



**County Road Association**  
OF MICHIGAN

101 S. WASHINGTON SQUARE, STE. 200  
LANSING, MI 48933

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**CONTACT:** Betty McNerney

517.482.1189

[bmcnerney@micountyroads.org](mailto:bmcnerney@micountyroads.org)

## **Eaton County Road Commission looks to the future with renewed focus on preventive maintenance**

LANSING, MI – A quiet evolution has been going on with county road agencies in the last few years. Whether pandemic fall-out, retiring baby boomers or some other factor, more than half of Michigan’s 83 county road agencies have witnessed a change in leadership. One of those is the Eaton County Road Commission (ECRC) in Charlotte.

Under the leadership of Mathew Hannahs, ECRC’s new-ish engineer-manager (as of 2022), the road agency is operating with a renewed focus on preventive maintenance for roads and bridges. This includes returning to some tasks that have been on the proverbial “back burner” for a while, says Hannah.

“One of the items is roadside ‘de-berming,’ on both paved and unpaved roads,” noted Hannah. “This hasn’t been done in decades in Eaton County, and it’s important that we keep water off the road to improve its longevity.” De-berming is the process of removing built-up soil and sediment adjacent to a roadbed.

ECRC is also using road graders more regularly to restore the crown on gravel roads. It’s an important piece of ECRC’s commitment to providing safer and more durable roads for Eaton County drivers in the long run.

To learn more about ECRC’s preventive maintenance and what’s ahead, read the summer issue of *Crossroads* magazine, the quarterly magazine of the County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan, which can be viewed digitally or downloaded at [micountyroads.org/Crossroads](http://micountyroads.org/Crossroads).

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 5 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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