



County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

Introduction to County Road Agencies

Michigan House
Transportation Committee

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What is a County Road Agency?





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).

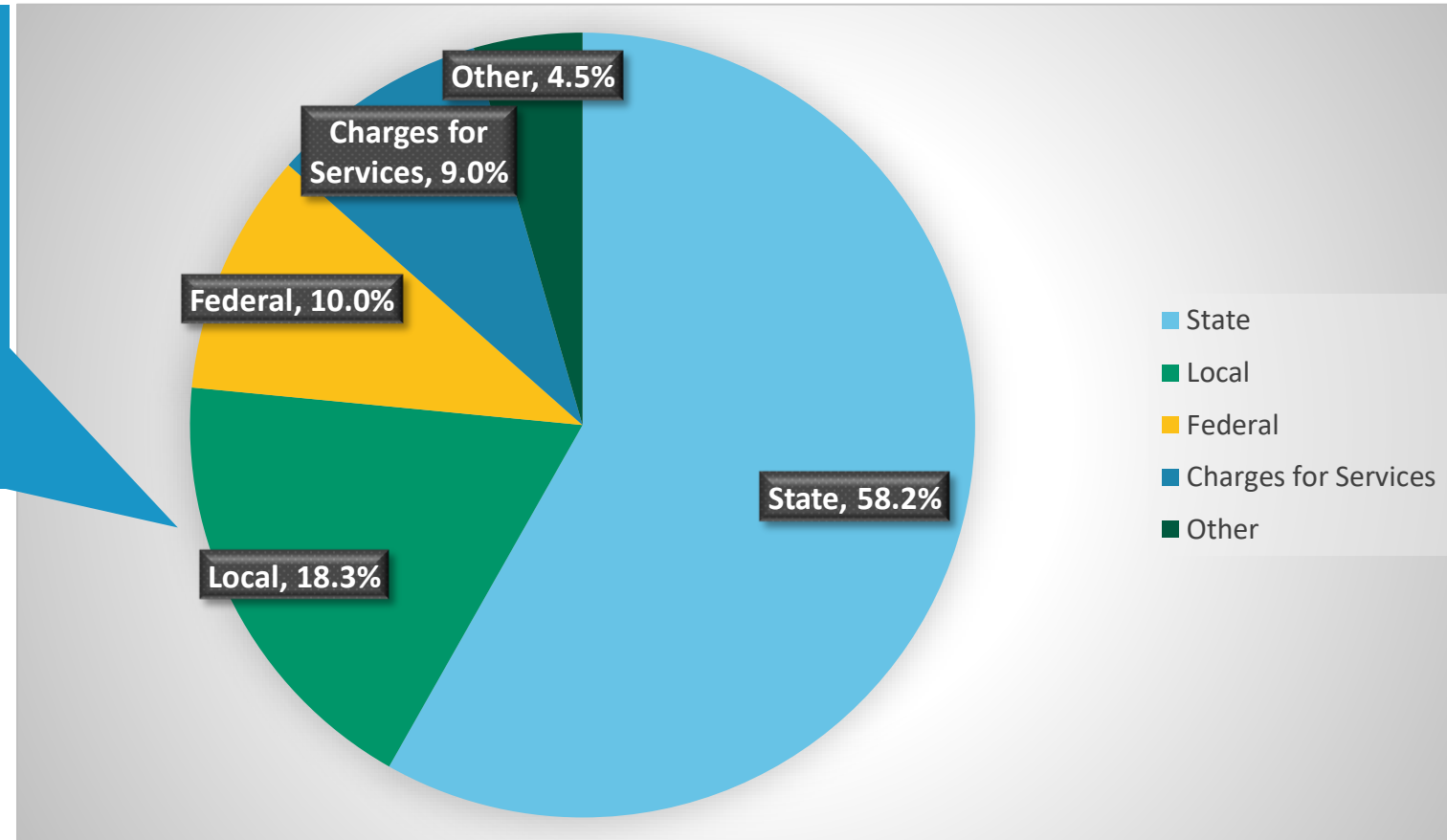
= Thousands of culverts.

