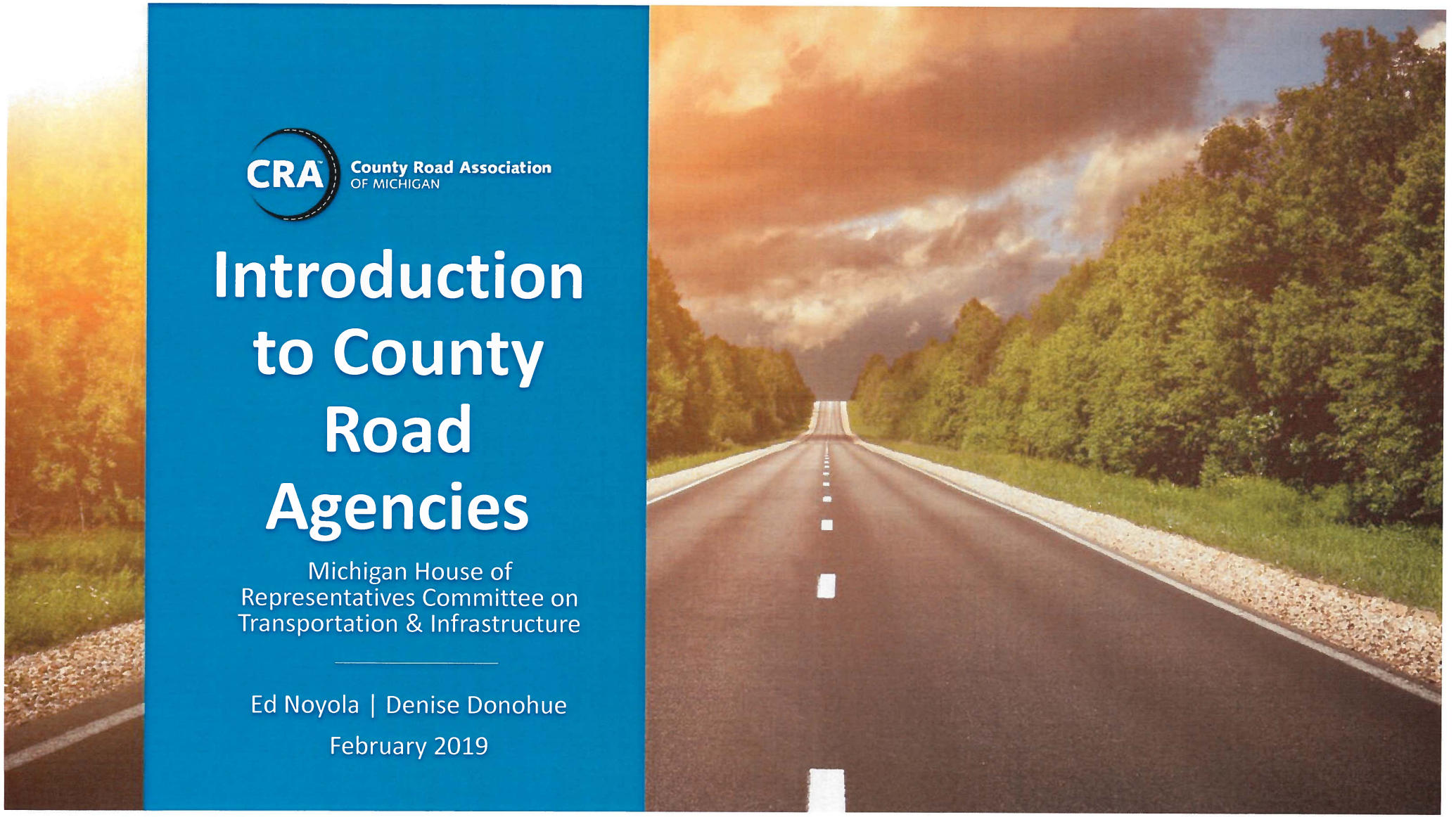


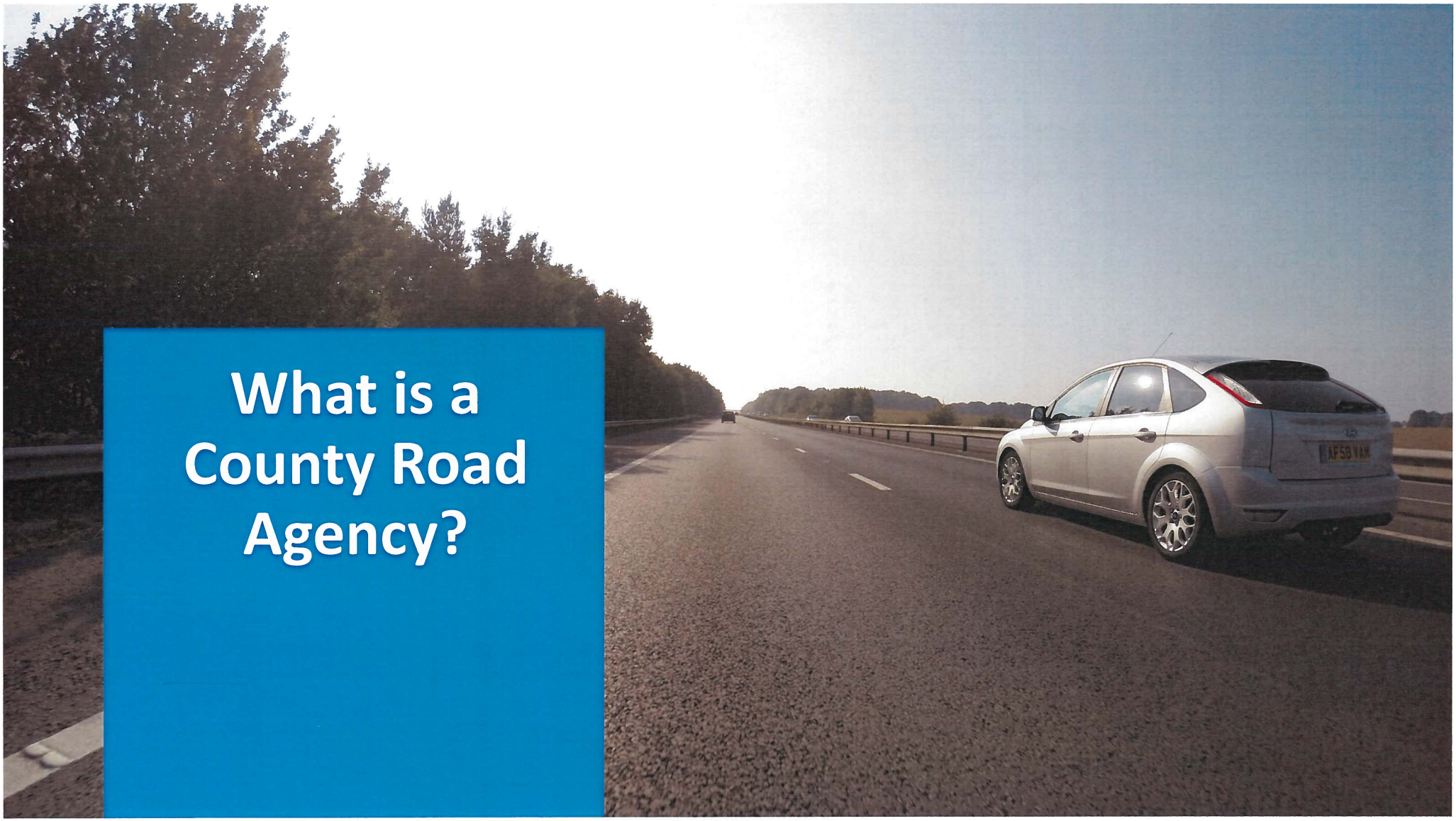
County Road Association OF MICHIGAN

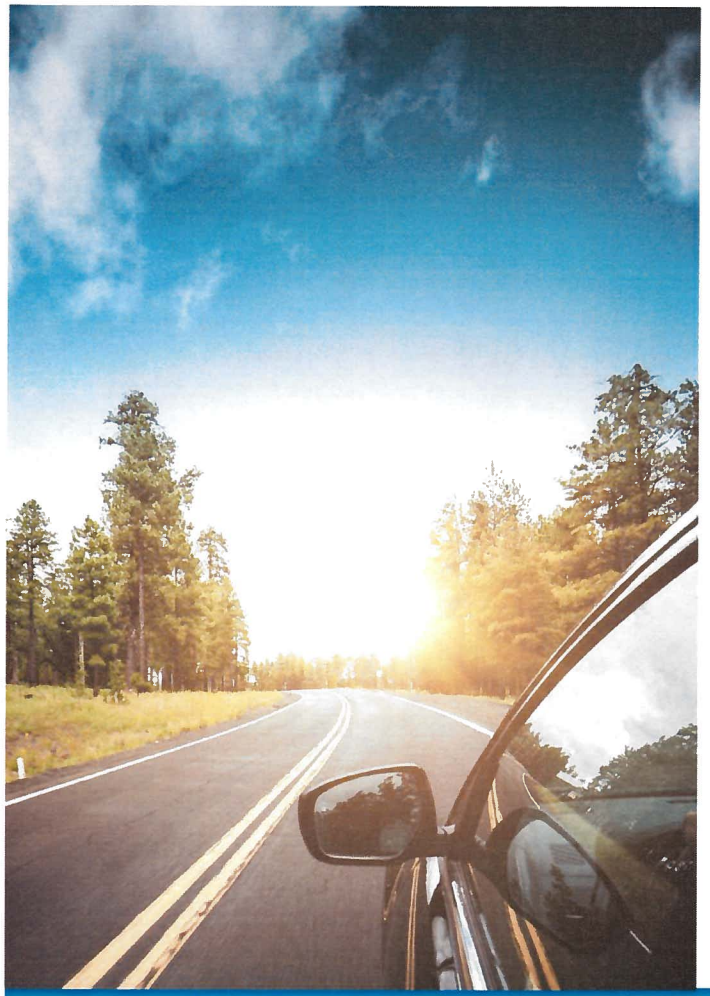
Introduction to County Road Agencies

