



County Road Association OF MICHIGAN

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Washtenaw County Road Commission honored with three statewide IMPRESS Awards!

LANSING, MI – The Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) 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 communications, operations and collaboration.



From left: Brent Schlack, PE, county highway engineer, and Tiffany Oliphant, communications manager, with the Washtenaw awards.

This year, Washtenaw County received IMPRESS Awards in:

- **COLLABORATION** for its successful completion of the “Dexter-Chelsea Road” improvement project. WCRC partnered with the City of Chelsea to move the joint project forward, overcoming longstanding challenges to share costs and coordinate work across jurisdictional boundaries.
- **COMMUNICATIONS** for its “Staying Connected” initiatives to strengthen internal communication and employee engagement through events such as Spring Training, Touch-A-Truck and an employee appreciation breakfast.
- **OPERATIONS** for its “Wing Plow Racks.” WCRC designed and built custom racks using repurposed materials to safely and efficiently store nearly 75 plows during the off-season.

“Washtenaw County’s success across all three categories highlights the strength of a well-rounded approach to serving both employees and the public,” said Denise Donohue, CRA CEO. “From building stronger partnerships and improving internal communication to finding practical, cost-effective operational solutions, these efforts demonstrate a commitment to doing the job better in every area.”

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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