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

County Road Agency Revenue

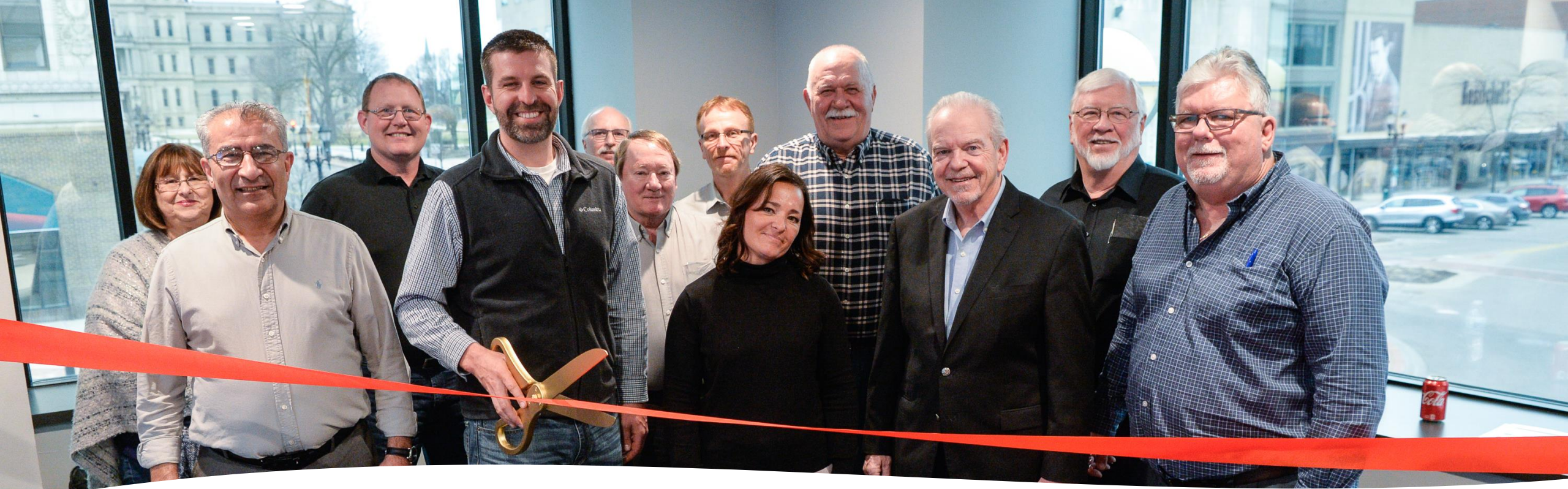
- 31 countywide road millages.
- Hundreds of township millages.
- Special assessment districts.

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





Collaboration
is a Core Value
for County
Road Agencies.



What is the County Road Association of Michigan?

Since 1918 ...

- 83 county members.
- Highway Conference meetings – 1,000+ attendees.
- 4 special-focus conferences; numerous current issue workshops – Unfunded Liabilities.
- 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:

