



County Road Association OF MICHIGAN

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Van Buren County Road Commission honored with three statewide IMPRESS Awards!

LANSING, MI – The Van Buren County Road Commission (VBCRC) was honored with three statewide IMPRESS Awards at the 2025 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.



This year, Van Buren County received IMPRESS Awards in:

- **COLLABORATION** for its Paint-a-Plow Program, which engages local students in promoting road safety and community involvement.
- **COMMUNICATIONS** for its Big Picture Leadership Program, aimed at fostering leadership skills across the commission.
- **OPERATIONS** for transitioning to In-House Roadside Mowing, enhancing operational efficiency and safety.

“Van Buren’s multifaceted approach to innovation is a testament to their commitment to excellence,” said Denise Donohue, CRA CEO. “Their efforts in education, leadership *and* operational improvements are paving the way for future success in county road management.”

Paint-a-Plow has successfully engaged youth in road safety initiatives, while the leadership program and in-house mowing transition have both resulted in notable operational enhancements.

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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Pictured above from left: VBCRC's W.C. Askew, commissioner, and Bret Witkowski, managing director.