Michigan House of Representatives Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

Ed Noyola | Denise Donohue

February 2019

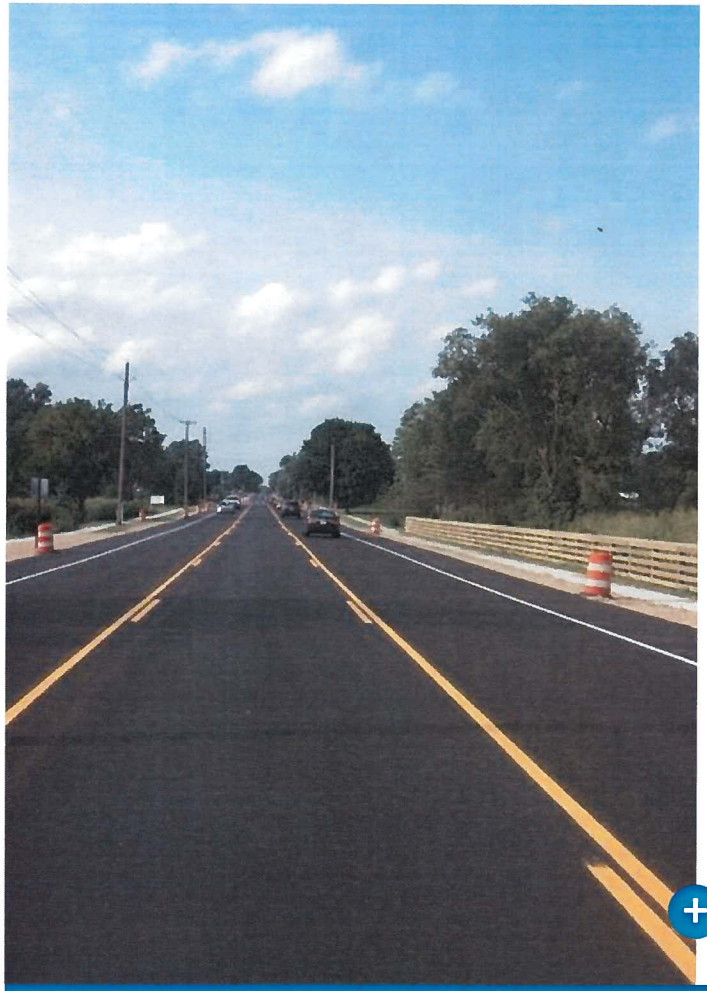

What is a
County Road
Agency?



