



RUSH-PAC NEEDS YOUR HELP

Entering the 2010 election cycle, many Michigan residents are more frustrated than ever with lawmakers. Across the State, media outlets herald the crumbling of the State's transportation infrastructure, yet legislators concerned with their political futures refuse to act on the recommendations of the legislatively-approved and gubernatorial-appointed Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2).

Midterm elections across the country are bringing changes, but only time will tell if these changes are positive. Crowded primaries from the race for governor on down leave Michigan's political landscape in limbo; as both parties strive for control of re-districting, which will alter the face of politics in Michigan for the next decade.

The 2010 elections will be filled with change as 29 seats in the Senate and 34 in the House are open due to term limits, and nearly 20 others are open as current legislators seek other offices. Certainly some of these seats will be filled with familiar faces, but many will be filled by candidates new to Lansing—candidates without a voting record.

CRAM and its membership continue to play a vital role in the campaign to educate elected officials, the media, and the public on the needs of Michigan's state and local roads and bridges. We must also educate candidates for office on the dire situation facing local road agencies.

We need to stand behind those legislators who have taken the bold step to speak out in support of increased transportation funding; candidates who are willing to put local infrastructure needs above their own by supporting increasing fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees.

RUSH-PAC sends a survey to all candidates for State Representative and State Senate to determine where they stand on road-related issues including increased transportation revenues.

The candidate survey is an important tool to determine where candidates stand on the issues, but member and Trustee input is also vital to the endorsement decisions made by RUSH-PAC.

RUSH-PAC needs your help!

It is important that all candidates are encouraged to complete the survey. Many are advised by political staff in Lansing not to complete the RUSH-PAC survey. We also need to know if candidates have signed an anti-tax pledge, or have taken positions that would negatively impact road commissions.

The Board of Trustees (listed on page eight) will be meeting to discuss primary endorsements on June 24 at the Gladwin Eagles Club in Gladwin, Michigan. If you are familiar with the positions held by candidates for State House or State Senate, please share any information you have—positive or negative—with CRAM staff or the RUSH-PAC Trustee from your district.

The future of Michigan's transportation network is too important to rely on survey data alone. Your input will help us make the informed decisions necessary to support candidates who will put the needs of Michigan's local road system first.

Of course, RUSH-PAC also needs the resources to be able to financially support the candidates we endorse. If you have not joined, please consider doing so. Several golf outings are planned around the State this summer. These events are the primary fundraiser for RUSH-PAC. Please consider joining us on the course!

ARTBA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES COLLEGE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE CHILDREN OF FALLEN HIGHWAY WORKERS

The children of highway workers killed or permanently disabled on the job will receive financial assistance in their pursuit of higher education thanks to scholarships announced by the American Road & Transportation Builders Association Transportation Development Foundation (ARTBA-TDF).

Students from Iowa, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Michigan have been named 2010 recipients of the ARTBA-TDF's Highway Worker Memorial Scholarship. The program was established in 1999 with a gift to the Foundation from two Roanoke, Va., highway contractors and their companies—Stan Lanford (1999 ARTBA chairman) of Lanford Brothers, and Jack Lanford (1991 ARTBA chairman), with Adams Construction Company. Both men are past ARTBA chairmen.

More than 1,000 people—including more than 100 highway workers—are killed every year on the job or in roadway construction work zone accidents. An additional 40,000 people are injured annually in these sites. The 2010 class includes:

Brian Brown, Coeburn, Va.—Brian's father, Billie, was permanently disabled in an accident after jumping into a ditch to avoid being struck by a high-speed truck as he worked in a roadway work zone for the Virginia Department of Transportation. Brian is pursuing a degree in biblical studies at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

Carter Bundy, Flushing, Mich.—Carter's father, Dennis Bundy, an employee of the Genesee County Road Commission, was killed in June 2006 while working on a highway survey project. Carter attends Michigan State University in East Lansing and is majoring in finance.

Mitchell and Mollie Dunn, Stone Mountain, Ga.—Mitchell and Mollie Dunn's father, Steve Dunn, was killed in 2009 by a drunk driver while working on a road construction site in Jupiter, Fla. In the fall, Mollie, a public relations major, will be entering her senior year at the University of Alabama. Mitchell will be a freshman at the College

of Charleston and intends to major in history and sociology.