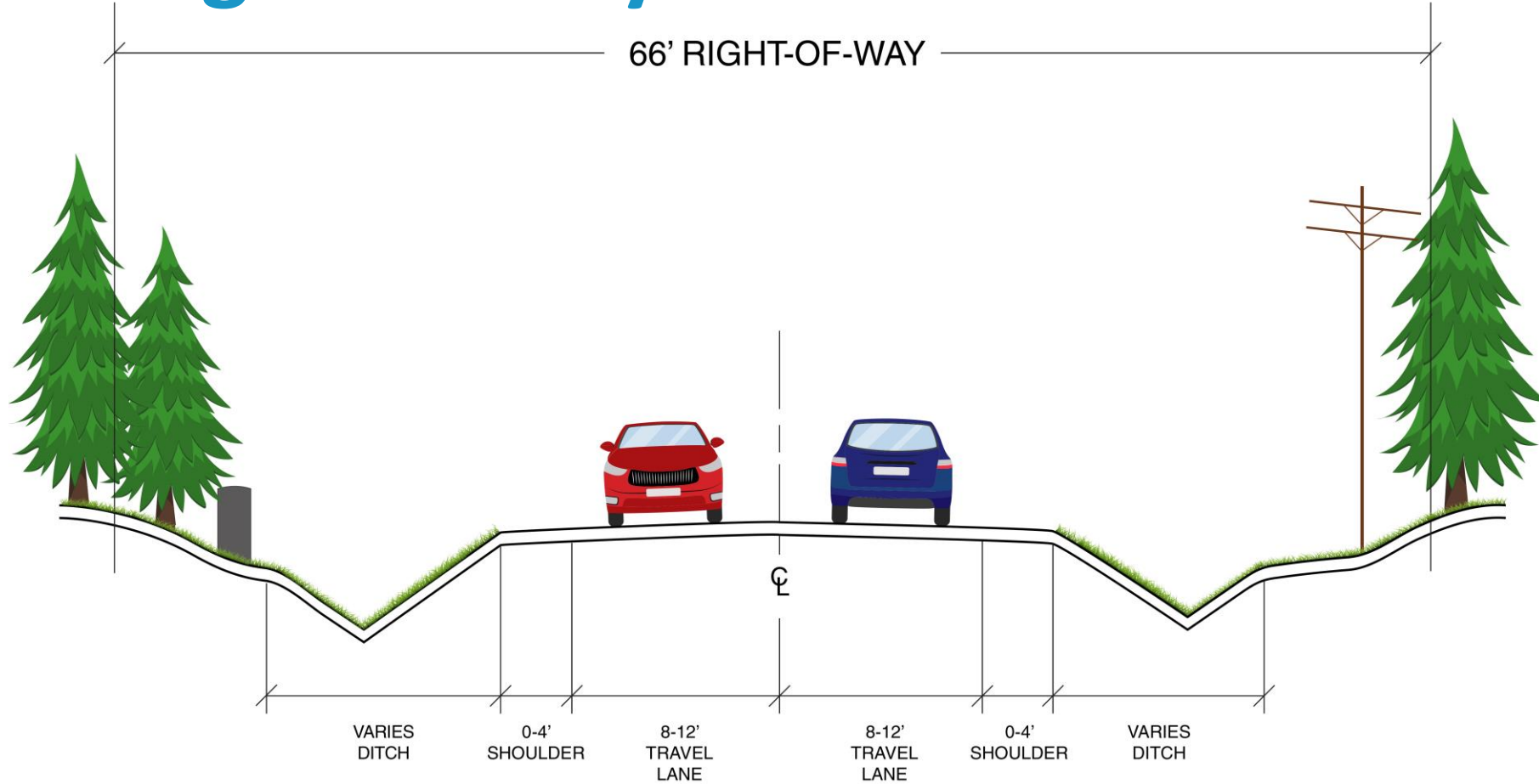
The right-of-way (ROW):

- Created to **ensure driver safety** and ...
- Manage **H₂O** (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





Working with industry

CRA's NEW seasonal weight restrictions app

Restriction Status Color Key +

County	In Effect	All Roads	Restricted Roads	Updated	Permit	Notify Me
Alcona	Effective 03/03/2021	Offline	Online	02/26/2021		Subscribe
Alger	Effective 03/08/2021	Online	Online	03/02/2021		Subscribe

The convenience of seeing road restrictions in the palm of your hand.



Legislative Road Agency Environmental Success Story



MiWB – Michigan Wetland Board

- Bill passed in 2016.
- \$2M/year with \$5M cap.
- Established 16 wetlands in four years.

Bridge Bundling Pilot

- \$23M in federal funds for 19 bridges.
- Road agencies cut red tape.
- MDOT coordinated “like” bridges.
- 14 bridges had wetland impact.
 - **All impacts** were **mitigated** in 1 day at \$0 as **MiWB filled need**.



A paved road with a double yellow line curves through a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The road is dark asphalt, and the yellow lines are bright. The forest floor is covered in fallen leaves and some green grass is visible at the edge of the road.

Innovation
is a Core Value
for County
Road Agencies.

Innovation in Funding

Since 2017: Federal Fund Exchange

Getting more “bang for the buck” from federal road funds.

Number of trades:

