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Genesee County Road Commission pilot testing 10-year dust control treatment

Lansing, MI – A dust control treatment that could last up to 10 years? You may think the road agency making this claim has its head in the clouds. But thanks to a new repurposed soil-bonding product in a trial project at the Genesee County Road Commission (GCRC), that goal might not be too far off.

The innovative product, called Perma-Zyme®, bonds tighter to soil than traditional materials, allowing GCRC to reduce dust longer on unpaved roads. Two years is the goal lifespan of the product, but 10 years is the hope. If the product lives up to its claims, materials cost will be cut in half, and time spent by workers applying product will decrease as well.

"It started in 2013 when we had an unpaved road that, due to local geography, was in constant need of maintenance and repair," said Eric Johnson, GCRC director of Engineering. "We worked with a company called Substrata® to utilize a newer product that promises a tighter material bond for longer lasting unpaved roads. So far, trails have been very promising."

GCRC is looking forward to continuing this method on the 395 miles of GCRC's unpaved road system if pilots prove successful. They are currently the first county road agency to test the new dust suppressant agent in Michigan, and one of only a handful in the nation.

To learn more about GCRC's new dust suppression agent, read the Fall 2021 issue of *Crossroads* magazine, the quarterly journal of the County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan, which can be viewed digitally or downloaded at 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 percent of all roads in the state, including 90,000 miles of roads and 5,700 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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