

In This Issue:

- Winter Impacts on Road Projects
- Are You Ready for the Spring Thaw?
- Motor Grader Snowplowing
- Safe Roads for Everyone
- Grandville Clean Water Plant Expansion

Important Dates:

March 7
9:00am Board Meeting

March 20
9:00am Board Meeting

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:30am – 4:00pm

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Winter Impacts on Road Projects

The winter season has exhausted the Road Commission winter maintenance budget.

The Road Commission is doing the best in can to keep up with demands, but crews are getting fatigued and being stretched to the brink.

With over a month of winter left to go, it is clear there will be fewer funds than anticipated for spring, summer, and fall work.

\$2.6 million has been budgeted for winter

related maintenance activities on local and primary roads.

At this time last year, the Road Commission had only spent **\$1,249,709** on county road winter maintenance operations compared to the **\$3,451,000** already spent this year.

The Road Commission also maintains a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation that provides full reimbursement for the

costs to maintain state highways within Ottawa County. This year, MDOT allocated \$1,300,000 for the winter maintenance of state highways in Ottawa County, however, **\$1,718,000** has already been spent.

In April, the Road Commission will review the fiscal year 2014 budget, and it is anticipated that trimming or cutting of planned road improvement projects and other maintenance activities will be necessary to balance the budget.

Are You Ready for the Spring Thaw?

This winter season will long be remembered for the continual snow, strong winds, extremely cold temperatures, and lack of thaws that have left us on the doorstep of spring with a record snow pack.

Yes, it will warm up soon and this snow will melt to make way for green grass and spring flowers. This melt will also provide the potential for spring flooding.

Landowners are reminded to prepare for this inevitable thaw by taking the following action(s) to

prevent flooding:

- Try to move the snow as far away from the foundation walls as possible.
- Inspect and clean gutters, downspouts, and sump pumps. Discharge points should be directed away from buildings but **not** into the roadway.
- If there is a public or private storm drain inlet/outlet or drainage pattern along your property, consider inspecting and

facilitating removal of snow and ice that may obstruct water flow. This is especially critical in areas with a history of flooding.

- Culverts under driveways are the responsibility of private property owners to maintain. Culverts need to be free of snow and ice to keep water in roadside drainage ditches moving. Water trapped in roadside ditches may cause flooding and an exaggerated high water table.

Motor Grader Snowplowing



Shown above is Roger Olthof, a motor grader operator, from the North Holland Garage.

Motor graders have long been recognized as excellent tools for snow plowing.

A grader can be equipped with a number of attachments to aid snow removal, including snow wings, V Plows, and straight blades.

The following photo shows the versatility of a motor grader as a local road is being snowplowed by an attached V Plow.



While a motor grader is not as efficient as a regular snowplow truck, the advantages of more horsepower and traction make it a valuable piece of equipment for various

winter maintenance situations.

Shown below is the motor grader with a wing attachment “cutting a shelf” into the snowbank to allow more room for placement of snow and increased visibility.



Safe Roads for Everyone

With the high levels of snowfall accumulations, residents, private plowing contractors and even local governments are struggling to find places to put the snow.

County road crews work very hard to keep county roads clear and safe for travel. Plowing excess snow into public roads causes unsafe driving conditions and is against the law.

While it may seem convenient to plow snow into or along road sides, it creates unsafe driving conditions. Passing motorists can speed into unexpected snow at the end of a driveway and lose control. When the snow hardens to the pavement it can even cause damage to plowing equipment trying to clear the roads. This is why Michigan law specifically prohibits shoveling or

plowing snow on or across roads.

The law also prohibits creating snow piles that block motorists’ line of sight. Snow cannot be so high that drivers are unable to see oncoming traffic or that it blocks road signage.

Plowing snow into the proper locations keeps drivers safe and that makes everyone’s job easier.



One of the innovative design features of the Grandville Water Plant is Michigan’s first Egg-Shaped Anaerobic Digester, with gas cleaning, cogeneration, and hot water recovery systems.

Grandville Clean Water Plant Expansion

The Public Utilities Department is pleased to announce the final completion of the Grandville Clean Water Plant Expansion.

Over \$27 million dollars was spent to renovate and expand the plant, which

serves the communities of Grandville, Georgetown Township, Hudsonville, portions of Jamestown Township and eastern Blendon Township.

The project was designed by Moore & Bruggink and constructed by Grand

River Construction. The plant can now treat 10 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater on an average day, with a peak flow capacity of 20 mgd.

We are proud to have been a part of this award winning project.