- 2020 – 17 trades
- 2019 – 18 trades
- 2018 – 13 trades
- 2017 – 5 trades



Transportation Economic Development



TEDF Category A

Roads improved =
Jobs created + industry
strengthened

Tom Noechel

Program Manager
Road Commission for Oakland County

Dex Battista

Senior Manager of Government Affairs
Magna International





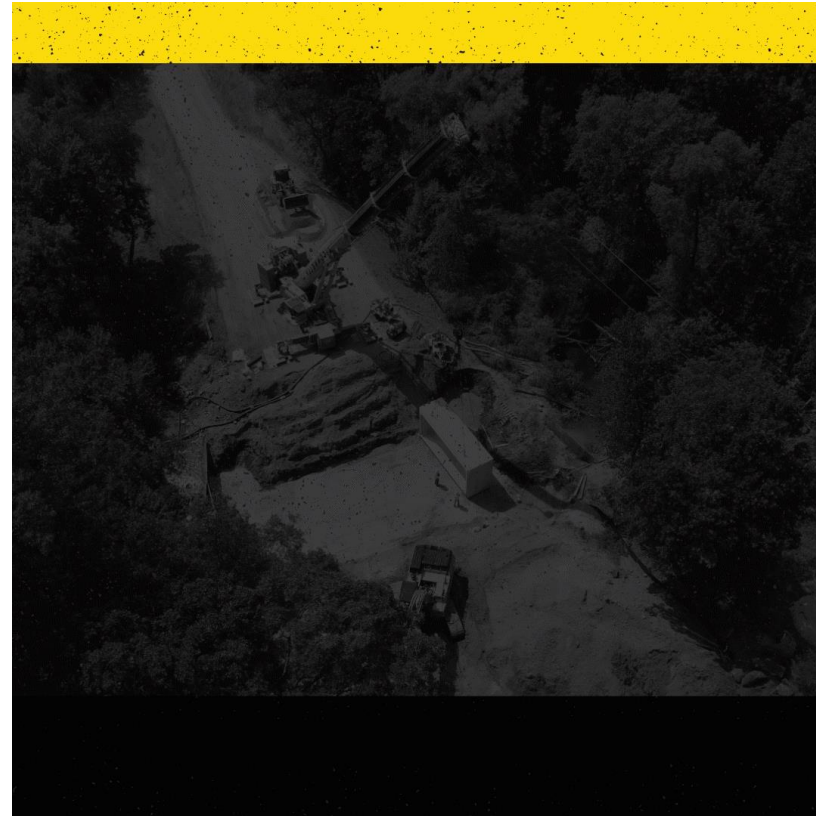
Recruiting next-gen road warriors

Job recruitment campaign

New effort by CRA and road agencies to recruit the next generation of road workers.

Jobs offer:

- Good pay
- Good benefits
- Good hours
- Lifelong skills



Crisis Recovery on the County Road System

Environmental disasters wreak havoc on roads, culverts and bridges on a regularly.

- **June 2020** – Rainstorm-dam break \$5M, Gladwin; \$2M, Iosco; and \$28M Midland.
- **June 2018** – Rainstorm \$30M, Houghton.
- **June 2017** – Rainstorm \$12M, Isabella and \$7M, Midland.
- **July 2016** – Rainstorm \$5.5M, Gogebic.
- **September 2013** – Rainstorm \$1.4M, Chippewa.





Houghton County Road Commission

Crisis Recovery on the County Road System



Legislation to establish **Transportation Infrastructure Disaster Relief Fund**.

CRA has a federal STIC (Statewide Transportation Innovation Council) grant:

- 1) Discussions with MEDC about **CDBG Funds for Infrastructure**.
- 2) Grant Received by Gladwin CRC to Develop **“Hands-on” Resources**.
 - a. *Crisis-related fiscal preparedness training*
 - b. *Video (30 min.) + e-tools*
 - c. *Meeting of MI Infrastructure Disaster Response Agencies*
 - d. *“In the moment” video*
- 3) Online/phone **consultation with disaster-impacted agency**.

Local Bridge Funding Problem



- 5,700 county-managed bridges.
- 1 in 8 structurally obsolete.
 - 400 serious/critical bridges
 - 1,056 load restricted
 - 28 closed in 2019
- FY 2023 = 422 apps for \$305M (limit 5/county).
- Available budget = \$28M (1/2 cent + \$5M).



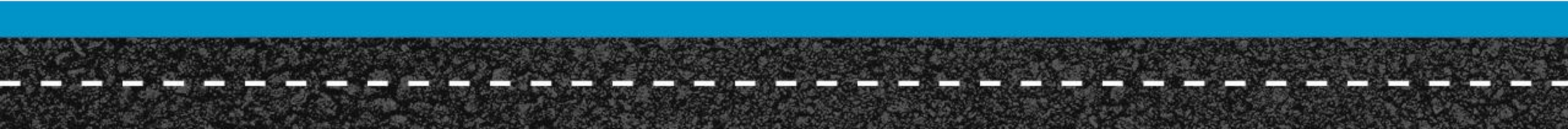
Bridge Bundling Pilot



- Opportunity for MDOT-CRA-MML cooperation
- \$23M fed. funds => 19 bridges (*13 counties, 2 cities*)
- CRA ID'd 83 "County Bridge Champions"
 - Champions reviewed all bridges in county.
- MDOT let 1 bid for all projects
 - Locals transferred ownership rights to MDOT for project
 - Finished bridge reverts to local ownership



\$900M bond over ___ years is good way to solve Michigan's bridge problem.



