



LONG-AWAITED TRANSPORTATION FUNDING BILLS INTRODUCED

After months of preparation, a bi-partisan package of bills has been introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives. The bills, sponsored by State Rep. Dick Ball (R-Shiawassee) and former road commissioner, State Rep. Pam Byrnes (D-Washtenaw), provide for increases to Michigan's gasoline and diesel taxes.

House Bills 5768-5769 would phase in increases in the gasoline and diesel tax rates over several years. The gasoline tax would increase by \$.04 now and another \$.04 in 2013, for a new total of \$.27. The diesel tax rate for both passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles would increase by \$.06 now and another \$.06 in 2013, also totaling \$.27 and bringing parity to fuel tax rates.

House Bill 5770 amends Public Act 51, creating the Transportation Investment Fund (TIF), to ensure new funding cannot be diverted to fund other state departments. This legislation will require MDOT to annually compile a complete written accounting of all disbursements from the TIF and provide a report to the legislature. The bill also creates a five-member Fuel Tax Restructuring Commission to study and recommend long-term replacements to the current fuel tax structure.

This legislation is expected to increase funding by \$240 million in 2010 and \$480 million when fully implemented. Although it does not meet our full needs, it is a start.

Legislation to increase vehicle registration fees has yet to be introduced. CRAM will continue



working with legislators to identify a sponsor for this crucial funding mechanism.

We have asked legislators to publicly show their support by introducing legislation and now we must support these leaders by generating grass roots support for these reforms, throughout the state. Our voice must be stronger than that of the "tea party" activists.

Plans are under way to hold a series of statewide public hearings to gain support for the legislation. If hearings are scheduled near you, please help us pack the room with support.

You can also help build support for a funding increase by educating your community on the needs of your agency; calling or writing your legislator; submitting a letter to the editor to your local newspaper; and blogging or tweeting about your support.

The PR Tips provided by CRAM will offer several useful resources. If you do not receive PR Tips, and would like to receive this information, please contact Monica Ware in the CRAM Office.

Please take time to start showing your support for a transportation funding increase today. More than 1,000 calls have been made to the toll-free line established by the Michigan Transportation Team (MTT). If everyone reading this article calls both their State Representative and State Senator, we will surpass 2,000 calls.

NO EXCUSES, FIX MI ROADS!

LTAP ANNOUNCES 2010 PASER TRAINING SCHEDULE

Web Sessions -For new raters, or others that did not actively rate in 2008 or 2009

February 15 1:00 PM
February 18 9:00 AM
March 11 1:00 PM
April 8 1:00 PM

Classroom Sessions

March 2

Quality Inn, West Branch

March 3

Holiday Inn & Conference Center, Big Rapids

March 4

Lansing Comm. College-West Campus, Lansing

March 16

Kalamazoo CRC, Kalamazoo

March 17

Genoa Woods Conf. Center, Brighton, MI

March 18

Horizon's Conference Center, Saginaw

April 13

Knights of Columbus Hall, Gaylord

April 14

Delta CRC, Escanaba

April 15

Country Village Banquet & Conf. Center, Ishpeming

Complete training information can be found at:
http://www.michiganltap.org/workshop/2010_PASER.html

For more information or to register
call LTAP @ (906) 487-2102

*"The ones who want to achieve and win
championships motivate themselves."*

~ Mike Ditka

SEEKING INTERNSHIPS

Ferris State University may be able to assist your county road commission with your employment needs. Students in either the Associates Degree Program in Civil Engineering Technology, or the Bachelors Degree Program in Construction Management are looking for either summer or permanent employment opportunities.

Most students in these programs are already certified by MDOT in Density Control, Aggregates, and Bituminous Level 1. Many students wish to work in northern Michigan or the Upper Peninsula areas. If you would like to send a job description to be distributed to students, please contact Kelly Seitter, P.E., Professor at seitterk@ferris.edu or 231.591.2659.

FROST LAW WEB PAGE

Again this Spring, CRAM will be maintaining a Seasonal Weight Restrictions page at:

www.micountyroads.org/weight.htm

The page includes a map, contact information and links to M.C.L. sections, as well as information on the Public Utility Vehicle exemption. The page should be on line by the end of the month.

Legislation enacted at the end of 2008 now requires that road commissions post lists of roads affected by the restrictions on their Web site. If you provide your county's list in a .PDF format, or provide a URL for the location of that list, we will link that information to that which is already on our page.

Lists, links and frost law status information should be e-mailed to teldred@localroads.net with as much advance notice as possible.

Please remember to keep the CRAM Office informed of the status of weight restrictions in your county. Thank you.

