

**MICHIGAN
NACE ANNUAL STATE REPORT
2020-2021**

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: *Lane Shift Ahead*
Cancelled for 2021

Other significant meetings during 2020-2021:

- Virtual PR Workshop – October 13 and 27, 2020
- CRA Legislative Update Live Virtual Happy Hour – November 6, 2020
- CRA Virtual Legal Symposium – December 8, 2020
- Upper Peninsula Road Builders Association Winter Meeting (virtual) – February 4, 2021
- CRA County Engineers Workshop (virtual) – February 9-10, 2021
- New Commissioners Seminar (hybrid format) – February 22, 2021
- Quarterly meetings: 9 CRA District Councils

Notable achievements of State Association and/or Individual members:

Individual member/agency achievements:

- CRA President for 2020-2021 was Dick Timmer, commissioner and commission chair at Chippewa County Road Commission
- CRA Urban Engineer of the Year was Danielle Deneau, PE, Director of Traffic Safety, Road Commission for Oakland County
- CRA Rural Engineer of the Year was Garrett Myland, PE, Assistant Manager/Engineer at St. Joseph County Road Commission
- Recognized 10 county road agencies with IMPRESS awards for best practices in communications, collaboration or operations.

Association achievements:

- Continued to co-facilitate the launch of a statewide Bridge Bundling Program in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation's Bureau of Bridges. The program received its first round of federal HIP funding at \$23 million for 19 bridges and will receive an additional \$300 million in FY22.
- Helped push for successful passage of bill that increases borrowing authority of county road commissions for personal property (buildings) from 15 years to 30 years.

- Helped launch right-of-way permitting through Oxcart Permit Systems for Michigan county road agencies. Currently 53 of 83 counties are on Oxcart, which helped greatly during the pandemic.
- Launched a mobile app in both formats (Android, iOS) for real-time seasonal weight restriction information from all 83 counties. 4,700 downloads in first six weeks; 250,000 page views in same time frame. Goal was to better inform heavy haulers and protect the road system.

Important events in which CRA participated during 2020-2021:

- Representation at NACE Annual Meeting 2021.
- Representation on the Michigan Rural Task Force Advisory Board for federal fund distribution.
- Michigan Wetland Board (MiWB) Perry wetland mitigation site (for local road projects) dedication news conference.
- Representation at Virtual Michigan Agri-Business Association Winter Conference.
- Testimony in front of the Michigan House Transportation Committee and House Transportation Appropriations Committee.
- Representation at White House event on Rolling Back Regulations to Help All Americans.

Important issues for County Road Association of Michigan during 2020-2021:

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...

- Successfully innovating myriads of procedures, budget adjustments to remain on the job everyday throughout the worst pandemic in a century, as critical infrastructure workers.
- 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 underfunded liabilities at county road agencies in Michigan with Legislature support of innovative funding mechanisms.
- Availability/accessibility 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 roads in 41 counties.
- Staff availability of state offices responsible for historic preservation clearance of road projects.
- Telling the story of road commissions with emphasis on innovation and collaboration across county lines.
- Telling how Michigan's new road funding dollars are being used to facilitate transparency, trust and future funding.
- Strengthening relationships with other statewide governmental associations and private organizations.

National-Level Issues:

- COVID's impact on federal funding, and counties' limited window to spend money without being penalized.
- Sorting out appropriate uses of new federal funding streams.

Ideas/concerns to share with other NACE Members:

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

Report Submitted by:

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