



When the paving is done the restoration work is completed to help keep the water (potential ice in winter) off the road. The work of reseeding the right of way and grading the shoulders to drain the water off the roadway is extremely important.

Through continued innovation, asphalt provides a reliable and durable weather resistant surface available in no other medium, fulfilling the needs of both large



and small projects.

*This brochure is meant to give the reader an overall understanding of road construction. Each project may not include all the work described in this brochure. If you have questions regarding the project being performed in your area, please call*



840 South Telegraph Road  
Monroe, MI 48161



*Paving the way to....*



### ***Understanding Paving Methods: Asphalt***

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# Paving

The Monroe County Road Commission (MCRC) is committed to improving and maintaining the county roads for the safety of the traveling motorist. The MCRC takes seriously our responsibility to be good



stewards of the funds provided to our agency from the State fuel taxes and licenses fees. The funds are never enough to handle all the

projects that need to be done, however we do our best to stretch the available monies to preserve, maintain and upgrade the existing surfaces and road drainage.

One method of reaching this goal is paving. The MCRC has not always been in the paving business, however since we began this operation we have increased the number of miles of new and refurbished road surfaces throughout Monroe County.

The operation is expensive, however using MCRC crews has proven to be a cost effective and competitive method of making good use of the available funds.



# The



The MCRC has developed Road Improvement Guidelines with minimum pavement and grade widths for Routine, Preventative and Heavy Maintenance.

These guidelines are used whether the MCRC handles a project or the project is bid out to other contractors. The MCRC also works with township officials to maintain these practices on projects on local roads as well.

Road construction can include all or some of the following aspects of paving a road. It may include reshaping, leveling, grinding down the top layer to the base, or even removing the entire surface through the base and reconstructing the entire road. In most projects it also includes drainage work so that water can get off the road. It is understood in the road construction business that drainage is the most important aspect.



# Way

The gravel base is the second most important aspect of road improvement. A good base establishes the frame and support for the entire road. If the base is not stable then the road will not last for the life expectancy.

That is why road professionals will not simply put an overlay over a damaged road. A new surface will not hold up if the base is not substantial.



After the gravel base has been leveled, asphalt is laid. Asphalt functions like a roof over a strong gravel base. Asphalt pavement is usually laid in layers until the proper depth is achieved. That is why it seems to take so long because the crews must give one layer a chance to set before the next layer is applied. The base layer is a leveling course, the top layer is a wearing course. The



thickness of the asphalt is designed according to the weight of the vehicles that generally use the road. Lesser traveled roads are paved with a different depth than the more