77 County Road Commissions and 6 County Road Departments.

P.A. 283 (1909) created county road commissions to:

- Maintain high-quality, cost-efficient roads and bridges for Michigan residents.
- Develop county-wide seamless systems of roads, bridges across the state under local control.
- Manage rights-of-way (ROW) to ensure road integrity, safety.



Michigan County Road Agencies are …

Responsible for 75% of Michigan's road miles.

= 90,210 miles of roads (124,001 total).

- 27,277 miles of primary roads.
- 62,933 miles of local roads.

= 5,724 bridges (11,061 total).

= Thousands of culverts.

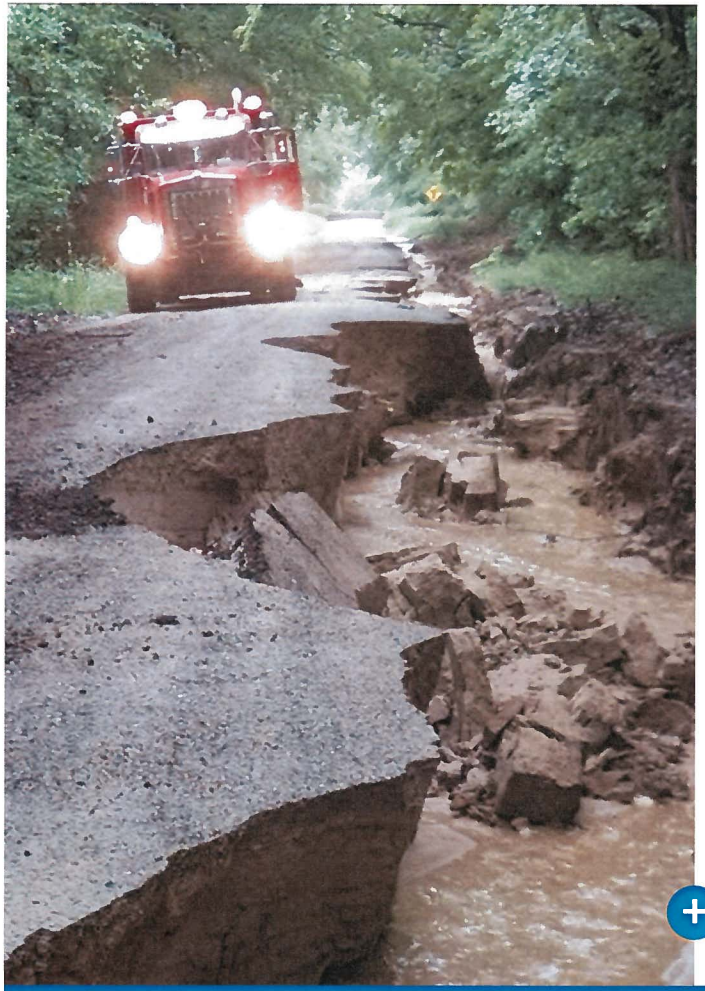
Quick fact: Michigan has the 4th-largest system of local roads in the US.

Michigan County Road Agencies …

Maintain highways in 64 counties* under 5-year contracts with MDOT.

- **Winter Maintenance** = Snow clearing, salting, pot hole patching, replacing guardrails.
- **Non-Winter Maintenance** = Mowing, vegetation control, pot hole patching, roadside clean-up, tree removal, ditching, etc.
- **Some counties subcontract** mowing, other tasks.
- **"Whole ball of wax."**

** Two counties have given notice to withdraw.*



Michigan County Road Workers are …

Public employees:

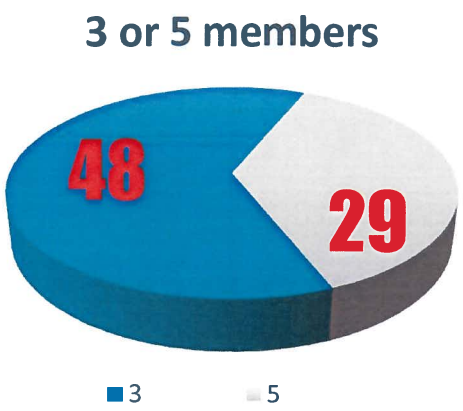
- On the job by 7 a.m., often earlier
- On-call **24/7, 365** days.
- The **pre-responders** in severe weather conditions.
- About half the number of employees vs. 10 years ago.

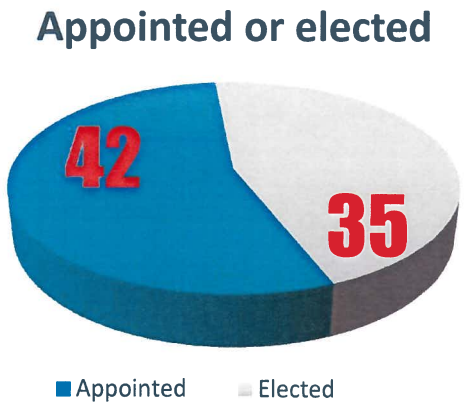
We are public servants with a business attitude.

What are County Road Commissioners?

Boards of Directors for county road commissions are ...

- 3 or 5 members.
- Appointed or elected.
- Salary, benefits set by county board of commissioners.
- Responsive to community's needs.






Collaboration
is a Core Value
for County
Road Agencies.

Core Value: Collaboration.

83 counties – grassroots, community connections, media-responsive

- **9** peer-to-peer councils – quarterly meetings.
- **14** standing committees.
- **4** regional associations – biannual meetings.
- Multiple neighborhood groups, e.g.“ Frugal 5.”
- **1** statewide association.

What is the County Road Association of Michigan?

Since 1918 ...

- 83 county members.
- Highway Conference meetings – 1,000+ attendees.
- 4 special-focus conferences.
- 7 staff, contracted engineer.

CRA's mission:

"To help our members promote and maintain a safe, efficient local road system in rural and urban Michigan including appropriate stewardship of the public's right-of-way."

