County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

REGISTER TODAY!

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CRA'S COMMISSIONERS IN THE CLASSROOM
IT'S TIME TO HIT THE BOOKS!

Comfort INN & SUITES

Thursday, **February 4, 2027** | **8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

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

It's time to hit the books! Whether new as a commissioner or experienced in your role, our full-day "class schedule" is built to give commissioners the tools, tips and know-how to succeed in their role. Throughout the day, you'll:



- ✓ Review Master Management skills for running smooth, productive meetings
- ✓ Pass Law 101 with a crash course on FOIA and the Open Meetings Act;
- ✓ Learn the difference between setting and executing policy in our Policy Primer;
- ✓ Take our Management Lesson on planning to prevent worker risks;
- ✓ Better understand commissioners' role in setting agency expectations;
- ✓ Get a Civics Lesson on the new road funding package;
- ✓ Gain audit-reading skills in Math Class;
- ✓ Prepare for next-generation funding in Study Hall; and
- ✓ Exercise all your questions in Gym Class.



JUST $175 TO ATTEND

REGISTER ONLINE! micountyroads.org/CITC

Overnight accommodations at the Comfort Inn & Suites available at **$98 per night** by calling **989.772.4000**.

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

7:30–8 a.m. **BREAKFAST**

MORNING SESSION: THE BACKGROUND

Presiding: Jo Ann McCollum, *Chair, CRA Commissioners Committee and Chair Washtenaw County Road Commission*

8 a.m. **WELCOME AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

8 – 8:45 a.m. **MANAGEMENT LESSON: FOR PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS**

Learn how to run effective, efficient meetings by setting clear agendas, adopting and consistently applying procedural rules, and managing public comment periods. Interactive session!

Speakers: Stacy Hissong and Lizzie Mills, *PE, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes*

8:45 – 9:30 a.m. **LAW 101: DOING THINGS RIGHT**

A practical look at critical laws every commissioner must follow including the Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Act.

Speaker: Wendy Hardt, *Claims Director, Michigan County Road Commission Self-Insurance Pool (MCRCSIP)*

9:30 – 9:45 a.m. **STRETCH & SNACK BREAK**

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. **POLICY PRIMER: COMMISSIONERS SET, CHIEF ADMIN OFFICER EXECUTES**

Understand the line between policymaking and management, including real-world examples like compensation plans, equipment purchases and township match programs.

Speaker: Sue Radwan, *President, Association for Strategic Planning*

10:45 – 11 a.m. **MINI-BREAK**

11 – 11:30 a.m. **MANAGEMENT LESSON: PROTECTING THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTY ROAD AGENCIES**

Every day our employees perform critical work for our communities. Learn more about what a Commissioner's need role and strategic responsibilities in a self-insured worker's compensation program.

Speaker: Travis Van Tighem, *ARM, Administrator, County Road Association Self-Insurance Fund*

11:30 – 12 Noon **LUNCH**

12 – 12:40 p.m. **LUNCHEON KEYNOTE: SETTING REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS AT THE COUNTY ROAD AGENCY**

Setting clear expectations is vital to establish – and raise – the bar of performance and accountability at the road agency.

Speaker: Linnea Rader, *Lead with Linnea*

AFTERNOON SESSION

Presiding: Russell Williams, *Chair, CRA Commissioners Training & Education Subcommittee and Commissioner, Marquette County Road Commission*

1 – 1:30 p.m. **CIVICS CLASS: ROAD FUNDING 101**

Run-through Michigan road funding, now that the 2025 Road Funding Package distributions are more clear.

Speaker: Tom Steinbis, *CRA Legislative Specialist*

1:30 – 2 p.m. **MATH LESSON: WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN REVIEWING THE AUDIT AND INTERPRETING ROAD AGENCY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

You just received your financial statements from your auditor. What things should concern you – and what shouldn't? Break down the numbers including revenue, expenditures and the role of the commissioner.

Speaker: Jordan Smith, *Maner Costerisan CPA*

2 – 2:15 p.m. **STRETCH & SNACK BREAK**

2:15 – 2:45 p.m. **STUDY HALL: THINKING ABOUT NEXT-GENERATION ROAD FUNDING**

Gas tax comprises nearly half of state road funding but fuel efficiency is jeopardizing that model. Learn more about the MiRUC Pilot Project and how you can join as MDOT explores next-gen road funding

Speaker: Paul McDonald, *Chief Administrative Officer, Michigan Department of Transportation*

2:45 – 3 p.m. **GYM CLASS: "AROUND THE WORLD"**

Let's hit your questions before we hit the road. These questions will be used to develop future conference sessions, webinars. Or, we can answer in the moment

MODERATORS: Jim Bowers and Jo Ann McCollum, *vice chair and chair of the CRA Commissioners Committee*

SCHOOL'S OUT!

HOMEWORK: *Commissioners Handbook and online quiz* – **For your FREE CRA hat!**