



County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

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Winning partnership streamlines historical clearance for local road projects

LANSING, MI –Thanks to an innovative, collaborative partnership between county road agencies, the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), county road projects this summer are moving forward more quickly while still preserving Michigan’s rich cultural and archeological heritage.

Under the new process, spearheaded by the County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan, “historical clearances” are expedited for most of the estimated 450 local federal aid road projects counties perform annually. Gone are the backlog, bottlenecks and project delays that once jeopardized the federal aid timetable for these projects.

In addition, in most cases, local road agencies no longer need to hire their own archaeologists and architectural historians to prepare an application for historical clearance.

Since the new process took effect in January 2023, CRA has learned of no-cultural-impact projects obtaining clearance in under two weeks.

“We are confident this new process is more streamlined for local agencies while protecting cultural resources,” said Steve Puuri, PE, CRA’s engineering specialist. “It’s a ‘win-win’ scenario.”

To learn more about the partnership that streamlined historical clearance for local road projects, read the spring issue of *Crossroads* magazine, 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% 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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