

# ROAD REPORT

A publication of the Road Commission for Oakland County for public officials serving Oakland County [www.rcocweb.org](http://www.rcocweb.org)

## Jamian seated as new RCOC Board member

New Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) Board member Gregory C. Jamian on Feb. 19 took his first official action at the Board's regularly scheduled meeting.

Jamian was appointed to the Board February 5 by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. The Road Commission is not part of county general government, and operates with a separate Board and budget. However, the County Board appoints the three RCOC Board members and sets their salaries.

The new commissioner noted he is ready to help the agency address the daunting financial challenges it faces. "Doing more with less has been the hallmark of my career," Jamian said.

"We mustn't only focus on the problem of shortages in funding. There are other problems that may require a less costly fix, such as congestion mitigation and the environmental sustainability of green spaces adjacent to our roads. We will aggressively seek state and federal 'green'

funds to augment our budget while looking for ways that roads can co-exist with an enhanced environment."

Jamian is no newcomer to the transportation world. As a former member of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and former Bloomfield Township trustee, he has frequently advocated for better roads and highways in Oakland County.

He also has pursued additional federal transportation funds for the county. Through meetings arranged by his brother, John Jamian, former Detroit Port Authority director and former administrator in the US Department of Transportation, Jamian has traveled frequently to Washington DC to meet with then US secretaries of Transportation Norman Mineta and Mary Peters. In their meetings, Jamian discussed traffic congestion and lack of fed-



Greg Jamian

eral funding coming back to Oakland County.

"Oakland County is the economic engine of Michigan, and building awareness at the highest federal level of our needs continues to be my priority," Jamian said.

He also noted he is interested in helping Michigan prepare for the inevitable shift from gas tax to another revenue source to fund transporta-

tion. "It will become wise for Michigan to quickly consider alternatives to the fuel tax to address revenue losses associated with coming technological changes and greater vehicle fuel efficiency, such as hybrids," he explained.

"The Road Commission, with state support, must lead the effort to become proactive regarding the ultimate transition  
CONT'D ON PAGE 4 -- SEE JAMIAN

## Skarritt elected chair of RCOC Board

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) Board of Road Commissioners, at its regular meeting of Jan. 14, elected Richard G. Skarritt as Board chairman.

Skarritt has served on the RCOC Board since 1996. A resident of Milford, Skarritt is a retired senior staff engineer for General Motors. Prior to being appointed to the RCOC Board, he served for four terms on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners as well as four years on the Milford Village Council.

The RCOC chairman's term is for one year. Traditionally, though, chairmen have been re-elected at the end of the



Richard Skarritt

first year, and serve for two consecutive terms.

"The RCOC Board is committed to sound financial management and providing the best customer service possible," Skarritt stated. "My goal as chairman is to ensure that the agency continues to meet those objectives, particularly in these times of declining revenues and increasing operating costs."

Board member Eric S. Wilson was named vice-chairman. He was appointed to the Board in 2007. An attorney in private practice, Wilson served on the County Board of Commissioners from  
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# National study cites RCOC as leader in field of LEDs

An October 2008 study released by the national Transportation Research Board (TRB), cites the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) as a national leader for its use of and replacement plan for LED traffic signal bulbs.

The study was compiled for TRB by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, and entitled, "LED Traffic Signal Monitoring, Maintenance and Replacement Issues, a Synthesis of Highway Practice."

The study reviews how and why LED signals are beneficial. It then goes on to list "successful practices," with RCOC being the only case study cited. The report notes that RCOC has not only aggressively worked to replace incandescent traffic signal bulbs with the brighter,

longer-lasting LEDs, but has established a detailed and comprehensive schedule and budget for maintaining and replacing the bulbs in the future.

RCOC Traffic-Safety Department Director Gary Piotrowicz observed that the study reiterated for him that RCOC is taking the correct approach to LEDs. "After being involved with this, I can say with some confidence that we are certainly way ahead of most agencies," he stated.

"The bottom line is that while most agencies have done a good job converting to LEDs, most have no good plan to replace existing LEDs once they go bad."

LED bulbs last eight-to-10 years (as compared to two years for incandescent bulbs) and use far less electricity. RCOC

is already saving hundreds of thousands of dollars each year on electrical costs as a result of the LEDs, and expects this number to grow as the remaining signals are converted to LEDs.

Additionally, RCOC is saving money due to the reduced frequency of bulb replacements required with LEDs. "Instead of sending a crew to change the bulbs every two years," Piotrowicz noted, "we send a crew out every eight-to-10 years."