Joseph Halvorson, Ames, Iowa—Joe's father, Russell Halvorson, was working for Davis Concrete/Silvestri Paving Company installing new curbs on a road in Illinois when he was killed by a drunk driver in 1989. Joe is pursuing a degree in meteorology at Iowa State University.

Brianna Keefe, Wyalusing, Pa.—Brianna's dad, Bret Keefe, was killed in a car accident in 2001 while working for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. She attends Northwestern University near Chicago and is majoring in journalism.

Allison Moore, Chula, Ga.—Allison's father, Steve Moore, was killed in an accident while working as an employee of the Georgia Department of Transportation in November 1996. Allison attends Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Georgia and is majoring in political science.

Nahun Morales, Springfield, Va.—Nahun's dad, Nahun Levia, was injured and disabled while working on a highway and bridge project in the Washington, D.C., area. Nahun attends Northern Virginia Community College and is majoring in business administration.

The ARTBA-TDF is interested in receiving contact leads on students who could benefit from the scholarship program. Please share them with ARTBA Scholarship and Awards Manager Holly Bolton at hbolton@artba.org or 202.289.4434. Individuals and firms interested in supporting the scholarship program can do so by sending a check payable to:

ARTBA-TDF

1219 28th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20007

The ARTBA-TDF was established in 1985 as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt entity to promote research, education and public awareness. It supports an array of initiatives, including educational scholarships, awards, roadway work zone safety and training programs and special economic reports.

SHAKE YOUR MAILBOX DAY IS OCTOBER 23, 2010

This year is the second year we are participating in *Shake Your Mailbox Day* (SYMD). This event gives your road commission the chance to partner with your local post offices and communities to decrease the number of mailboxes damaged during winter maintenance.

Roscommon CRC launched SYMD in 2008 and nominated it for a CRAMmy Award. The Public Relations-Education Committee saw this event as a great way to reach out and clear up some of the misconceptions related to snow removal and broken mailboxes.

The day also provides an opportunity to reach out to the post offices in your communities. Your local postmaster can be a valuable partner with respect to your road commission's public image. The secret to any successful venture is sharing information. Now is a great time to meet with your local postmaster(s) and talk about some overlapping issues you face. Road commissions can improve these relationships by taking time to:

Let your postmasters know that their mission is important to you and that you recognize the role they play in your community.

Invite your postmaster to be your partner. Few agencies have more eyes on the road each day than the post office. Have you told them that you would appreciate their eyes in your service? Mail carriers are an excellent early warning system as they drive the same routes every day.

Communicate your mailbox guidelines. While the USPS does have standards related to the construction and placement of mailboxes, those guidelines are still subject to the rules governing the locality. How many times have you had a call indicating that "the Post Office said I could...?"

Explain how snowplows operate...or even allow the postmaster to ride along, in order to demonstrate how and why snow ends up piled against mailboxes. Roadside snowbanks impair the ability of the post office to deliver mail, but as we are aware they are unavoidable. Postal customers remain responsible for making certain that their mailboxes are accessible.

Share your plow routes and routing priorities. Postal guidelines require that roads be well-maintained and passable for year-round delivery or service may be withdrawn. Postmasters often take the heat for unplowed roads when their customers call and complain about undelivered mail. If we provide our postmaster(s) an understanding of how and why plowing decisions are made and carried out, they can better respond to those callers.

Provide maps to your postmaster that indicate seasonal roads...and explain what seasonal roads are. We are well versed at responding to complaints about unplowed seasonal roads, but many postmasters may not be aware of the meaning of a seasonal road.

Communicate mailbox replacement policies. Many postmasters in Michigan had been informed that road commissions would replace—or even had to replace—damaged mailboxes. Communications have been sent to the district managers indicating that this may or may not be the case depending on the policy of the county in question. The USPS also has some alternate work-arounds for damaged mailboxes that you may not be aware of.

More information will be coming on this event, but for now mark October 23, 2010 on your calendar as the second statewide "ShakeYour Mailbox Day."

All-in-all, the efficient delivery of mail is one more public service that is enabled by the mission of your road commission. Effective communication and information sharing can create a partnership that leads to improved levels of service by both parties.



TWO COUNTIES RECOGNIZED FOR ASSET MANAGEMENT

Kalamazoo

Joanna Johnson, Managing Director, Travis Bartholomew, General Superintendent; and Commissioner Ken Oscarson accept their Organizational Achievement Award.

