



Road Commission
of Kalamazoo County

3801 E. Kilgore Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 381-3171
Fax (269) 381-1760
www.kalamazoocountyroads.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 30, 2020

Contact: Elli Blonde, Communications Administrator

Email: eblonde@kalamazoocountyroads.com

Phone: (269) 381-3170 x224

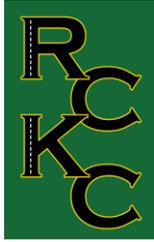
2020 Highlights for Road Commission Infrastructure

KALAMAZOO, MI – The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) is pleased to share the accomplishments of the organization for 2020. While this was a year full of contingency planning the high expectations held for performance and innovation remained in place. The RCKC oversees nearly 1,271 miles of road, which is comprised of 446 miles of primary road, and approximately 825 miles of local road. These totals include approximately 109 miles of gravel road. With the development of plats/subdivisions, the RCKC added nine (9) new road segments to the county local road system.

The RCKC managed 246 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects totaling \$27,785,027. This was a total of over 226 miles of roadway, both primary and local, that received various treatments. The treatments span from preventive maintenance like crack fill, chip seal, and fog seal, all the way to complete reconstruction of several stretches of road. Two of the projects included installing aggregate lifts on roads that had prolonged closures due to flooding – 8th Street in Oshtemo Township and O Avenue in Texas Township. Not to mention a few bridge projects too. In total, there were 28 miles of road paved, and nearly 120 miles across the county that were chip sealed. The full details of all projects will be included in the 2020 Annual Report, which is expected to be released in May of 2021. In the meantime, you can see a complete summary on the [Projects](#) page of the agency's website.

In the realm of communications, public-facing meetings were conducted virtually – a first for the agency. Bid openings, board meetings, and project informational meetings can now be accessed live from remote locations. Another staffing highlight is the award of “Urban Engineer of the Year” given to RCKC Traffic Engineer Jim Hoekstra from the County Road Association (CRA). Two CRA IMPRESS awards were given to the organization in March of 2020 in the categories of Communications and Operations. Additionally, the RCKC received “Project of the Year” in various categories from the American Public Works Association (APWA) Southwest Michigan Chapter.

In addition to the road innovations and technology implemented with conducting public meetings, there was new technology introduced within operations, too. Global Positioning System (GPS) technology was newly



Road Commission
of Kalamazoo County

3801 E. Kilgore Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 381-3171
Fax (269) 381-1760
www.kalamazoocountyroads.com

utilized for chip seal operations. Chip seal operations and regular preventive maintenance are one of the key explanations credited as to how Kalamazoo County has consistently ranked among the top in the state in terms of Pavement and Surface Evaluation Ratings (PASER). Operations also welcomed the addition of another new tool: iPads. The iPads have integrated GIS technology to provide turn-by-turn directions of optimized winter maintenance routes.

While COVID-19 had an impact on many things, the impacts to the budget will not be confirmed until after the first quarter of 2021. At this time, there has been a slight decline in Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) revenue, which is primarily funded through fuel taxes and vehicle registration. This decrease was expected as a result of the reduction in traffic for a period of time earlier in the pandemic.

The [2021 CIP](#) can be found on the agency's website. A press release will go out early in 2021 announcing the larger scale projects and a full listing of projects will continue to be provided. As we all look forward to the new year;

The RCKC has served as the local road professionals of Kalamazoo County since 1909. RCKC remains committed to the goal of using their 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.

###