



County Road Association OF MICHIGAN

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Saginaw County Road Commission honored with three statewide IMPRESS awards!

LANSING, MI – The Saginaw County Road Commission (SCRC) received two statewide IMPRESS Awards and a People’s Choice Award 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, SCRC received an IMPRESS award in Communications for *“Plow Locator;”* and an award in Operations for *“Drone Inventory Bulk Materials.”*

“Saginaw County Road Commission’s use of innovative technology is a testament to their adaptability,” said Denise Donohue, CRA CEO. “By utilizing these technologies, SCRC is better able to serve the public, especially during the winter months.”

Communications

A typical winter storm in Saginaw County can result in SCRC's 40+ vehicle fleet covering 10,000 miles or more on the first day. SCRC wanted to share the hard work of its fleet drivers and provide information on road maintenance during a snowstorm. So, it launched an interactive map to show its automatic vehicle locators with internal staff and the public. This map, or "Plow Locator Tool," has greatly aided drivers in Saginaw County and ensured safety during dangerous road conditions. This entry also won a People's Choice Award.

Operations

SCRC modernized the task of collecting data on the inventory of bulk material by deploying drones. With proper planning and monitoring of the weather, Saginaw has successfully completed two seasons' worth of inventory audits. Purchasing the drone, other necessary parts and getting two staff members certified by the Federal Aviation Administration cost \$5,000.

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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