



**County Road Association  
OF MICHIGAN**

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**Road Commission of Kalamazoo County  
honored with three statewide IMPRESS Awards!**

LANSING, MI – The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) was honored with three statewide IMPRESS Awards at the 2026 County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan Highway Conference held in late March in Lansing. IMPRESS Awards recognize county road agencies that demonstrate innovation on noteworthy projects in the categories of communication, operations and collaboration.



*RCKC team pictured from left: Toni Kennedy, commissioner; Randy Thompson, commissioner; Sarah Phillips, communications administrator; Mark Worden, public relations director; Debbie Hill, human resources director; Larry Stehouwer, PE, vice chair; Travis Bartholomew, managing director; and David Pawloski, chair.*

This year, RCKC received IMPRESS Awards in:

- **COLLABORATION** for its series of open house events designed to strengthen partnerships with township officials and residents through education, dialogue and collaboration.
- **COMMUNICATION** for its successful launch of *RCKC Chats*, a recurring Facebook Live and Zoom discussion series designed to meet residents where they are and encourage open dialogue about local road issues. This entry also received a People’s Choice Award, determined by a popular vote of conference attendees.

“Kalamazoo County’s work reflects a strong commitment to connecting with the public and building meaningful partnerships at the local level,” said Denise Donohue, CRA CEO. “From in-person engagement to creative use of digital platforms, these efforts show how consistent, two-way communication can strengthen trust and lead to better outcomes for the communities they serve.”

An independent panel of communications and operations experts from several of Michigan’s 83 county road agencies judged all IMPRESS Awards submissions. Award recipients were honored for projects that solved time constraints, labor costs, communication barriers and fostered collaboration.

The 83 members of the County Road Association of Michigan represent the unified voice for a safe and efficient county transportation infrastructure system in Michigan, including appropriate stewardship of the public’s right-of-way in rural and urban Michigan. Collectively, Michigan’s county road agencies manage 75% of all roads in the state, including 90,500 miles of roads and 5,900 bridges. County road agencies also maintain the state’s highway system in 63 counties. Michigan has the nation’s fourth-largest local road system.

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