

Washtenaw County Road Commission Preventative Maintenance Plan

This summary will provide a basic understanding of what functions road commissions are to perform in Michigan and how the Washtenaw County Road Commission carries-out this charge. Additionally, this will describe the routine and preventative maintenance programs.

Mission: The Road Commission is responsible for maintaining a road system that is reasonably safe and convenient to the traveling public.

Road System: The Road Commission has jurisdiction over a road system that is comprised of 1,646 miles of roads, 111 bridges, 2000 culverts, and 3,300 miles of roadside drainage, 150 signalized intersections, 30,000 signs and many other ancillary road facilities. In addition the Road Commission is responsible for 16,000 acres of road right-of-ways, 280 acres of gravel pits, 25 maintenance buildings and facilities. Collectively these road and support facilities comprise the Road Commission assets.

Asset Management: Asset management is an ongoing process of maintaining, upgrading and operating physical assets in a cost-effective manner, based on a continual objective physical inventory and condition assessment. The Michigan Legislature recognized the need that roads have become a forgotten asset of this state so they established PA 199 of 2007 which created a Transportation Asset Management Council. This council is empowered to quantify all of the road agency assets and to recommend system-wide asset management strategies to assure that tax payers see the most effective use of the available road funding.

A good highway system is a critical component of a healthy economy and in Michigan roads serve as the backbone of our state's economy. Funding for our road system has been a forgotten priority. Michigan has ranked in the bottom 6 states in road funding for several decades. Recently a rapid erosion of purchasing power has compounded our funding shortfall; this has severely limited the ability of the Road Commission to perform necessary routine maintenance and preventative maintenance as recommended by our asset management system.

Preventative Maintenance: The Transportation Asset Management Council initially required all road agencies to annually inventory the federal-aid road system; now they have expanded the inventory to include the local road system. To accomplish this task the Road Commission employs road professionals who inventory the paved road system, monitor the conditions, and annually develop preventative maintenance programs to address identified deficiencies.

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To accomplish the goals of the Asset Management Council the Washtenaw County Road Commission has developed the following process to assure that the mission of the organization is realized in the most cost effective manner.

Annual inventory of road system assets includes:

- Annual Paved Surface Evaluations - PASER ratings
- Bi-annual Bridge & Critical Larger Culvert Inspections
- Annual Traffic Counts
- Continuous Traffic Crash Monitoring
- Continuous monitoring of our signal systems
- Continuous Road Monitoring by District Foreman
- Computerized Service Request Tracking System
- Website Service Request

Engagement of stakeholders to develop preventative and reconstruction programs:

- Regular Township Supervisor/Road Committee Collaboration
- Monthly Transportation Planning Collaboration WATS & SEMCOG
- Capital Improvement Program – Annual Call for Projects
- Preliminary Capital Improvement Program – solicitation of stakeholder comments
- Establish a Preliminary Annual Budget for preventative maintenance and capital improvement projects
- Annual Budget public hearing

On a reoccurring basis the following procedures are followed to develop our annual maintenance programs:

- Annually, the Operations Department develops a variety of local road improvement project proposals for each township to consider.
- Annually, the Road Commission meets with each township to present summer work proposals and discuss capital improvement needs.
- Annually, the Road Commission and Township establish agreements for road improvement projects.
- Annually, the Road Commission performs a variety of county-wide preventative maintenance projects within the established budget based on asset management inventories and Operations Department experience.
- Annually, the Road Commission performs the capital improvement projects included in the budget.
- Annually, transportation assets are reassessed for condition and inventories are updated for future program and project development process.
- Annually, Engineering and Operations proposes a CIP and budget proposal including routine and preventative programs.