

**MICHIGAN
NACE ANNUAL STATE REPORT
2019-2020**

State Association Name: County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan

Number of Counties: 83

Number of State Assoc. Members: 0

Number of NACE Members: 106

State Annual Meeting/Conference:

- CRA Highway Conference: *Today's vision, tomorrow's reality*
March 10-12, 2020
Lansing Center/Radisson Hotel, Lansing (1000 attendees)

Other significant meetings during 2019-2020:

- County Road Commissioners Seminar – March 10-12, 2019
- Upper Peninsula Road Builders Association Summer Meeting – June 12-13, 2019
- Association of Southern Michigan County Road Agencies and Northern Michigan Association of Road Commissions Joint Conference – September 11-12, 2019
- Superintendents Seminar – October 2-3, 2019
- Invasive Species Management Workshop – October 30, 2019
- Asphalt Maintenance Workshop – December 11-12, 2019
- Upper Peninsula Road Builders Association Winter Meeting – January 30-31, 2020
- CRA County Engineers Workshop – February 4-6, 2020
- Quarterly meetings: 9 Regional Councils (36 meetings total)

Notable achievements of State Association and/or Individual members:

Individual member/agency achievements:

- CRA President for 2019-2020 was David Pettersch, Managing Director, Gladwin County Road Commission.
- CRA Urban Engineer of the Year was James Hoekstra, PE, Traffic and Project Engineer, Road Commission of Kalamazoo County.
- CRA Rural Engineer of the Year was Terry Palmer, PE, Managing Director (Ret'd.), Midland County Road Commission.
- CRA Project Manager of the Year Brent Swanson, Engineering Technician, Dickinson County Road Commission.
- Recognized seven county road agencies with IMPRESS awards for best practices in operations, or engineering.

Michigan County Road Association achievements:

- CRA's most significant accomplishment of 2019 was completion of a first-in-34-years County Road Investment Plan detailing the financial needs of Michigan's 90,000-mile, 5,200-bridge county road system across all 83 counties – the 4th-largest local road network in the US. The report, developed by a team of county road engineers, establishes an annual financial need of \$3.6 billion to bring the county system to 90% good/fair on federal aid-eligible roads by 2029 and 60% good/fair on local, nonfederal aid-eligible roads by 2029. These are the same goals utilized by the Michigan Department of Transportation and endorsed by the Governor. To achieve them on the county road system would require an additional \$2.05 billion annually.
- Helped facilitate Michigan's new local "bridge bundling" initiative in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation's Bureau of Bridges. This efficiency program to address the serious deficiency in the condition of local bridges began a pilot project in Fall 2019. The pilot is utilizing >\$20 million in federal Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds, and those projects are currently in process. The initiative is focused on local bridges, and reflects cooperation between county road agencies and municipalities, to achieve the bundling with federal funds in projects administered under Michigan DOT leadership.

Important events in which CRA participated during 2019-2020:

- Representation at NACE Annual Meeting.
- Outreach at Michigan Association of Counties and Michigan Townships Association annual conferences, including presentations on road funding needs.
- Participation in twice-weekly Michigan House of Representatives Transportation Committee and Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee meetings, testifying on a half-dozen occasions.
- Participation in Senate Transportation Committee and Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee meetings, including testifying on multiple occasions.
- Representation at "Solutions Summit" in Detroit hosted by the Center for Michigan and *Crain's Business Detroit* focused on road funding and what it will realistically take to fix Michigan's deteriorating roads.
- Participation in Michigan State Chamber Day road funding discussion panel, four Citizens Research Council/Michigan Information Resources News panels on road funding, and other town halls on road funding, as the Michigan Legislature contemplates a 21-bill transportation efficiency and funding package with a Governor elected to "Fix the Damn Roads."
- Representation at 2019 Mackinac Policy Conference, the state's leading annual legislative-business policy conference.
- Representation on the Michigan Rural Task Force Advisory Board for federal fund distribution.
- Co-chair of FHWA-MDOT Local Project Administration Committee.
- Widespread implementation of online Oxcart Permit Systems platform to implement CRA's 11 standardized transportation permits, and adoption of online right-of-way permitting strategy under Michigan Oxcart Steering Committee.

Important issues for County Road Association of Michigan during 2019-2020:

State-Level Issues:

The strength of the County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan comes from 83 counties' commitments to speak with a unified voice on issues impacting local roads, bridges and rights-of-way, as well as road agency operations. Some of those recent issues include...

- Equity of fund distribution and preservation of Michigan's Public Act 51 fund distribution formula with the introduction of new road funding.
- The management of unfunded liabilities at county road agencies in Michigan.
- Availability of aggregate resources and development of new aggregate resource sites.
- Historically high Great Lakes water levels across the state, causing an early estimate of \$53.4 million in damage to county roads in the 41 shoreline counties.
- Addressing more rapid processing of historic preservation clearances of federal-aid road projects by Michigan's State Historic Preservation Office.
- Telling the story of road commissions with emphasis on innovation and collaboration across county lines.
- Messaging the use of Michigan's road funding dollars to facilitate transparency, trust and future funding including through survey data of the 83 county road agencies.
- Strengthening relationships with other statewide governmental associations and private organizations.

National-Level Issues:

- The Coronavirus and COVID-19's impact on federal funding, and counties' limited window to spend federal obligation authority when everyday business practices have been so restricted without warning.

Ideas/concerns to share with other NACE Members:

- Maintaining and increasing funding for county road agencies while removing unnecessarily restrictive federal guidelines that are prohibitive to timely, efficient completion of road work.

Report Submitted by:

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