



County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 6, 2023

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**Midland County Road Commission honored
with three statewide IMPRESS awards!**

LANSING, MI – The Midland County Road Commission (MCRC) received three statewide IMPRESS Awards at the 2023 County Road Association (CRA) Highway Conference held March 22 in Lansing. IMPRESS Awards recognize county road agencies that demonstrate innovation on notable projects in the categories of Communications, Operations and Collaboration.



This year, MCRC received an IMPRESS award in Collaboration for *“Using BDL to Gain CDL;”* an award in Communications for *“The Opacity, the Audacity!;”* and an award in Operations for *“Optimizing Guardrail Damage Repairs with GIS.”*

“The Midland County Road Commission is quite capable of adapting to new technologies and collaborating with other companies,” said Denise Donohue, CRA CEO. “Their ingenuity proves

their desire to go above and beyond for county residents.”

Collaboration

The trucking industry is facing a driver shortage, in part due to the lack of Commercial Driver License (CDL) testing sites. In early 2022, BDL Testing Driving School, LLC, in Beaverton approached the Midland County Road Commission as a possible CDL testing location. This innovative thinking resulted in a signed property use agreement between BDL and MCRC to use road commission grounds to conduct CDL testing. The agreement has promoted the work of commercial drivers, boosted the local economy and ensured safety on the roads.

Communications

Last year, MCRC published monthly videos to help increase public support for the agency. On January 1, 2022, MCRC began collecting pictures and videos of work activities from employees and edited them together. Each month, MCRC posted a video to social media and included quick statistics ranging from the number of overtime hours worked to tons of salt used in winter. MCRC's openness engaged the public and helped maintain a good reputation in the community.

Operations

To ease the challenge of recording guardrail damage reports, corresponding with contractors and tracking the status of repairs, MCRC implemented GIS software into road commission operations. The result, known as Guardrail Damage Repair Map, allows MCRC members to access data in real-time, quickly track damaged rails and document the repair process. This database is great for keeping construction records, customizing solutions and improving efficiency and productivity.

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 90,000 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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