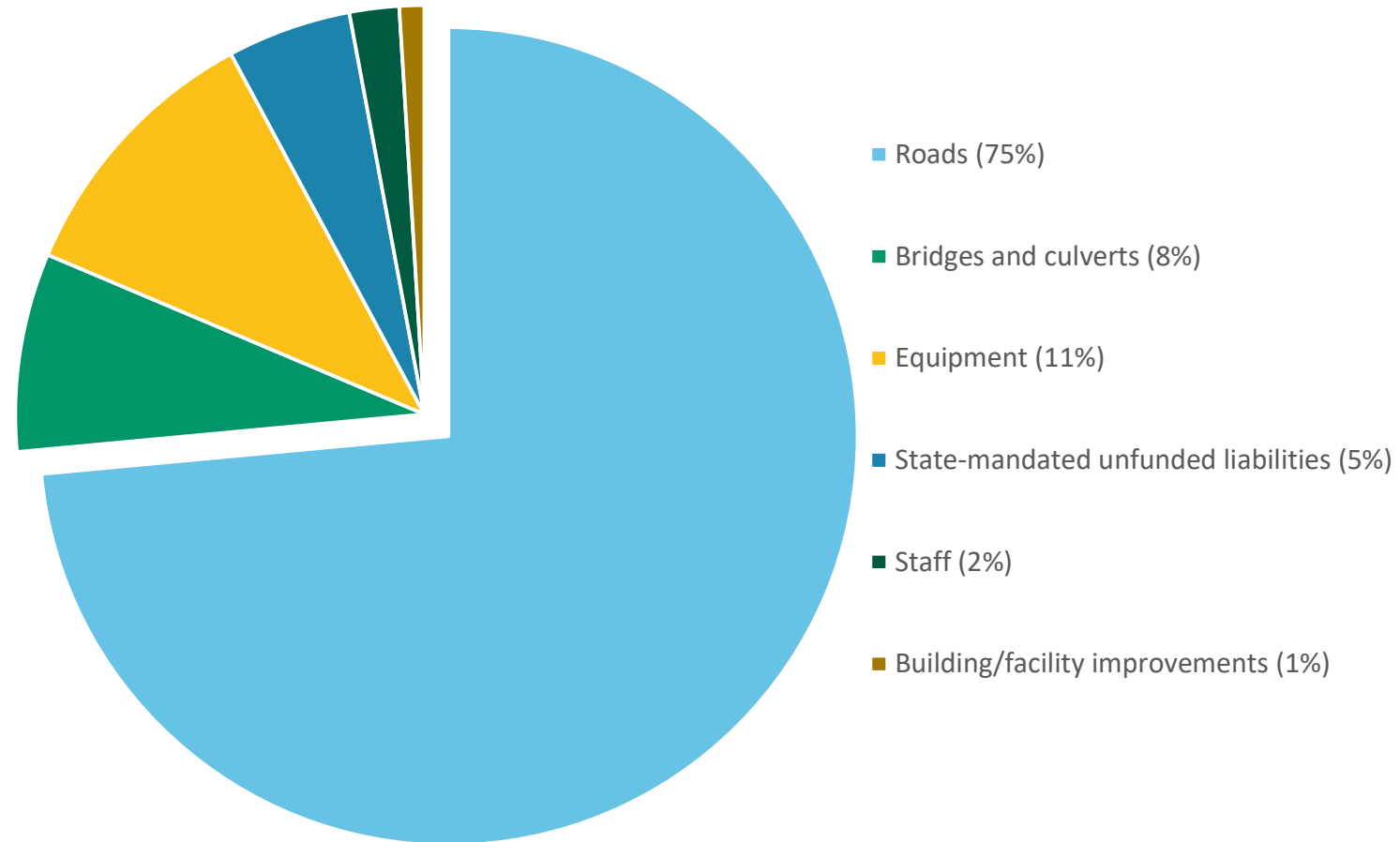


**2015
Transportation
Funding:
Reporting
Back.**



How New Road Dollars Are Being Used

CRA survey shows 83% of new funds going to roads bridges and ROW.