Asset management workshops for elected officials, and county tours with local officials, laid the foundation for success in Kalamazoo. By 2009, townships were asking to be first on the list for data collection. One-on-one reviews using RoadSoft were conducted with townships.

In 2009 the road commission partnered with Western Michigan University and Texas Township to create a Senior Design Course on the principles of Asset Management and to use it as a tool in planning local road improvements in Texas Township. Additionally, the MPO was engaged in order to expand the scope of training.

The process was a success. The road commission was able to benchmark the collection of data and project a schedule for completing all 15 townships. Students gained knowledge in a hands-on application while providing both the Kalamazoo County Road Commission and Texas Township with a valuable planning and investment tool.



Roscommon

Commissioner Jackie Bertsch and Manager Tim O'Rourke accept their Organizational Achievement Award.

Roscommon was recognized for its commitment to Asset Management Principles. Some of the highlights of their nomination include: 8 RCRC staff and two commissioners PASER trained, all commissioners have attended LTAP Asset Management training, hosting two LTAP Elected Official Asset Management Workshops, and the development/presentation of rolling five-year plans for each township.

In addition to countywide activities, Manager Tim O'Rourke has been a presenter at several asset management-related conferences and a presenter at the Michigan Townships Association roundtable discussion.



Visit <http://www.micountyroads.org/bidlinks.htm> to find out who might be looking for what you have to offer

TWO MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR ASSET MANAGEMENT



Lance Malburg **Oceana Engineer/Manager**

Lance has been actively promoting the principles of asset management. By 2004, the year of the first state-wide data collection, Lance had entered historical data (back to 1988) into RoadSoft.

He produced maps and reports showing the data and continued to update them. Oceana currently has data for the entire county system that includes surface type, traffic counts, crash maps and more.

In conjunction with the employees directly involved, Lance also brought about an easier-to-use gravel road rating scale.

Rob VanEffen **Delta Managing Director**

Commissioner Mike Larrabee accepts the Individual Achievement Award on behalf of Rob VanEffen.

In 2003 Rob had the foresight to see that Delta needed a better system of allocating ever-decreasing funds to fix deteriorating roads. He invested in education and training that convinced the Board of Road Commissioners to adopt the principles of Asset Management.

Rob has been Managing Director since 2008 and he continues to work with townships to apply “the right fix at the right time.”



*Photos for the Asset Management Awards
courtesy of MDOT's Jim Lemay.*

KALAMAZOO COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION INVITES YOU...

Do you need to sharpen your Asset Management skills? Do you have local officials who need insight into the process? If yes, join the Kalamazoo County Road Commission as they present Introduction to Transportation Asset Management in conjunction with LTAP, on September 15, 2010 at the Road Commission office.

This workshop is designed specifically with city, county and township elected officials in mind. All local elected officials who have an interest in transportation projects or facilities should attend. No engineering background is required.

There is no charge for this event, but registration is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, call the Center for Technology & Training at 906. 487.2102 or e-mail ctt@mtu.edu.



FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCE COMMENDATION PRESENTED TO RON WOHLFORD

Wexford Finance Director Ron Wohlford was recognized for his outstanding contributions to Finance and Human Resource Departments around the State. Below are some of the anonymous comments from the award nominations:

“Ron has been the Chair of the Negotiating Committee for the past several years and led the team to an approved contract with MDOT last year. We are in the midst of the worst economic downturn most of us have ever seen and the fights over money could have become ridiculous. Ron kept the group on an even keel and the process was not very contentious at all. He participated in almost every aspect, including the training.”

“Ron has always been willing to help out in any way. He is often on our agenda for the seminar, and has helped many years in the entertainment aspect of the program. I don't think I can remember a time in my 25 years that Ron has ever said 'No'.”

We thank Ron for his continued dedication and appreciate his contributions over the years.

FREE MUTCD WEBINAR

In December 2009, the FHWA published the 2009 edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. A new webinar from the American Traffic Safety Services Association will provide a brief overview of the major revisions for the Part 1 and 6 of the 2003 version compared to the 2009 version of the manual. There will be time available for a short question and answer session immediately following the presentations. The Webinar is scheduled for June 28, July 27, and August 24. For more information visit www.atssa.com.

