



***“KEEPING YOUR FOCUS
IN TIMES OF CHANGE”***



REGISTER NOW! micountyroads.org/CommissionersSeminar

TICKET PRICING

Full Conference Registration (includes meals)..... \$249

Guest Meal Ticket \$99

Cancellations received within 14 days of the event are not eligible for a refund.



**County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN**

101 S. Washington Square, Suite 200
Lansing, MI 48933

517.482.1189

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HOTEL INFORMATION

Comfort Inn & Suites and Conference Center
2424 Mission St. | Mt. Pleasant, MI



To reserve a room at \$98 call
(989) 772-4000
Deadline September 14

Hotel Group Code:
CRA Commissioners Seminar

2026

COMMISSIONERS SEMINAR

September 27-28 | 2026

Comfort Inn & Suites and Conference Center
2424 Mission St., | Mt. Pleasant, MI



**County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN**

For more information, please contact Melissa Plotnick: mplotnick@micountyroads.org | 517.482.1189

To register, visit: micountyroads.org/CommissionersSeminar

SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 27

5 - 6 p.m. Registration

6 p.m. Opening Comments
Jo Ann McCollum, Chair, CRA Commissioners Committee (Washtenaw)

Welcome
Scott Merillat, PE, CRA President and Managing Director, Lenawee County Road Commission

DINNER

6:45 p.m. Special Presentation:
2025 CRA IMPRESS Award Winners

- > Collaboration Category: Solving an Age-Old Traffic Signal Timing Challenge
TBD, Road Commission for Oakland County
- > Communication Category: Genesee Information at the Hand
Kylie Dontje, Communications Coordinator, Genesee County Road Commission
- > Operations Category: Tuscola's Custom Skid Steer Attachment for Efficient Bridge Guardrail Maintenance
Brent Dankert, PE, County Highway Engineer, Tuscola County Road Commission

Moderator: Jo Ann McCollum

7:30 - 9 p.m. Euchre Tournament and Big Screen Sunday Night Football!



micountyroads.org/CommissionersSeminar



MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 28

7:30 - 8:15 a.m. BREAKFAST

8:15 a.m. General Session I
Jo Ann McCollum, Chair, CRA Commissioners Committee (Washtenaw)

Pledge of Allegiance

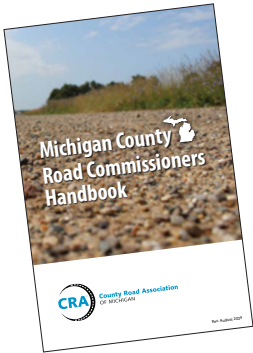


FOCUS ON:
THE BOARD ROOM

8:15 - 8:45 a.m. Starting point: Where are we with the 2025 Road Funding Package?
As your Board sets budgets, plans and priorities for FY 2027, let's catch up on how the Neighborhood Roads Fund is coming in. And perhaps the wholesale marijuana tax issue will be settled. Catch up with Tom!
Tom Steinbis, CRA Legislative Specialist

8:45 - 9:45 a.m. A Strong Agenda and Meeting Management Plan Drives Focus
Do you lose time going in circles on less important issues at your meetings? Do your strategic plans go to the shelf of despair after adoption? Could your Board agenda be more efficient? Does the public comment section of a meeting scare you? We can help!
Stacy Hissong, Attorney, Fahey Schwarz

9:45 - 10:30 a.m. In this corner: Robert's Rules of Order vs. Washtenaw CRC Rules
Road agencies don't have to use Robert's Rules, which may be more than you need. See the pros and cons of how another road agency keeps order.
Jo Ann McCollum, Commissioner, Washtenaw CRC (WCRC)
Gloria Llamas, Commissioner, WCRC
Matt MacDonell, PE, Managing Director, WCRC



10:30 - 10:45 a.m. NETWORKING & REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:45 - 11:15 a.m. This just out! CRA's Commissioners Handbook
This versatile Handbook has every guideline you need to do your job to peak effectiveness! It was just revised and will be re-released at the Commissioners Conference. We'll give a light overview and show off its internet tool.
Denise Donohue, CRA CEO
Dustin Earley, CRA Deputy Director of Engagement

11:15 - 11:45 a.m. Hands on: How you should be building legislative relationships
CRA lobbyists describe how your "shoe leather" turns into road-friendly votes in Lansing. In 2026 every single Michigan House and Senate seat is up for election – and they need you!
Ed Noyola, CRA Chief Deputy and Legislative Director
Tom Steinbis, CRA Legislative Specialist

11:45 - 12:15 p.m. LUNCH

12:15 - 1:10 p.m. LUNCHEON KEYNOTE
Team Work Makes your Dream Work!
Discover how commissioners and staff can work together to build stronger agencies through collaboration and trust.
Linnea Rader, CEO, Lead with Linnea

1:10 - 1:20 p.m. RE-SET BREAK

1:20 p.m. FOCUS ON: POLICY CONCERNS
General Session II
Jim Bowers, Vice Chair, CRA Commissioners Committee (Benzie)



1:20 - 2:05 p.m. Potholes, Pavement & Processors: Developing an AI Policy for Road Agencies
This presentation covers how artificial intelligence (AI) can benefit a county road agency of any size. Commissioners may not have to learn AI, but neither should they stand in the way of its benefits to the road agency.
Ryan Minkus, PE, PTOE, County Highway Engineer, Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

2:05 - 2:50 p.m. Local Road Agreements for Data Centers, Wind & Solar Farms
You can't just say "no." Data centers, wind and solar farms have already come to Michigan – and many communities embrace them. So, how do you develop policy to protect the roads as these facilities move in nextdoor?
Kristine Parsons, PE, Managing Director, Calhoun County Road Department

2:50 - 3:05 p.m. NETWORKING & REFRESHMENT BREAK

3:05 - 3:45 p.m. The Commissioner's Role in Dealing with the Public
Generally, commissioners are not on the front line answering road-specific questions. But commissioners do have policy responsibility to look at how promptly public concerns are answered, how they're tracked, etc.
Doug Steffen, Managing Director, Clinton County Road Commission and CRA Board

3:45 - 4 p.m. OPEN SESSION: Nuts and Bolts (Q & A)
DOOR PRIZES
ADJOURN
Jo Ann McCollum, Chair, CRA Commissioners Committee (Washtenaw)



COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE:

Chair: Jo Ann McCollum, Washtenaw

Vice Chair: Jim Bowers, Benzie

Larry Brown, PE, Allegan

Todd Brown, Lenawee

Tom Doty, Mackinac

Ronald Gerstenberger, Sanilac

Rob LaCroix, Schoolcraft

David Medema, Kent

William Schumacher, Bay

Michael Scott, Montcalm

Russell Williams, Marquette



See you next year!