



County Road Association OF MICHIGAN

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Ottawa County Road Commission honored with three statewide IMPRESS awards!

LANSING, MI – The Ottawa County Road Commission (OCRC) 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, OCRC received an IMPRESS award in Collaboration for *“Lakewood Blvd. Infrastructure Improvements;”* an award in Communications for *“OCRC Digital Signage Project;”* and an award in Operations for *“Aggregate Mining Operations.”*

“The multiple projects completed by the Ottawa County Road Commission have produced many benefits,” said Denise Donohue, CRA CEO. “From improving road commission communication to affordable construction and maintenance, OCRC has made an immense impact.”

Collaboration

The OCRC collaborated with the Holland Board of Public Works (BPW) and Holland Charter Township allowing for infrastructure repairs along Lakewood Boulevard, between Lakeshore Avenue and North River Avenue. OCRC worked on widening and resurfacing parts of Lakewood, while BPW and Holland Township installed a new water transmission main and replaced a storm sewer. By working together and using a single engineering entity and contractor, the project was completed swiftly.

Communications

OCRC has nearly 120 employees. To improve communication, they completed a digital signage project, placing large display monitors in the breakrooms at the road commission's main office and its four maintenance garages. Information displayed includes memos from the human resources office, safety information, job openings, employee anniversaries, weather forecasts and more. Additionally, the road commission can tailor specific messages to certain garage locations, allowing operations to run more smoothly.

Operations

OCRC has also been extracting aggregate from its own pits and using the materials for various road improvements and commercial sales. Royalties that Oceana obtained from the mining operations were used for maintenance and upkeep of OCRC facilities and equipment. The royalties allow OCRC to use its traditional road funding on other improvements across the county.

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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