



## COUNTY ROAD ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

417 SEYMOUR - P.O. BOX 12067 - LANSING, MI 48901

TELEPHONE 517.482.1189 - FAX 517.482.1253

### **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, March 17, 2010  
Contact: Monica Ware, Public Relations Specialist  
(517) 482-1189, ext 17 (E-mail: [mware@localroads.net](mailto:mware@localroads.net))

#### **COUNTY ROAD ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP**

LANSING, Mich. – Today, The County Road Association of Michigan (CRAM) announced new leadership to guide the Association for the 2010-2011 term. By unanimous decision of the CRAM Board of Directors, John M. Hunt, Huron County Road Commissioner was elected president.



**Huron County Road Commissioner John M. Hunt**

“I am honored to lead the County Road Association of Michigan at such a pivotal point for Michigan’s transportation infrastructure,” Hunt said. “Our state road and bridge network is in crisis.”

State and local road agencies are struggling with 1998 funding levels while costs for materials have skyrocketed over the same period. Nearly half of Michigan’s counties have returned paved roads to gravel because they do not have adequate funding to reconstruct the roads, and Michigan will likely return federal fuel tax dollars to Washington due to a lack of matching funds.

(MORE)

“As a road commissioner and small business owner, I understand the challenges facing both. The solution lies in prioritizing our road and bridge network,” Hunt said. “Michigan’s county roads are the backbone of our state’s economy. They carry our goods to market and our children to school, see us safely to work, and take us through the activities of daily life. The poor condition of Michigan roads impacts our quality of life.”

Hunt will take the helm as CRAM President on April 1, 2010, bringing with him a strong management background and decades of road commission experience. John took office as a Huron County Road Commissioner on January 1, 1989.

Hunt also serves the Association as an elected member of the County Road Association Self Insurance Fund (CRASIF) Board of Trustees, a group of 74 county road commissions who have joined together since 1978 to provide workers compensation insurance for over 4,000 employees. He is the owner of J.W. Hunt OTC Inc., a transportation company.

Other elected officers of the Association include: Cheboygan County Road Commission Engineer/Manager, Luke D. Houlton, P.E., Vice-President; and Kent County Road Commission Managing Director, Jon F. Rice, P.E., Secretary-Treasurer.

Houlton and Rice also serve Michigan as representatives on the Board of Directors of the National Association of County Engineers (NACE). Rice is Northeast Region Vice President and Houlton was selected to serve as the Michigan State Director in 2009.

“We are privileged to have such a dedicated team leading our Board,” Association Director, John Niemela said. “Their experience and insight will be a tremendous asset to the County Road Association and its members.”

The County Road Association of Michigan represents the interest of Michigan’s 83 county road agencies that collectively manage more than 75 percent of all roads in Michigan. CRAM is an active member of the Michigan Transportation Team (MTT) - a broad-based, bipartisan partnership of business, labor, local government, associations and citizens with the common goal of improving Michigan’s transportation infrastructure.

For more information on the CRAM Board of Directors of county road commissions, please visit our Web site at [www.micountyroads.org](http://www.micountyroads.org).

###