendent** your direct contact for local road improvements, local road contract/project management. Jim's extension is 246.

**Bill DeYoung, Maintenance Superintendent** your direct contact for routine road maintenance needs such service requests related to patching, gravel roads, guard rail, trees, signs, winter maintenance etc. Bill's extension is 245.

## Visit our Website

- **Board Meeting Information**
- **Construction Guidelines – Updated**
- **2013 Chip Seal Schedule**
- **2013 Budget**
- **2013 – 2017 Primary Road Capital Improvement Plan**
- **2013 Projects**
- **Brochures**
- **Permits**
- **Maps – *view our new interactive map***
- **Purchasing**
- **Road Data**

OR



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[www.kalamazocountyroads.com](http://www.kalamazocountyroads.com) or email us at [info@kerc-roads.com](mailto:info@kerc-roads.com)

## 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:

**Daniel J. Moyle – 2013 Chairman;**

Alamo, Oshtemo, Richland

**Kenneth R. Oscarson – 2013 Vice Chairman;**

Brady, Prairie Ronde, Wakeshma

**Dennis J. Berkebile –** Charleston, Schoolcraft, Texas

**Jeffrie M. Maddox –** Comstock, Cooper, Ross

**David Q. Worthams –** Kalamazoo, Climax, Pavilion

## Educational Opportunities

*Building of the Kalamazoo County Map*

**October 10, 2013 10:00 – 11:30AM**

**Please Mark Your Calendars!**

**All sessions will be held at KCRC at no cost**

*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 [info@kerc-roads.com](mailto:info@kerc-roads.com)  
Call 911 for road related emergencies.