



County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

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Michigan county road agencies embracing new season of road and bridge projects

LANSING, MI – Fall isn't typically the time for new beginnings, and certainly not for starting new road projects. But fall 2026 marks a new beginning for Michigan's county road agencies, according to the County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan.

Earlier this month, the state's first Neighborhood Roads Fund (NRF) dollars were distributed to Michigan's 83 county road agencies. New gas tax dollars – created in a gas-tax-for-sales-tax swap – showed up in April, reversing a four-month decline of county road dollars hovering around 20% due to the removal of redirected income tax in the historic 2025 Road Funding Package. But new dollars ultimately totaling \$2 B by 2030 are now coming in.

In the Package, the Legislature diversified road funding to draw from the state's Corporate Income Tax (CIT) and created a wholesale marijuana tax, naming this portion the Neighborhood Roads Fund. About 52% of it is dedicated to county road agencies and cannot require a local funding match. (A local match can be asked for but not required for NRF dollars only.)

For months, county road agencies have been revising their board policies to address the new NRF and establishing prioritized lists of projects in consultation with their townships and local partners. With the first NRF dollars received in September, agencies are now beginning to assign dollars to projects and move toward selection and bidding processes, while mapping out the 2027 road construction season, which should be robust in all corners of the state.

"While we all want every Michigan road – whether a primary or local – and bridge improved right now, both human and financial resources are limited," said CRA CEO Denise Donohue. "We will see big things begin to happen in spring 2027."

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 5,898 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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