



County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

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Road Commission for Oakland County turns to high-friction epoxy treatments to increase safety on roads.

LANSING, MI – The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) was looking for a better way improve traction on Clarkston Road in Independence Township – a major access road that twists and turns its way to DTE Energy Music Theatre. So, they took another look at high friction surface treatments (HFST) to get some traction.

HFST is a relatively straightforward process. It begins with cleaning fresh asphalt to apply an epoxy to the road surface, followed by a layer of high-quality, small and coarse gravel.

The application of HSFTs is used in other countries but is newer to Michigan. Michigan has only 10-50 curves with HFSTs, including the RCOC Clarkston Road project.

“This was an ideal location for the treatment, because there are several fairly sharp curves, and we had a history of vehicles running off the road,” explained RCOC managing director Dennis Kolar, PE.

With Clarkston Road recently resurfaced thanks to an Independence Township road millage, RCOC decided to see if an HFST could improve safety on the road that can see over 9,000 vehicles a day.

As for the effectiveness of HFSTs, studies have shown that in the year after application, crash reduction can be as high as 69%.

“We have been very pleased with the results so far,” Kolar said. “Since placing the HFST, we have not seen any run-off the-road crashes at those locations.”

RCOC, will look at HFSTs again!

To learn more about RCOC’s high-friction epoxy treatments, 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.

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