RCOC Managing Director Brent Bair noted this is another area where RCOC is a national leader. "RCOC remains light years ahead of many other similar agencies across the country when it comes to use of technologies that enable us to operate more efficiently," he said.

## County commissioners participate in RCOC orientation session

A group of new and veteran Oakland County Commissioners were treated March 5 to a comprehensive training session on who and what the Road Commission is.

The "orientation" session was open to all members of the County Board and conducted at the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) Traffic Operations Center (TOC) on the county government campus in Pontiac. The TOC is the headquarters for RCOC's high-tech FAST-TRAC adaptive traffic signal system.

During the session, RCOC Managing Director Brent Bair walked the county commissioners through the process of road funding in Michigan and explained the related challenges faced in the state and Oakland County. Road Commission Chairman Richard Skarritt and Vice-Chairman Eric Wilson were on hand to

answer questions as well. Road Commission Member Greg Jamian was out of town and unable to attend.

During his presentation, Bair explained that the majority of RCOC's funding comes from the state-collected vehicle registration fees and gas tax, both of which have declined in recent years. He also pointed out that RCOC does not directly receive any property tax revenues.

The county commissioners also heard from RCOC Department of Citizen Services Director Issy Acre, who shared the process followed by the agency when citizens call to report a concern. She also reported on the record number of calls the agency has received in recent years related to snow and ice, rough gravel roads and pothole problems -- all issues related to the agency's declining state road funding coupled with two particularly harsh winters in row.



*County commissioners take in the presentation at the RCOC Traffic Operations Center.*



*RCOC Managing Director Brent Bair, left, explains road funding to the group of county commissioners.*

### CHAIR, CONT'D FROM FRONT

2003 to 2006. Prior to serving on the County Board, Wilson spent nine years on the Orion Township Board of Trustees.

Board members are appointed by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and serve for six-year terms.

At the same meeting, the RCOC Board voted to reappoint Skarritt as the RCOC representative to the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.



*Eric Wilson*

# Oakland County roads get \$25 million in "Obama bucks"

The Oakland County Federal Aid Task Force Funding Committee on Feb. 24, selected the projects that will receive the approximately \$25 million in federal stimulus program road funds anticipated to come to the county -- with 29 resurfacing projects receiving the majority of the funds. The committee also allocated the approximately \$17 million worth of "normal" federal funds coming to the county for use in 2013.

The Task Force consists of representatives of the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC), the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and representatives of all the county's cities, villages and townships. The Task Force's Funding Committee has 14 members, including two from RCOC, one from MDOT, one from SMART and 10 elected to represent the county's 61 cities, villages and townships.

The Funding Committee meets each February to select the projects that will receive that year's allotment of federal road funding (to be received four years in the future). This year, the committee added to its agenda the task of distributing the federal stimulus dollars.

Of the resurfacing projects approved for stimulus funds, 27 are "resurfacing, restoration and rehabilitation" (3R) jobs, while two are complete reconstructions. 3R projects involve base repair and the application of three or four inches of new asphalt. Reconstruction jobs involve full reconstruction and 10 inches of new asphalt or concrete.

3R projects are intended to restore a road in poor condition and provide approximately 15 years of service, while a reconstruction job should provide 20-25 years of useful service.

RCOC received 13 of the 29 resurfacing projects funded with stimulus dollars, while the cities of Pontiac, Novi and Ferndale received three each. Hazel Park and Southfield each received two, and Farmington Hills, Royal Oak and Madison Heights received one each.

The projects must all be ready to bid by March 3 of 2010.

In addition to the resurfacing projects, the committee allocated \$1.5 million in stimulus funds for paving a gravel section of Ray Road in Oxford Township, \$500,000 for rural roads and \$100,000 for preventive maintenance activities.

Also at the meeting, the committee allocated \$16.6 million worth of "normal" federal road funds that will be available in 2013 (though it's possible these funds could be available sooner as a result of the stimulus dollars moving other projects forward). These funds were allocated to 15 3R projects and one reconstruction project. Additionally, \$1.5 million was allocated to RCOC for a yet-to-be-determined gravel-road paving project, and \$500,000 was allocated to road work in Oakland County's rural area.

RCOC received funding for seven 2013 projects, while the cities of Pontiac and Farmington Hills each received funding for three projects, the City of Novi received funding for two projects and the City of Ferndale received funding for one project.

