



County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

101 S. WASHINGTON SQUARE, STE. 200
LANSING, MI 48933-1143

January 7, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dustin Earley

Phone: 517.482.1189

Email: dearley@micountyroads.org

The Monroe County Road Commission innovative process with tub girders to make for a more valuable bridge structure

LANSING, MI – The Monroe County Road Commission (MCRC) has used tub girders for a local bridge repair to make a splash with bridge repairs! This new approach to bridge repairs is quicker and more cost efficient than standard bridge construction.

MCRC collaborated with the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to complete the Cone Road bridge project, replacing the superstructure deck of the bridge over North Macon Creek in Milan Township.

Shaped like a bathtub, tub girders are hollow steel beams that are fabricated from cold-bent structural steel plate and then galvanized. They support the bridge deck, and require lower maintenance. The concrete bridge deck can be precast on the girder and then shipped as a single unit by truck to the project site. The bridge deck can also be poured using conventional methods.

“We began using tub girders primarily based on their accelerated construction and low maintenance characteristics,” said Matthew Snell, county highway engineer of MCRC. “The first year we used tub girders was in 2006 for a bridge replacement. We were super-pleased with the performance of the tub girders, so in 2019 we used them for two superstructure replacement projects.”

To learn more about MCRC’s tub girder innovative bridge structure, read the Winter 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.

###