



MONROE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

The Open Road

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National Work Zone Awareness Week kicks off in Michigan, April 9-13.

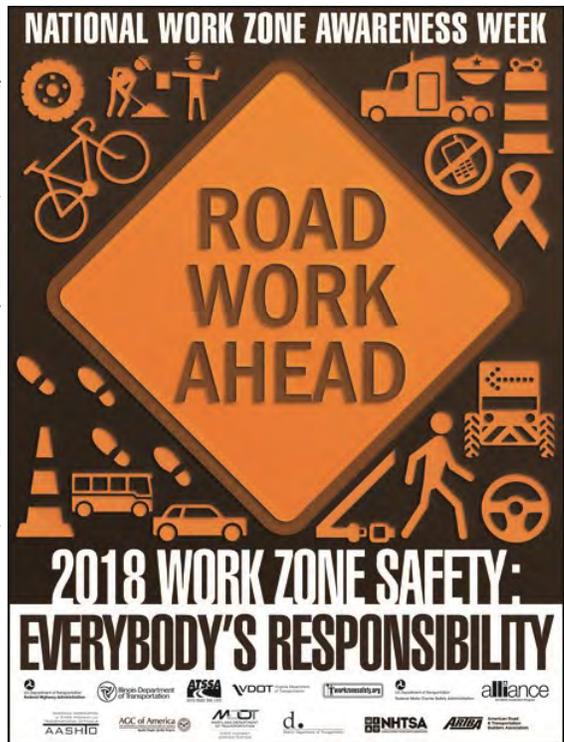
A national campaign to promote safety in highway construction zones is underway.

National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is an event that takes place across the United States, with partnerships between state departments of transportation, national road safety organizations, government agencies, private companies, and individuals. The start of National Work Zone Awareness Week is Monday, April 9.

Each year in the spring, National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is held to bring national attention to motorist and worker safety and mobility issues in work zones. Since 1999, the Federal Highway Administration has worked with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) to coordinate and sponsor the event. Over the years, other transportation partners have joined the effort to support NWZAW. In addition to a National event conducted each year, many states host their own NWZAW events.

As road construction projects begin across Michigan, it's a good time to remind drivers of the importance of safety in work zones. Distracted driving, especially in work zones, continues to be an issue. Each one of us has driven distracted in some way, shape or form in our life and it's a focus we have to maintain.

This year's national NWZAW's kick-off event will be held in Chicago and hosted by the Illinois Department of Transportation on April 10, and Go Orange Day is on April 11. All are encouraged to wear orange and post photos to help celebrate **Go Orange Day**.



Bedford Trade Fair

The Monroe County Road Commission once again hosted a booth at the 35th Annual Bedford Trade Fair held March 10-11, 2018 in the Bedford High School Gym.

As always, we enjoyed the time at the Bedford Trade Fair and appreciated those who stopped by the booth. We value all the comments (good and bad) from the citizens. **See you next year!**

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YOU ASKED A QUESTION

The MCRC often receives questions about a particular service or concern about the roadway. The Road Commission will try to address those concerns and questions. If you have a question you would like published in the bi-monthly newsletter, please forward it to Michelle at mcrc@mcrc-mi.org or 734-240-5102.

What are Seasonal Weight Restrictions?

One of the most common business interactions with a county road agency concerns seasonal weight restrictions – sometimes called “**frost laws.**”

While roads are concrete and asphalt and look indestructible, they can actually be quite fragile in late winter as frost comes out of the ground. Even strong late-winter sunlight on the dark paved surface has a significant impact on a road.

As frost melts beneath a paved road, the roadbed turns wet and spongy because water is trapped between the pavement and the remaining ice layer beneath. When trucks and heavy equipment travel over a layer of concrete or asphalt that isn't well supported beneath, lots of permanent cracks can occur.

All Season roads have been designed and built with additional strength and durability to withstand truck traffic year round. They are not subject to reduced load restrictions often placed on other Michigan roads during the early spring because they are built to withstand.

Road commissions must strike a balance between “business as usual” and protecting the roads, and most of them employ licensed Professional Engineers (PEs) to make these decisions. Most usually consult neighboring road agencies, as well.

Seasonal Weight Restrictions are legal limits placed on the loads trucks may carry by lowering the axle-loading limit and reducing the travel speeds for certain vehicles. During late winter and early spring, when seasonal thawing occurs, the maximum allowable axle load and speed is reduced to prevent weather-related breakup of roads.