LISTSERV INFORMATION

The CRAM Listservs facilitated more than 3000 messages relating to more than 300 topics spread over nine active lists. The lists continue to serve as a valuable tool for transferring information between road commissions. We thank you for your participation and encourage you to check it out if you have not yet.

For current members of the Listserv, you can change your name, e-mail address, other settings, and discover more information about the members of the list using the links provided below. New members can also subscribe to the lists (subject to administrator approval) from these links.

Attachments are becoming more of an issue for the Listserv platform. Here are some pointers related to posting:

→ **SEND ONLY PLAIN TEXT E-MAILS.** Do not include stationery, rich text formatting, or HTML formatting. These items will be scrubbed by the Listserv and may also delay your post.

→ **PLEASE DO NOT POST ATTACHMENTS TO THE LISTSERVS.** Attachments are not handled well by the listserv platforms. If you wish to include something as an attachment, please e-mail to Tom Eldred at teldred@localroads.net with the body of the text you would like included in the message and we will attach a better link to your document. Alternatively, you can send the file and we can send you the link which you could include in your message.

→ For those attachments that do get sent, you may notice that they sometimes get scrubbed. This is a way to manage the growth of the files used by the Listserv archives. If you see a message about an attachment being scrubbed, a multiline link to the file is included at the bottom of the message.

You may have two, or more, links to choose from (depending on whether the sender included stationery or used HTML/RTF e-mail. If you do attach—**AND PLEASE DO NOT**—a file, make certain you identify the name of the file you are attaching to make it easier for your peers to decode the links.

Listserv Subscription/User Management Pages

To subscribe to, or to manage existing, Listserv accounts visit the respective page listed below. You may also have a password reminder sent from these pages:

- <http://bsd02.samsa.com/mailman/listinfo/cram-cogitate-users-self-help>
- <http://bsd02.samsa.com/mailman/listinfo/cram-commissioners>
- <http://bsd02.samsa.com/mailman/listinfo/cram-engineering>
- <http://bsd02.samsa.com/mailman/listinfo/cram-finance-hr>
- <http://bsd02.samsa.com/mailman/listinfo/cram-negotiating-trunkline>
- <http://bsd02.samsa.com/mailman/listinfo/cram-pr>
- <http://bsd02.samsa.com/mailman/listinfo/cram-precision-users-self-help>
- <http://bsd02.samsa.com/mailman/listinfo/cram-purchasing>
- <http://bsd02.samsa.com/mailman/listinfo/cram-tech>

2010 DIRECTORY DISTRIBUTION TO BRING CHANGES

CRAM is modifying the manner in which Directories are distributed beginning with the 2010 Directory. These changes are part of an effort to reduce the cost associated with packaging and mailing copies and they come in light of recent changes in the rules and rate structures of the United States Postal Service.

Road commission offices will be mailed copies for their commissioners. Please make certain that your commissioners receive their copy in a timely manner. We will provide notice in the Legislative Update the week before mailing, as well as the week after, to remind commissioners and offices of this change.

In some cases, we will also be adjusting the number of copies mailed to road commission offices, Associate Members, and related agencies. A range of standardized quantities will be mailed and in some cases this may mean that your office will receive slightly more copies than you have in the past (in addition to the increased number to reflect the inclusion of commissioners in office mailings).

If you have any questions, or if you wish to adjust the number of copies your office receives, please contact Tom at the CRAM Office, teldred@localroads.net or 517.482.1189 ext. 10, as soon as possible.

2009 DIRECTORY CHANGES

BRANCH	Trenton J. Arver, Manager-Engineer, replaces Richard G. Losinski New e-mail address is bcrcarver@cbpu.com
CASS	New e-mail address is lcsokasy@casscoroad.com
CHEBOYGAN	Robert H. Chadwick, Commissioner, 15163 Valley Dr., PO Box 301, Wolverine 49799, replaces Michael J. Donovan Lisa Campeau, Payroll Clerk, replaces Irene Tryban
CLARE	John Krchmar, Superintendent, replaces Richard L. Garver
GENESEE	Cloyce Dickerson, Commissioner, replaces Billy Bradshaw
GLADWIN	Keith Edick new address is 2800 Wagarville Rd., Gladwin 48624
KALAMAZOO	Carla D. Benison, Finance Director, replaces Greg Vlietstra
KEWEENAW	New e-mail address is kcrc@charterinternet.com
MARQUETTE	Neil W. Anderson new address is 1279 Lakeshore Park Place 3D, Marquette 49855
MUSKEGON	John J. DeWolf, Commissioner, 4995 Wilcox St., Montague 49437, replaces M. Kevin Woods
OTSEGO	Kelly A. McGinn, Finance Director, replaces Roberta M. Tholl New e-mail address is officeocrc@charterinternet.com