NEW! Standardized Permits Revised

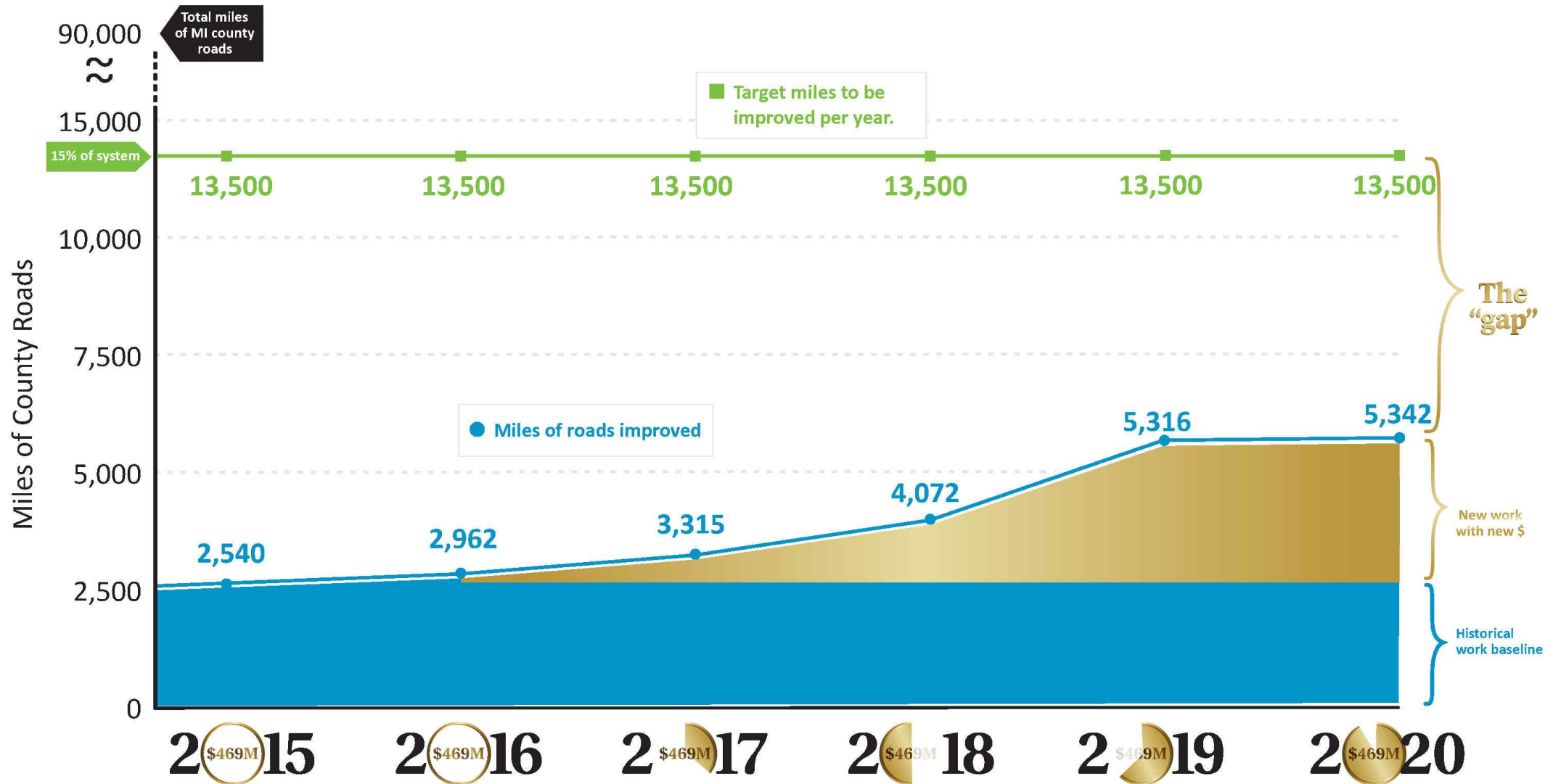
CRA's Permit Subcommittee has updated 12 permits all 83 counties are considering.

NEW! E-permitting!

- 24/7, 365 e-access.
- E-pay, e-signature, e-permit.
- Oxcart System (Michigan and Illinois).
- 54 county road agencies using.
- **NEW!** Regional adoption underway.
- **NEW!** Work in the right-of-way permit in rollout.



County Road Investments with MI road funding





County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

Thank you!

@micountyroads

517.482.1189