By law, road agencies can enact weight restrictions on any roads not designed as “all season” roads. All season roads are much thicker and designed to allow trucking year around.



HOW TO SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR SERVICE REQUESTS

To submit a service request, [the following information is required:](#)

- *Name, Address, Phone Number of person submitting the request
- *Email Address of person submitting request
- *Location - Road Name where work is needed and Township
- *Between What 2 Roads (E/W, N/S)
- *Issue/Concern - be as specific as possible (i.e. pothole, drainage, etc.).

NOTE: without **ALL** the above itemized information a service request cannot be put into our system for action.

Contact the office at 734-240-5102 or visit the MCRC webpage at www.mcrc-mi.org. Thank you.

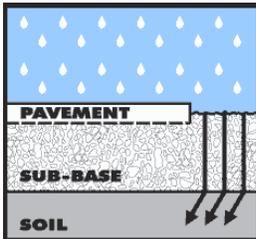


THE ESSENCE OF CHANGE

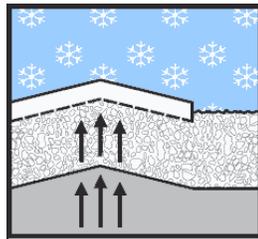
Learn to change, and you will begin to recognize that life is a constant motion, and every change happens for a reason. When you see boundaries as opportunities, the world becomes a limitless place, and your life becomes a journey of change that always finds its way.

WHAT CAUSES POTHOLES??

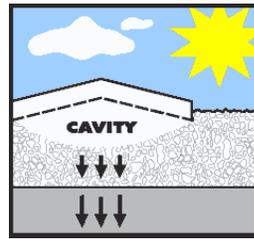
With the severe winter weather experienced in Michigan, motorists will more than likely encounter more potholes. Potholes occur when snow and ice melt as part of Michigan's seasonal freeze-thaw cycles. The resulting water then seeps beneath the pavement through cracks caused by the wear and tear of traffic. As the temperatures cool to freezing at night, the water becomes ice and expands below the pavement, forcing the pavement to rise. As the weight of traffic continues to pound on this raised section – and the temperatures once again rise above freezing – a shallow divot occurs under the surface and the pavement breaks, forming a pothole. A pothole is typically fixed by cleaning out the loose debris and filling it with hot and cold asphalt patch.



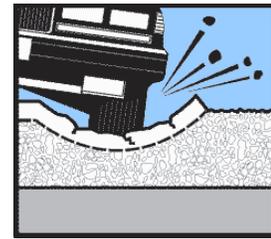
STEP 1: Potholes begin after snow or rain seeps into soil below the road surface.



STEP 2: The moisture freeze when temperatures drop, causing the ground to expand & push pavement up.



STEP 3: As the temperature rises, the ground returns to normal level but the pavement often remains raised. This creates a gap between the pavement & and the ground below it.



STEP 4: When vehicles drive over this cavity, the pavement surface cracks and falls into the hollow space leading to the birth of another pothole.

ADOPT A ROAD/HIGHWAY PROGRAM

Adopt-A-Highway is a Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) program designed to help keep the state's highway roadsides clean and attractive. Adopt-A-Road is a similar program that keeps the county's primary roads clean and appealing. Participants adopt both sides of a section of a highway or roadside to clean up for at least a two-year period. A minimum two-mile stretch of roadway is recommended. This program has been in existence since 1990 and local groups across the state have collected over a million bags of trash.

Has your group or organization wanted to do a service for the community that doesn't cost you anything, but time? Did you know that Monroe County has its own "Adopt-A-Road" program that is managed by the Monroe County Road Commission (MCRC)?

The MCRC asks participating groups for three (3) appointed times per year to clean up a road side designated to their organization. To help you do that, we provide you with a safety video to be viewed each year, the safety vests, bags and removal of the bags. After each pick-up, you will need to send us information detailing how many bags that you picked up, how long it took, and how many people were involved. In recognition of your service, the MCRC will provide signs with the organization/group name at each end of your designated route.

It's that time again and we are getting ready for the 2018 program. Our 2017 program was very successful and we hope the success will continue again this year. Go to the MCRC website at www.mcrc-mi.org to find out more information. Then call the Adopt-A-Road Coordinator @ the MCRC [734-240-5102] to get a list of available primary roads in your area. If you are interested in participating in the upcoming year, you can pick up an application or go to our website and complete the application and return to the Road Commission.