Protecting the Road Right-of-Way.

An emphasis on roadways and bridges leaves out an important part of the road infrastructure:

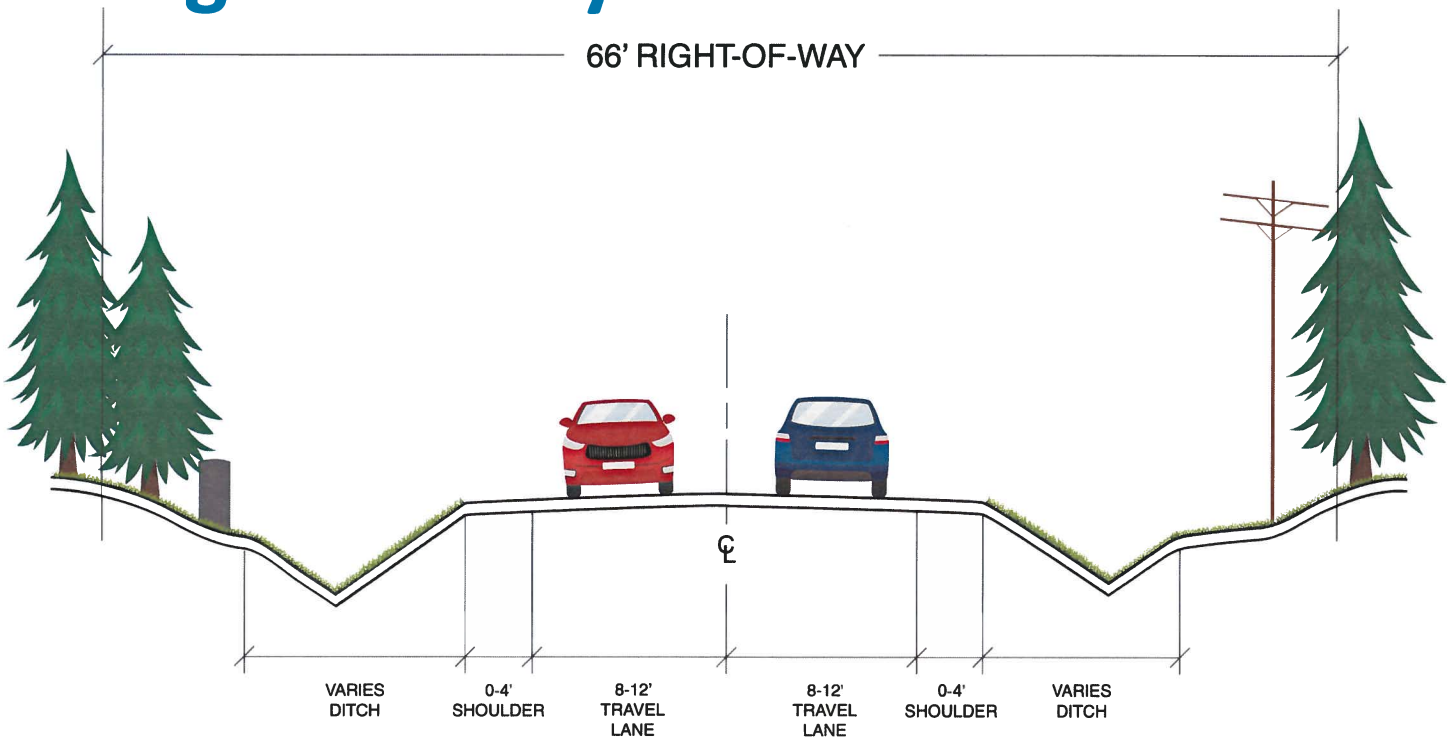
The right-of-way (ROW):

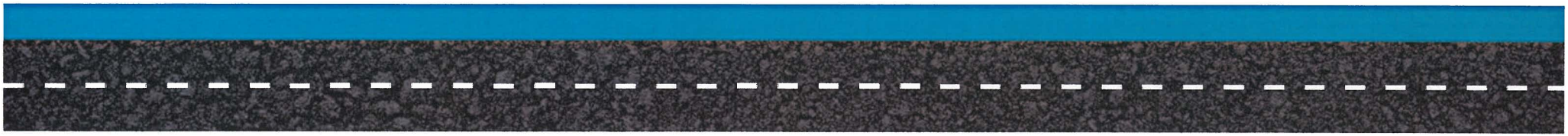
- Created to **ensure driver safety** and ...
- Manage **H_2O** (ditches) to **protect roads**.
- Public utilities added in mid-1930s.
- **Increasing:** Private business pressure (broadband, etc.)!

ROW has **maintenance costs:** Brushing, ditching/re-grading, tree removal.

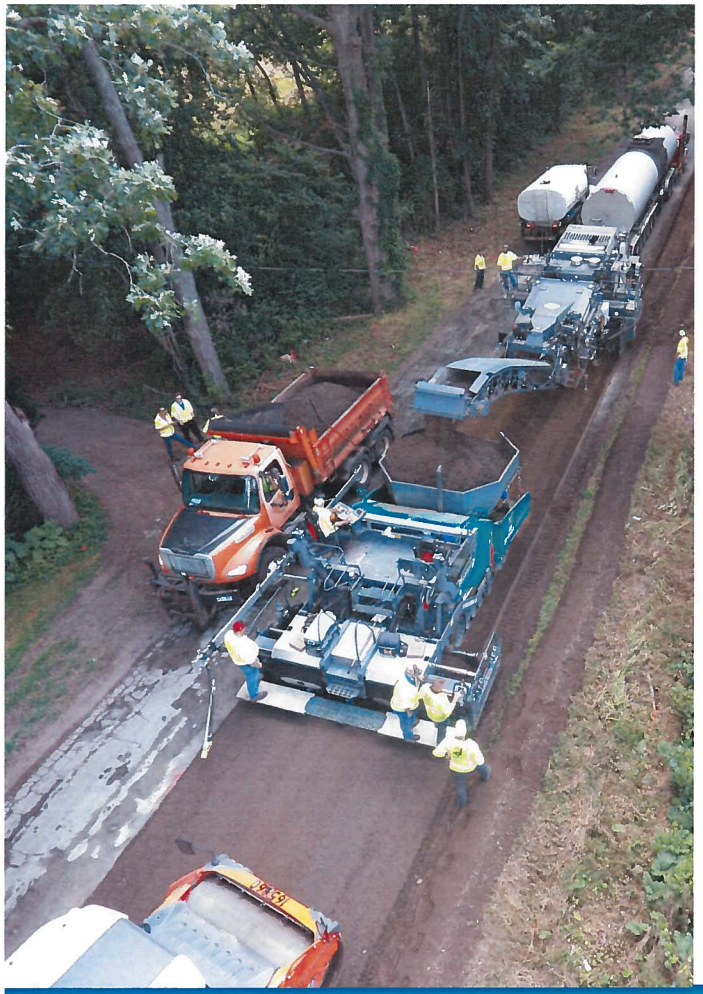
+ *Also used by ORVs, snowmobiles.*

Road Right-of-Way illustrated.






