

# January 2023 Township Update



Happy New Year from the Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC). Our crews have had a busy holiday season performing winter maintenance. We encourage everyone to slow down and give us plenty of room to work on the roads. When we're not fighting snow and ice, we are looking ahead to the 2023 construction season. Our foremen and project managers have begun preparing local road project estimates with township officials.

## Winter Look Aheads



### Snow & Ice Removal

WCRC clears over 1,650 miles of county roads based on a priority system that starts with highways and paved county roads, followed by subdivision and gravel roads.



### Seasonal Weight Restrictions (Aka Frost Laws)

Seasonal weight restrictions protect the integrity of non-designated roads when frost is coming from the ground. Typically these restrictions go into effect in late winter or early spring.



### Pothole Season

Potholes occur when snow and ice melt during Michigan's seasonal freeze-thaw cycle. A pothole is typically fixed by cleaning out the loose debris and filling it with hot or cold asphalt patch.

## Report an Issue

There are three easy ways to report non-emergency road issues\*

1. **Online:** [wcroads.org/report](http://wcroads.org/report)
2. **App:** Download the WCRC Fix It app
3. **Phone:** (734) 761-1500

*\*If you need to report a road emergency, for example, an object in the traveled portion of the road or a downed stop sign, please call us immediately at (734) 761-1500 for 24/7 service.*



## Snow Plowing Priorities

WCRC performs winter maintenance activities in accordance with its Winter Maintenance Policy approved by the Washtenaw County Board of County Road Commissioners. This policy includes a priority system for clearing snow and ice from roads that is based on traffic volumes, location and road classification.

Here's a summary of our priorities during a storm:

**Primary Routes:** The most highly traveled roads in the county. When it's snowing, WCRC crews focus all efforts to keep these clear for emergency vehicles and all travelers. Examples: I-94, US-23, M-52, US-12, M-14, county paved roads...

**Secondary Routes:** Local roads like subdivision or gravel roads. These will be cleared once the primary routes are cleared. If it starts to snow again, WCRC crews will leave these roads to go back to primary routes.

## Materials to Fight Slick Roads



### Grit/Sand

Used on gravel roads and at intersections to help provide traction.



### Salt

Mixed with blue anti-caking additive. Most effective when road temps are above 17 degrees.



### Mix

Grit and salt mixed. Used when temps are below 17 degrees, grit provides traction until salt can start working.