Pick up dates for 2018 are as follows:

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY:

April 13-22, 2018
July 13-22, 2018
Sept. 21-30, 2018

ADOPT-A-ROAD

April 20-22, 2018
July 20-22, 2018
Sept. 28-30, 2018



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County Road Association of Michigan celebrates a century advocating for Michigan's county road system

Lansing, MI — For 100 years, the County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan has promoted the collective efforts of Michigan's 83 county road commissions and departments to maintain safe and efficient roads and bridges.

CRA was first organized on February 28, 1918 in Ann Arbor as the Michigan Association of Road Commissioners and Engineers. The purpose of the organization was to advocate for greater efficiency of county road system operations in the state. Little has changed about CRA's core values, mission, and quest for innovation and improvement in the local road system – the 4th largest road system in the U.S.

Located in downtown Lansing, CRA brings together the member agencies on matters of common interest, putting together the best minds, operational practices and seeking legislation to achieve the goals of its 83 members. County road agencies also work with the Michigan Department of Transportation under maintenance contracts in 64 counties.

"Our county road agency staff are government employees with a business attitude," said Denise Donohue, director of the County Road Association of Michigan. "We have always been an organization of hard work and resilience because of the foundation laid before us, and our centennial year provides an opportunity to reaffirm that foundation."

CRA also affects the importance of properly funded roads in the Michigan Legislature. In 1932, the McNitt Act consolidated the road miles of thousands of townships under 83 existing county road agencies as a property tax relief measure.

The total road miles under county road supervision increased from 17,000 to 85,000 miles because of the McNitt Act, fundamentally changing the scope of each county road agency and the Association.

"Michigan has one of the largest system of local roads in the country, so our work is never done to ensure quality roads and bridges across two peninsulas," commented Steven A. Warren, 2017-2018 president of the County Road Association of Michigan. "Michigan is also one of the few states that handle a freeze-thaw cycle, which speaks to the tenacity of county road agencies to help sustain good roads for everyday use."

Today, county road commissions and departments maintain 90,000 miles and 5,700 bridges – or 75 percent – of state roads, with a modern focus on asset management of human and financial resources. The Transportation Asset Management Council was created in 2002 by the Michigan Legislature to complement CRA's grassroots approach to solving areas of concern.

Last year, local roads began to see new dollars from a 2015 road funding package that will total \$1.2 billion by 2021. The package came in part after a decade of advocacy on behalf of county road agencies and CRA to address deteriorating roads.

"Roads are a fundamental part of modern society, and taking care of them will always be critical," Donohue said. "The County Road Association has stood the test of time with our member county road agencies to advocate for their well-being."

"We look forward to the future of promotion and contribution to the improvement of Michigan's transportation infrastructure," said Donohue.

CRA Quick Facts:

William P. Rosso served as the first president of the Association in 1918.

There have been 96 presidents of the CRA to date.

CRA's previous offices were located at 120 W. Ottawa St. in Lansing, Mich.

Michigan has the fourth-largest system of local roads in the United States.

Crossroads magazine is the official quarterly journal of the County Road Association of Michigan.

The 83 members of the County Road Association of Michigan represent the unified voice for a safe and efficient county transportation infrastructure system in Michigan, including appropriate stewardship of the public's right-of-way in rural and urban Michigan. Collectively, Michigan's county road agencies manage 75 percent of all roads in the state, including 90,000 miles of roads and 5,700 bridges. County road agencies also maintain the state's highway system in 64 counties. Michigan has the nation's fourth-largest local road system.



Contacting MCRC

If you need information about a road project or want to report a pothole, traffic signal problem or other road concern, please call the MCRC at 734-240-5102, email us at mcrc@mcrc-mi.org or visit us on the web at: www.mcrc-mi.org

Board of Road Commissioners:

*Paul Iacoangeli, Chairman
Dan Minton, Vice Chairman
Stephen J. Pace, Member
Charles Londo, Member
Greg W. Stewart, Member*

MONROE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

840 S. Telegraph Road
Monroe, Michigan 48161
734-240-5102 ■ 734-240-5101 (Fax)
Website: www.mcrc-mi.org

**Lobby hours - Monday through Friday
7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.**

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Monroe County Road Commission vows to provide quality, courteous and dependable professional services through innovative, cost-effective ways to maintain our road system through transparency, trust and collaboration between citizens, business and government.