Innovation
is a Core Value
for County
Road Agencies.



Core value: Innovation.

Special-focus task forces:

- Rural Task Force – regional planning.
- Regional/statewide purchasing.
- Equipment sharing.

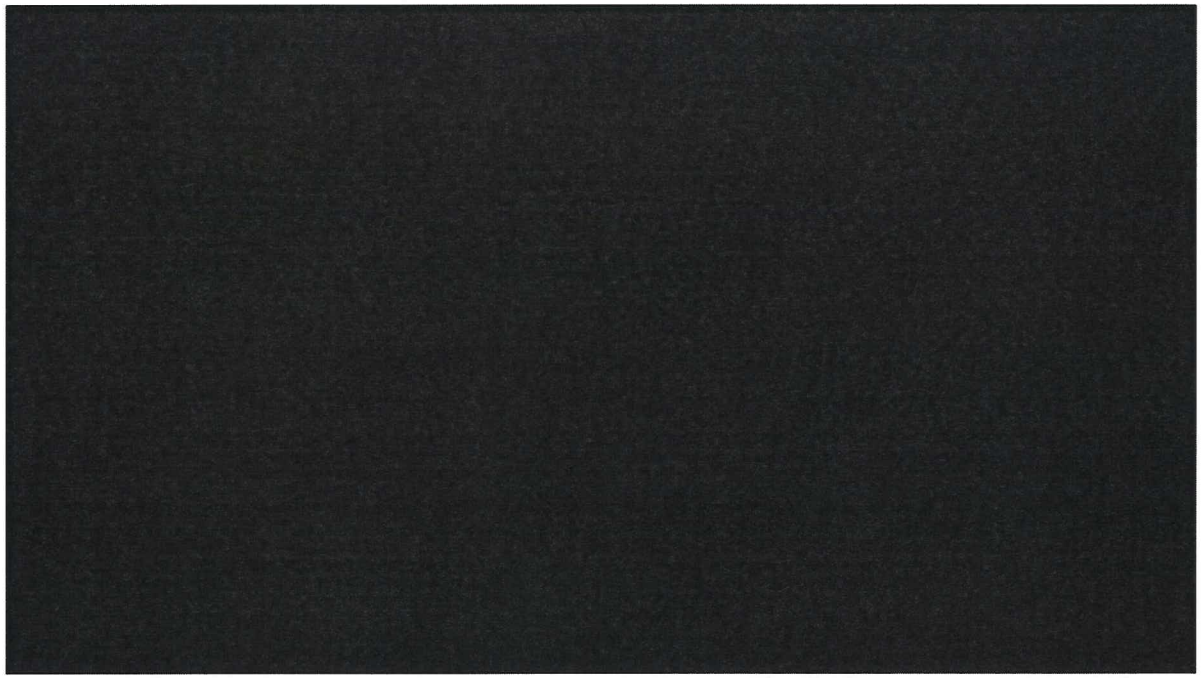
Shared engineering specialist

NEW! Local Federal Fund Exchange

Innovation in Funding

Since 2017: Federal Fund Exchange

Getting more "bang for the buck" from federal road funds.



Mark Christensen

Superintendent/Manager

Montcalm County Road Commission


Efficiency
is a Core Value
for County
Road Agencies.

Core value: Efficiency

County road agencies are models of efficiency.

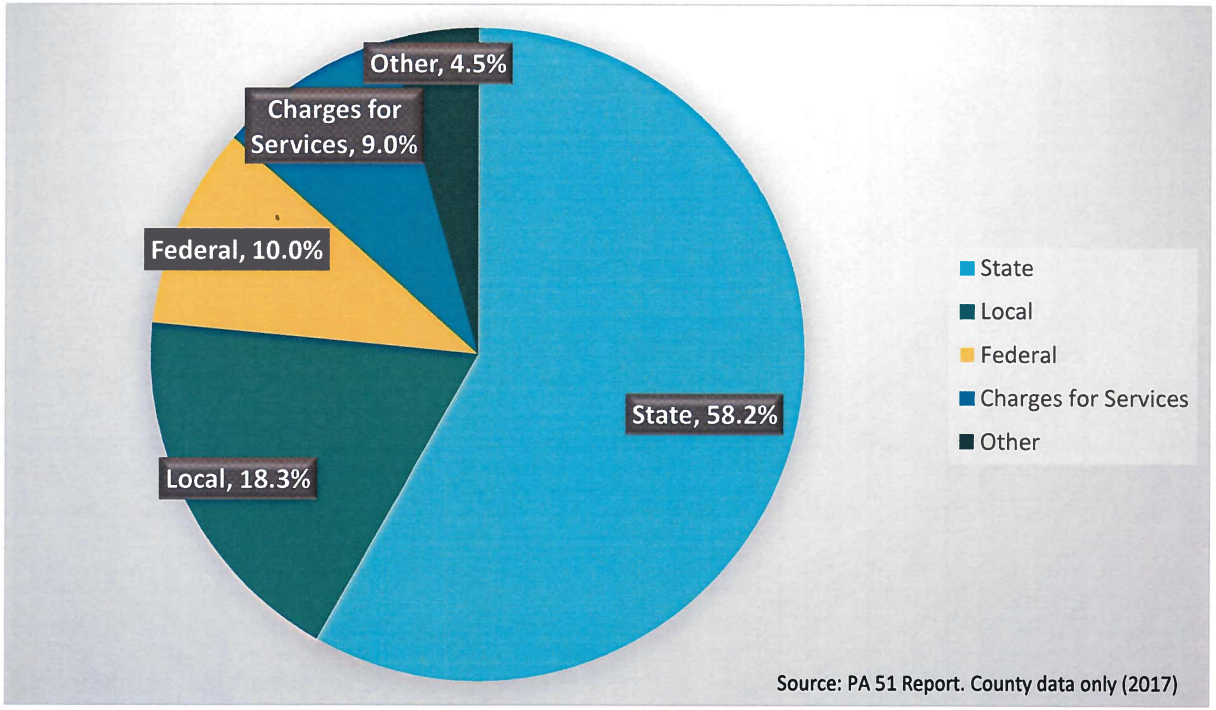
- Fiscally-constrained culture.
  - Debt and bonds are rare.
  - Average 8% overhead.
- Must have local dollars to match federal funds.
- By law, **local match** required for "local road" construction.

