



County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

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County Road Agencies Turn to Innovations in Snow Removal to Stretch Budgets and Better Serve Residents

Lansing, MICH. – Snow removal in Michigan isn't what it used to be! As budgets have waned and mountains of snow pile up every year, county road agencies across the state are looking to public-private partnerships as an innovative way to stretch road maintenance dollars and provide residents with the service they desire.

Two Michigan county road agencies, Emmet and Genesee counties, have been using private contractors to assist with snow removal during bad winter storms. Both counties have reported positive results since piloting programs over the last several years, according to the Innovation Alley feature article in the most recent issue of Crossroads, the quarterly magazine of the County Road Association.

The Emmet County Road Commission (ECRC) is now clearing 28 miles of subdivision road with private contractors, a program they began in 2007. When more than four inches of snow falls within a determined period, ECRC activates its private-sector snow removal experts under a contract that stipulates designated roads must be cleared by 8:30 a.m., in time for motorists to head to work and school.

The Genesee County Road Commission (GCRC) has been using private contractors for three years, and now employs their services for five of Genesee's urban townships. On the first major snowfall of the year, GCRC activates its private contractors to work alongside county road commission employees to set operating standards for the year. After that, private contractors have 24 hours to clear snow once called upon, giving these local snow removal businesses time and flexibility to juggle several clients.

"Our top priority in winter as a county road commission is to keep Michigan's roads clean and safe for our residents who are hitting the streets," said John H. Daly, III, PhD, manager-director of the Genesee County Road Commission. "We're always looking for innovations and alternative techniques to better serve Michigan residents."

For more information on the innovations of county road agencies in Michigan, visit www.micountyroads.org/Newsroom/Crossroads-Magazine.

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The 83 members of the County Road Association represent the unified, credible and effective voice for a safe and efficient local road system in Michigan, collectively managing more than 73 percent of all roads in the state— more than 90,000 miles and 5,700 bridges— the fourth-largest county road system in the nation.

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