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Add:	Leonard Capital Markets , 77 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe Farms MI 48236, ph. 313.344.7280
Change:	Concrete Pipe Assn. of Michigan , P.O. Box 41, Alden MI 49612
Reinstate:	Concrete Pipe Assn. of Michigan (<i>see above for address information</i>) Wilcox Professional Services, LLC , 37871 Interchange Dr., Farmington Hills MI 48335, ph. 248.478.3690

2010 HIGHWAY CONFERENCE PLANNING UNDER WAY

Join us March 9-11 for the County Road Association Highway Conference at the Causeway Bay Hotel and Convention Center (former Holiday Inn South), 6820 South Cedar Street. Once again, it is time for the family of county road professionals to gather in Lansing.

Tuesday, March 9, is jam-packed with committee meetings. The meeting announcements will be sent to committee members in the near future. This year's program opens with the President's Reception at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

Wednesday, March 10, opens with Tim Skubick, who is the Senior Capitol Correspondent with weekly coverage of the Governor's Office, the State Legislature, and the political campaign trails giving insightful, fast-paced and informative commentary and analysis. Mr. Skubick is Anchor and Producer of the weekly public TV series "Off the Record" on which Director Niemela made a recent appearance. Tim is no stranger to this group, and will have microphone in hand, so you better be ready for him!



CRAM has the pleasure of having Kenyon Gleason, National Field Director of ARTBA from Washington, D.C., join us on Wednesday morning as well. Mr. Gleason is involved in membership development, service and outreach, fundraising and grassroots political action activities. He will be giving an interesting "View from the Hill Update." The afternoon offers concurrent sessions on the ever-so-popular "Legal Issues Update", moderated by Patrick J. Carty, Esq., Oakland; also "Communicating Across the Generational Divide" with Ginny Baxter, a Workplace Knowledge Consultant for Herman Miller, Inc. Her presentation will identify the differences and similarities of generations in the workplace and highlight influences that shape the way we communicate; and our very own members Michael A. Roper, Otsego, and Brian J. Wendling, Saginaw, giving an informative presentation on GPS systems, what they have found that works, and what doesn't work, at their road commissions.

MDOT Director Kirk Steudle will join us for lunch on Wednesday. He will provide an update on state transportation funding and issues from MDOT's perspective.

We cannot stress to you the importance of you personally inviting your legislators to Wednesday night's Legislative Reception. The reception starts at 5:30 and runs until 7:00 p.m. While you are in Lansing, take the time to have lunch, dinner, or even a short meeting with each of your legislators. They need to hear from you on our issues.

Join us for Thursday morning's Awards Breakfast as we recognize those who have given of themselves to further the county road system. Best Practices and CRAMmy Awards will also be presented.

Following the Awards Breakfast, committee reports will be presented and new board members announced at the Annual Business Meeting. Please make sure that your county is represented. The 2010-2011 Legislative Priorities will be approved by the membership at this time. CRAM Board ballots will be mailed soon. It is very important that CRC ballots be returned in a timely manner. Watch your mailbox for the Conference registration—it will be out very soon!

"Without ambition one starts nothing. Without work one finishes nothing. The prize will not be sent to you. You have to win it. The man who knows how will always have a job. The man who also knows why will always be his boss."

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

2010 RUSH-PAC MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Thanks to you, the 2010 RUSH-PAC Membership Drive has had a great jump-start with over \$3,000 in memberships. Thank you to all who have responded so quickly, and we look forward to hearing from more members!



Political Action Committee

With the 2010 Election right around the corner, RUSH-PAC needs YOU to help make this year a success.

RUSH-PAC memberships are available at four levels of commitment. By staying with RUSH-PAC over the years, annual contributions can add up to life membership:

\$50-\$99	Annual Contributing Member
\$100-\$499	Team Player
\$500-\$999	Life Member
\$1,000-over	Second Life Member

At the March Annual Conference, special recognition will be given to the paid 2010 RUSH-PAC members. Please make your checks payable and mail to:

CRAM RUSH-PAC
PO Box 12067
Lansing MI 48901

(cash contributions over \$20 and corporate checks are prohibited by law)

2010 NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK APRIL 19-23



Help bring awareness to work zone safety while wearing this high visibility class 2 ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 Compliant 2010 National Work Zone Awareness Week T-shirts and honor the men and women that work on our roadways. Shirts cost \$15.50 for small, medium and large. Extra large sizes are available at an additional cost.