Source: 2017 PA 51 report

County Road Agency Revenue.

- **31 countywide road millages.**
- **Hundreds of township millages.**
- **Special assessment districts.**

County road agencies get state, federal and local dollars. Have no taxing, debt-bonding authority.



Local Contributions to Roads.

County road agencies' PA 51 local funds:

- **$284 million** from counties, cities, villages, townships.

Additional local funds:

- **$46 million** from townships.
- **$235 million** from municipalities.

Total local contribution:

- **$565 million**

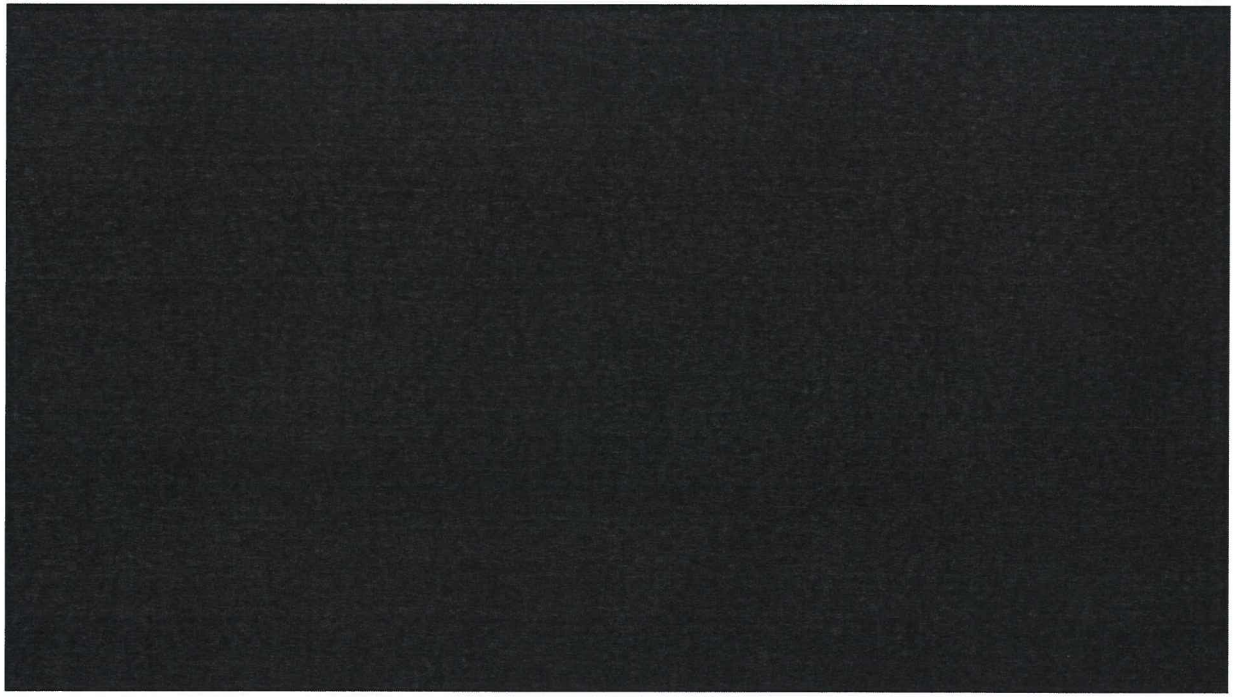
Source: 2017 PA 51 report

Leveraging State Road Funds Locally.

Dirk Heckman, PE

Engineer/Manager

Mackinac County Road Commission



County Road Agencies are trusted problem solvers.

Public supports the work of local road agencies!

August 2018 primary results:

- **95%** of local road millages passed.

August 2016 primary results:

- **93%** of local road millages passed.

August 2014 primary results:

- **92%** of local road millages passed.

Since 2008, 100% of countywide millages have been renewed.

Shared decision-making: County road agencies use asset management principles and collaborate with townships, cities, villages, counties on project and millage decisions. They also work with businesses, utilities and others.

The Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy >> University of Michigan

Michigan Public Policy Survey May 2015

Michigan local leaders have positive views on relationships with county road agencies, despite some concerns

By Michael G. Crawford and Thomas Ivacko

This report presents the opinions of Michigan local government leaders and officials from the state's county road agencies regarding the relationships between local governments and county road agencies, as well as local officials' ratings of road agency performance and related issues. The findings in this report are based on a statewide survey of local government leaders and county road commissions and departments in the Fall 2014 wave of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS).

>> The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) is a census survey of all 1,856 general purpose local governments in Michigan conducted by the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) at the University of Michigan in partnership with the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Townships Association, and Michigan Association of Counties. The MPPS takes place twice each year and investigates local officials' opinions and perspectives on a variety of important public policy issues. Respondents for the Fall 2014 wave of the MPPS include county administrators, board chairs, and clerks; city mayors and managers; village presidents, managers, and clerks; and township supervisors, managers, and clerks from 1,754 jurisdictions across the state.