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 July's CRAM News. Thank you to those who have entered your data in a timely manner.

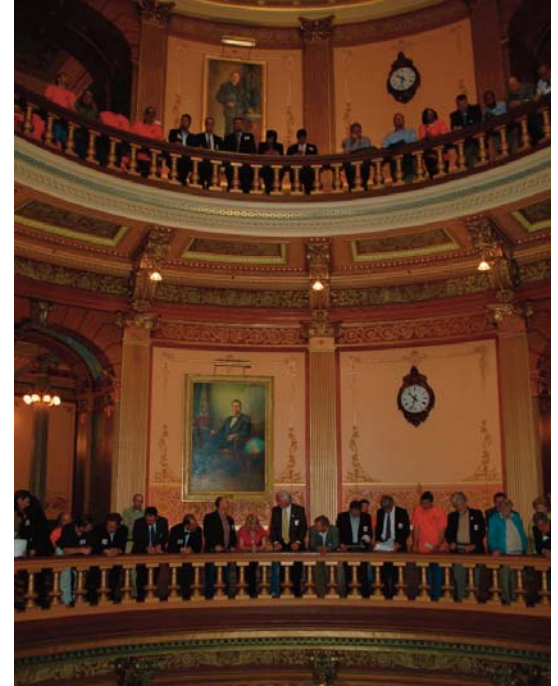
JOB OPENING

Monroe County Road Commission has an immediate opening for a full time Director of Finance. Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree in accounting and/or finance, with a minimum of 4 years experience supervising at least 4 or more employees. Knowledge of public finance and governmental fund accounting and CPA certification beneficial. Must be proficient in all aspects of finance, accounting, and computer skills and possess strong team management, organizational, supervisory and interpersonal skills. Responsibilities include financial management, budget administration, debt management, preparation of financial statements including state and federal reports, contract administration, inventory and fixed assets management, and risk management. Preferred qualifications include Road Commission financial knowledge, including Act 51 reporting. Salary range negotiable commensurate with experience and qualifications. Excellent benefit package.

Qualified candidates forward letter of introduction, resume, references, and salary requirements to the Human Resource Director, Monroe Co. Road Commission, 840 S. Telegraph Rd., Monroe, MI 48161. EOE

TRANSPORTATION LOBBY DAY

Thank you to those of you who took time from your busy schedules to join us for the Transportation Lobby Day on May 4. CRAM members and other transportation advocates packed the Capitol Building, with approximately 400 people filling the rotunda as well as the second and third floor balconies.



CRAM President and Huron County Road Commissioner John Hunt addressed the group as a business owner and drove home the message that there's too much at stake for lawmakers not to invest in our roads.

Legislators were greeted with large directional signs telling them to "Fix Our Roads" as they entered the Capitol parking areas. The sea of orange shirts and reflective vests made it clear this is more than just a road agency problem.



Media reports of the event were very positive. Over the past year, at least 70 editorials have run in newspapers across the state supporting increased transportation investment.

Following the press conference more than 5,000 petition signatures were delivered to legislative leadership. If you have not signed the petition, it is still active at <http://www.gopetition.com/online/33792.html>.





THE ROAD AHEAD



June

- 8 Transportation Asset Management Workshop
Hampton Inn, Grand Rapids
- 9 Southwest Golf Outing
L.E. Kaufman Golf Course, Wyoming
- 9 Transportation Asset Management Workshop
Cleary University - Livingston Campus
Howell
- 16-17 UPRBA Summer Meeting
Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, Copper Harbor
- 24 Vacationland Council
The Gladwin Eagles, Gladwin

July

- 30 Southern Mid-Michigan Golf Outing
Cascades Golf Course, Jackson

August

- 6 Southeast Golf Outing
Selfridge ANG Golf Course, Harrison Twp.

September

- 7 Northern Golf Outing
Black Bear Golf Club, Vanderbilt
- 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 7-2-10 edition would be due not later than 6-23-10).

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2010 DIRECTORY DISTRIBUTION

The 2010 edition of the CRAM Directory will soon be in the mail. This year there are some changes. In some cases, we will also be adjusting the number of copies mailed to road commission offices, Associate Members, and related agencies.

Road commission offices will be mailed copies for their commissioners. Please make certain that your commissioners receive their copy in a timely manner.

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.