T-shirts can be ordered

1. By Phone (877) 642-4637
2. By Fax (540) 368-1722
3. Mail order form to ATSSA
4. Order form available online at ATSSA.com

Orders MUST Be Prepaid and Received by February 26, 2010

FEDERAL BAN ON TEXTING FOR COMMERCIAL TRUCK DRIVERS

U.S Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood recently announced federal guidance to expressly prohibit texting by drivers of commercial vehicles, such as large trucks and buses. The prohibition is effective immediately and is the latest in a series of actions taken by the Department to combat distracted driving since the Secretary convened a national summit on the issue last September.

The action is the result of the Department's interpretation of standing rules. Truck and bus drivers who text while driving commercial vehicles may be subject to civil or criminal penalties of up to \$2,750. "Our regulations will help prevent unsafe activity within the cab," said Anne Ferro, Administrator for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). "We want to make it crystal clear to operators and their employers that texting while driving is the type of unsafe activity that these regulations are intended to prohibit."

FMCSA research shows that drivers who send and receive text messages take their eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds out of every 6 seconds while texting. At 55 miles per hour, this means that the driver is traveling the length of a football field, including the end zones, without looking at the road. Drivers who text while driving are more than 20 times more likely to get in an accident than non-distracted drivers. Because of the safety risks associated with the use of electronic devices while driving, FMCSA is also working on additional regulatory measures that will be announced in the coming months.

During the September 2009 Distracted Driving Summit, the Secretary announced the Department's plan to pursue this regulatory action, as well as rulemakings to reduce the risks posed by distracted driving. President Obama also signed an Executive Order directing federal employees not to engage in text messaging while driving government-owned vehicles or with government-owned equipment. Federal employees were required to comply with the ban starting on December 30, 2009.

The regulatory guidance appeared in the Federal Register on January 27. The public can follow the progress of the U.S. Department of Transportation in working to combat distracted driving www.distraction.gov.

CRASIF/MCRCSIP JOINT SAFETY WORKSHOPS

ALL Road Commission Managers, Employees and Commissioners are invited, and encouraged, to attend a Safety Workshop presented by CRASIF and MCRCSIP Loss Control Departments.

April 6	Big Rapids Dept. of Public Safety, Big Rapids
April 7	Ramada Inn, Grayling
April 27	Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth
April 28	Causeway Bay Hotel, Lansing
April 29	Kalamazoo County Road Commission, Kalamazoo
May 3	Audie's Inn, Mackinaw City
May 4	Delta County Road Commission, Escanaba
May 5	Ojibwa Resort, Baraga

Please support a safer workplace. Look for registration forms and more information in the weeks ahead. Check the MCRCSIP Web site (www.mcrcsip.org) for a link to online registration form or call the MCRCSIP Office, 517.482.9166.



THE ROAD AHEAD



February

- 8 Southwestern Council
Beechwood Inn, Holland
- 11-12 UPRBA Winter Meeting
Holiday Inn, Marquette
- 15 CRAM Office closed - Presidents' Day
- 18 Paul Bunyan Council
Nataka South, Baldwin
- 23-25 County Engineers' Workshop
Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant
- 25 General Policy Committee
Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant

March

- 4 Vacationland Council **CHANGED**
The Surrey House, Harrison
- 9-11 CRAM Highway Conference
Causeway Bay Hotel, Lansing

April

- 11-13 Commissioners' Seminar
Holiday Inn West Bay, Traverse City
- 25-29 NACE Annual Conference
Fort Worth, TX

May

- 18-20 Finance and Human Resource Bus. Seminar
Holiday Inn of Marquette, Marquette

June

- 16-17 UPRBA Summer Meeting
Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, Copper Harbor

September

- 8-10 NMARC Annual Conference
Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire
- 29- Oct. 1 SAM Annual Conference
Kewadin Hotel & Conv. Ctr.,
Sault Ste. Marie

December

- 6-8 ASMRC Annual Conference
Soaring Eagle, Mt. Pleasant

To post job openings or to include other items in CRAM News, contact Tom Eldred at the CRAM Office. Openings/information should be sent electronically to teldred@localroads.net no later than Wednesday of the last full week of the month before publication (i.e., openings to be included in the 3-5-10 edition would be due not later than 2-24-10).

WINTER NOTE

With winter upon us, we would like to take a moment to remind you that the section of law that prohibits the piling of snow onto a roadway or in such a way as to obstruct the line of sight is MCL 257.677a. Complete text of this section can be found online by searching for the MCL section number at:

www.michiganlegislature.org.

MIS/CRAM

With fiscal year 2010 under way for many road commissions, it is time to remind everyone of the need to add your county's data to the MIS/CRAM system. A few road commissions have yet to enter the data for 2008 and 2007. Please do so at your earliest convenience. Those counties with 2009 data outstanding will be listed in next July's CRAM News. Thank you to those who have entered your data in a timely manner.