For more information, please contact: closup-mppp@umich.edu/ (734) 647-4091. You can also follow us on Twitter @closup

CLOSUP Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy

GERALD R. FORD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Key Findings

- Local leaders overall express positive opinions of the road commissions and road departments that maintain county primary and township roads in their jurisdictions.
  - On five of seven statements about their road agencies—especially regarding working relationships, communications, and the quality of road work—large majorities of local leaders give positive assessments.
  - On two statements—regarding financial matching requirements imposed on local governments by their road agencies, and the agencies' transparency—slim majorities of local leaders give positive evaluations.
- Despite the overall high approval ratings, local leaders from villages and cities are less likely to give positive ratings of the road agencies, compared to leaders from townships and county general purpose governments.
- In addition, local leaders from the Southwest, Southeast, and Upper Peninsula are less likely to give positive ratings, compared to their counterparts from the Northern and Central Lower Peninsula.
- In 78 of Michigan's 83 counties, road governance for county primary and township local roads is currently vested in "special purpose" road commissions. In the other five counties these duties have been transferred to the relevant general purpose county government. When asked on the MPPS, only 17% of local leaders statewide think their road commissions should be disbanded, with the road duties taken over by the general purpose county governments. This increases to 21% among village leaders and 36% among city leaders.
  - Nearly three-quarters of local leaders (73%) prefer a special purpose road commission which focuses only on roads, instead of a general purpose county government. Overall 49% prefer elected road commissioners while 24% prefer an appointed board.

www.closup.umich.edu

County Road Agencies are trusted.

CRA™

Local government partners support county road agencies.

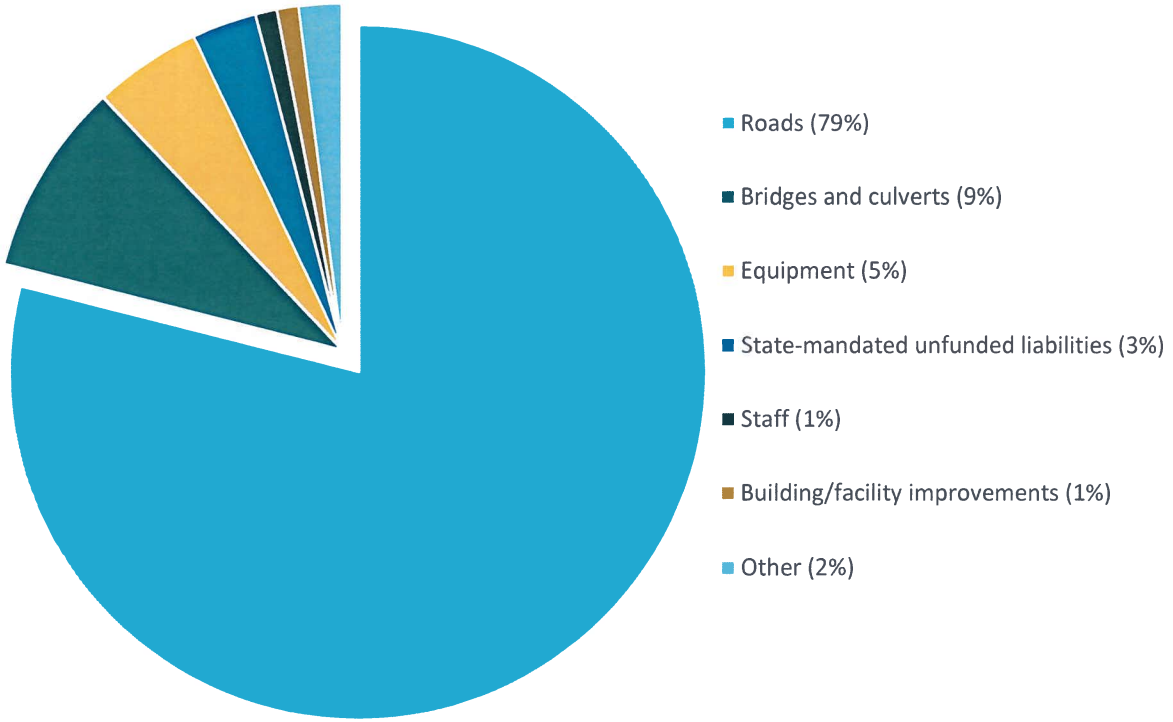
University of Michigan CLOSUP Michigan Public Policy Survey in 2015:

- 78% of local governments have "good" relationships with county road agencies;
- 76% say county road agencies provide timely response;
- 68% say county road decisions are "fair"; and
- 68% approve overall of their county road agency.


2015
Transportation
Funding:
Reporting
Back.

How New Road Dollars Are Being Used

CRA survey shows 88% of new funds going to roads bridges and ROW.



Matching Funds for Townships is Increasing

In 2016 ...

- **29%** matched township funds on average **37%.** Others gave stipend.

In 2017 ...

- **27%** matched township funds on average **39%.**

In 2018 ...

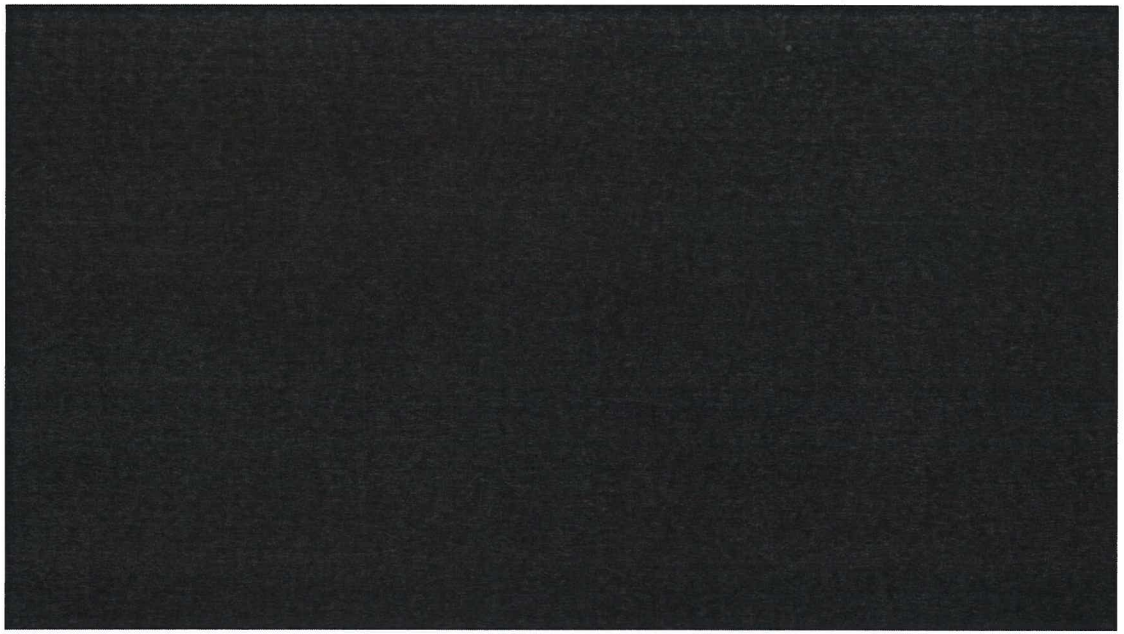
- **30%** matched township funds on average **40%.**

