

WHAT IS RCOC?

The Road Commission for Oakland County maintains Michigan's largest county road system, with 2,700-plus miles of county roads (including more than 700 miles of gravel roads). Only the state highway system is larger.

RCOC also maintains:

- ◆ Approximately 80 bridges,
- ◆ Approximately 1,500 traffic signals,
- ◆ Approximately 150,000 traffic signs and
- ◆ More than 230 miles of state highway.

SAFETY FIRST

As a matter of policy, major road improvement projects are conducted by the Road Commission based on a safety ranking system. At RCOC "Safety First" is more than a motto.



RCOC:

- ▶ Is separate from county general government; does not receive any direct revenue from property taxes
- ▶ Receives the majority of its funding from the state-collected gas tax
- ▶ Has congested roads due to the tremendous growth in the county
- ▶ Receives no direct revenue from economic growth and development
- ▶ Pays as much as \$1.5 million or more to pave a mile of gravel road
- ▶ Pays \$6.5 million or more to widen one mile of road from two lanes to five
- ▶ Is located in a state with a gas tax below the national average
- ▶ Is located in a state that has ranked in the bottom nine states in per capita road funding for nearly 50 years

ROAD COMMISSION
for OAKLAND COUNTY
31001 Lahser Road · Beverly Hills · MI · 48025

BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS

RONALD J. FOWKES
GREGORY C. JAMIAN
ERIC S. WILSON

Dennis G. Kolar, PE
Managing Director

Gary Piotrowicz, PE, PTOE
Deputy Managing Director
County Highway Engineer

RCOC MISSION STATEMENT

RCOC strives to provide the public with leadership in:

- Safe and convenient roads
- Sound financial management
- Responsive and dependable service
- Respect for the environment
- Sensitivity to community concerns

HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE ROAD COMMISSION?

CALL, WRITE OR VISIT:

DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
2420 PONTIAC LAKE ROAD
WATERFORD, MI 48328

(877) 858-4804

TDD: (248) 858-8005

OR, visit RCOC online at

www.rcocweb.org

ROAD COMMISSION
for OAKLAND COUNTY

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS



- ◆ Do they affect roads?
- ◆ How do we meet them?
- ◆ How can you help?

THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIDE OF THE ROAD

The need to preserve our environment is widely accepted today, though it wasn't always. Years before public interest in the environment became widespread, the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) already was focused on many "environmental concerns."

Recycling began in the 1960s with vehicle oil. Today, the agency recycles paper, batteries, tires, metal and other items it uses.

In 1974, RCOC began addressing the environmental impacts of road construction and other work on or near county roads. The review of potential impact on the environment of road construction and related work, as well as the permit-issuing function, are today handled by RCOC's Planning and Environmental Concerns Department (PEC).

The department works to ensure compliance with federal, state and local environmental laws. This involves writing environmental assessments, conducting public hearings, applying for permits from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (DNRE), soil erosion control inspections, hazardous waste disposal, wetland evaluation and serving as a liaison with state and local environmentally oriented organizations and agencies.



ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

■ The Wetlands Act

Passed in 1979 to maintain water quality, reduce flooding and preserve plant and animal habitats, it requires that reasonable efforts be made to avoid construction in wetlands. If a wetland must be lost due to construction, another equivalent wetland must be created elsewhere to replace it.

■ The Inland Lakes and Streams Act

This act calls for state DNRE approval of actions that could adversely affect lakes or change stream flows.

■ The Endangered Species Act

This act seeks to prevent harm or loss of plant or animal life that might result from road work. Though not required to do so as part of the act, the Planning and Environmental Concerns Department (PEC) also works to prevent loss of "champion" trees (the largest specimens of a species) and to reduce the number of trees removed in all road projects.

■ The Clean Water Act

This act regulates the discharge of storm water. RCOC participates by inventorying the points where storm water from its roads discharges to surface waters and by identifying illicit discharges.

■ The Leaking Underground Storage Tank Act

This act prevents groundwater contamination from fuel tanks. The department has its own underground storage tank consultant to ensure RCOC tanks are in compliance.

OTHER SPECIAL PROGRAMS

■ Adopt-A-Road

Through RCOC's Adopt-A-Road program, many community-spirited volunteers have removed tons of roadside trash, saving Road Commission funds and allowing workers to meet other needs. After applying to adopt a county road, volunteer teams receive training, safety vests, litter bags and a trash removal schedule. Roadside signs are erected to recognize this community service. Contact the RCOC Planning & Environmental Concerns Department at (248) 645-2000 to participate in the program or visit the *Permits* section of the RCOC Web site (www.rcocweb.org).

■ The Natural Beauty Road Act

This act designates unique roads to preserve natural surroundings and plant life. After the designation is requested, environmental concerns specialists carefully inspect the location, assist in the application process and conduct the required public hearing. For more information about the designation of Natural Beauty Roads, call PEC at (248) 645-2000 or visit the *Permits* section of the RCOC Web site (www.rcocweb.org).

■ The PEC department also works with the History Division of the Michigan Secretary of State to preserve historical sites along county roads.

PERMITS

Chances are, work to be done in or near the road right of way will need a permit. The same is true for individuals who wish to use non-standard vehicles on county roads. Each year, more than 5,000 permits are issued by the Department of Customer Services for:

- ◆ Installations in road rights of way (drains, power, phone or TV cables or poles, etc.)
- ◆ Driveway construction
- ◆ Overweight or oversize vehicle road use
- ◆ House moving
- ◆ Paving to comply with standards

To avoid problems, call (248) 858-4835 to see if a permit is needed.

Questions? Call the RCOC Permits and Environmental Concerns Department at (248) 645-2000 or visit the *Permits* section of the RCOC Web site (www.rcocweb.org).