Efficiency with 2018 Supplemental

Rob Laitinen, PS

Superintendent/Manager

Chippewa County Road Commission



NEW! Local Pavement Warranties.

Required by 2015 Transportation Package.

- Accepted by 521 municipalities, 83 road agencies.
- Collaborating with industry:
  - Michigan Concrete Assoc., Asphalt Paving Assoc., MITA.
- Will cover concrete, asphalt projects with a **paving component** of **$2 million** or more.
- Every local road agency will adopt **same warranty** by September 2019 – probably 1st in nation.

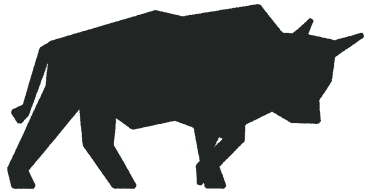
NEW! Standardized Permits Revised.

CRA

CRA's Permit Subcommittee has updated 11 permits all 83 counties are considering.

NEW! E-permitting!

- 24/7, 365 e-access.
- E-pay, e-signature, e-permit.
- Oxcart System (Michigan and Illinois).
- 24 county road agencies using.
- **NEW!** Regional adoption underway.

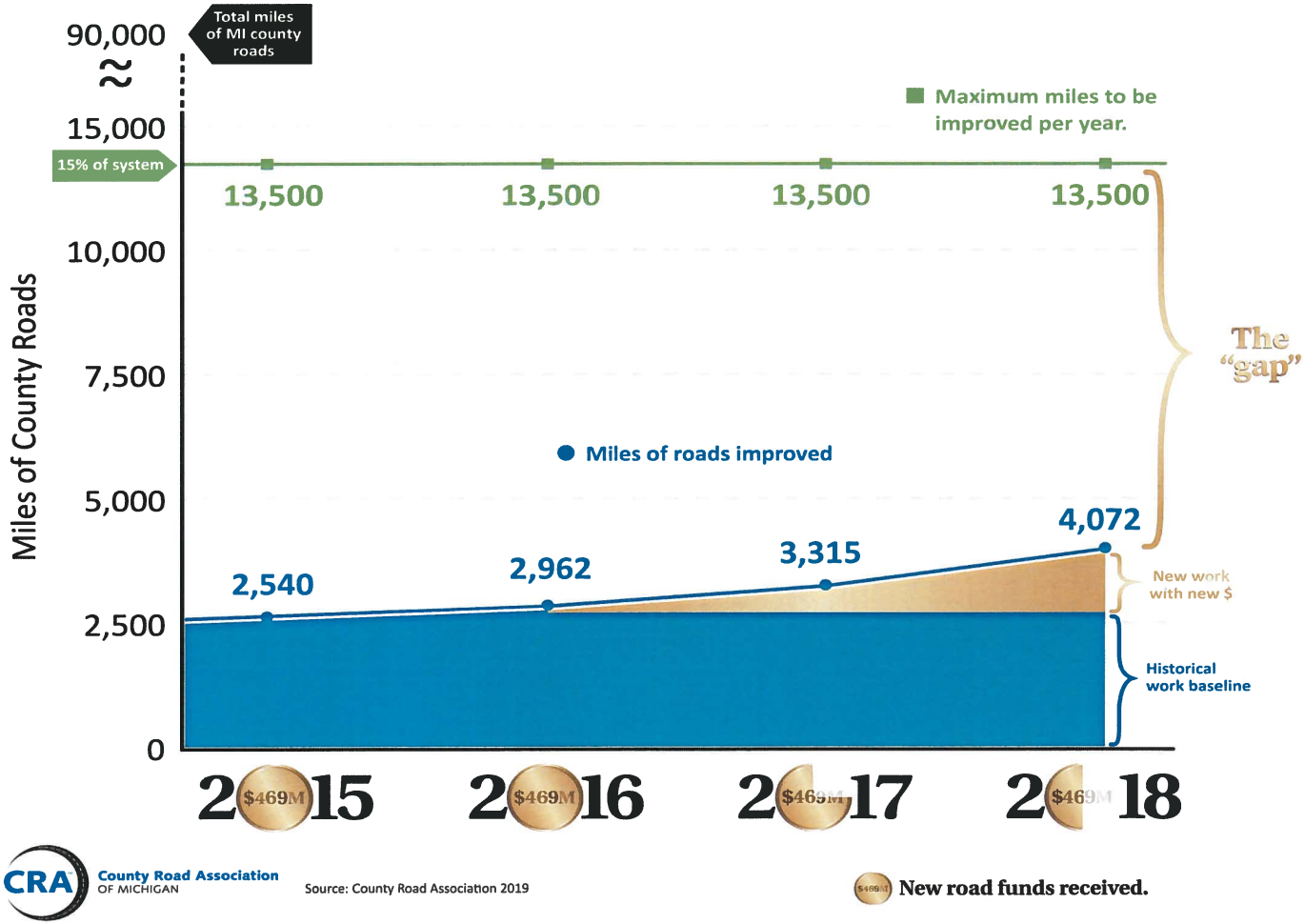


OXCART

PERMIT SYSTEMS

oxcartpermits.com

County Road Investments with MI Road Funding



CRA County Road Association OF MICHIGAN

Source: County Road Association 2019

$469M New road funds received.


CRA
CRA
County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN
THANK YOU!