"We are very pleased to be able to add \$25 million worth projects across the county that will be constructed this year or next thanks to the federal stimulus funds," observed RCOC Managing Director Brent Bair. "However, I want to make clear this extra money by no means solves all our problems. We have estimated that we have more than \$2 billion of road needs over the next 10 years just on county roads in Oakland County. Our share of the \$25 million barely makes a dent in that."

The Road Commission does not expect to receive any stimulus

funds that can be used on routine operations, such as snow plowing, pothole filling, general road maintenance or to fill vacant positions. However, Bair noted the agency is exploring the possibility of receiving additional funds to expand the conversion of traffic signals to LED bulbs and to enhance building energy efficiency.

## Projects Selected to Receive Federal Stimulus Road Funds

<b>Resurfacing, Restoration and Rehabilitation (3R) Projects</b>				
<b>Project</b>	<b>From/To</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Campbell Cntrpt. Pkwy.	13 Mile-14 Mile	Mad. Hgts.	Mad. Hgts.	\$1.46 mil.
Chrysler Serv. Dr.	Opdyke-South Blvd.	Pontiac	Pontiac	\$864,000
Chrysler Serv. Dr.	8 Mile-9 Mile	Hazel Park	Hazel Park	\$1.17 mil.
Chrysler Serv. Dr.	9 Mile-10 Mile	Hazel Park	Hazel Park	\$1.02 mil.
Cooley Lk.	Hiller-Cass-Eliz.	Waterford Twp.	RCOC	\$1.24 mil.
Crooks	Equity-Big Beaver	Troy	RCOC	\$879,000
Crooks	N. Main-Webster	Royal Oak	Royal Oak	\$802,000
Halsted	12 Mile-Emerald Forest	Farm. Hills	Farm. Hills	\$1.28 mil.
Hilton	9 Mile-Woodward Hts.	Ferndale	Ferndale	\$475,000
Inkster	9 Mile-10 Mile	Southfield	Southfield	\$878,000
Inkster	10 Mile-11 Mile	Southfield	Southfield	\$1.09 mil.
John R	14 Mile-Maple	Troy	RCOC	\$837,000
Joslyn	Walton-N. city limits	Pontiac	Pontiac	\$263,000
Meadowbrook	8 Mile-9 Mile	Novi	Novi	\$340,000
Middlebelt	8 Mile-10 Mile	Farmington Hills	RCOC	\$1.03 mil.
Middlebelt	10 Mile-11 Mile	Farmington Hills	RCOC	\$673,000
Nine Mile	Novi-Taft	Novi	Novi	\$328,000
Nine Mile	Meadowbrk.-Haggerty	Novi	Novi	\$340,000
Novi	I-96-12 Mile	Novi	RCOC	\$827,000
Opdyke	South Blvd.-Auburn	Pont./Auburn Hills	RCOC	\$1.14 mil.
Orchard Lk.	8 Mile-Grand Riv.	Farm. Hills	RCOC	\$415,000
Orchard Lk.	Maple-Lone Pine	W. Blmfld	RCOC	\$1.75 mil.
Rochester	14 Mile-Elmwood	Clawson	RCOC	\$350,000
Ten Mile	Greenfield-Kenosha	Oak Park	RCOC	\$512,000
Twelve Mile	Evrgrm-Sthfld	Sthfld/Lthrp Vil.	RCOC	\$1.03 mil.
Wayne	Pike-Lafayette	Pontiac	Pontiac	\$187,000
White Lk.	Clement-Dix. Hgwy	Indep. Twp.	RCOC	\$986,000
<b>Total 3R:</b>				<b>\$22.17 mil.</b>

## Reconstruction Projects

<b>Project</b>	<b>From/To</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Chesterfield	Fair-Fern	Ferndale	Ferndale	\$180,000
Fern	Chesterfield-Intermodal	Ferndale	Ferndale	\$330,000
<b>Total reconstruction projects</b>				<b>\$510,000</b>

## Other Projects

Pave gravel section of Ray Road in Oxford Twp. (east of M-24 to Oxford Road)				\$1.5 mil.
Unspecified rural road projects				\$500,000
Unspecified preventive maintenance				\$100,000
<b>Total federal stimulus funds allocated</b>				<b>\$24.8 mil.</b>

## JAMIAN, CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

to a miles-traveled and/or a weight/distance-based funding system."

RCOC Board members serve for six-year terms. The Board serves as the legislative body for the Road Commission, setting agency policy, hiring the managing director and adopting the annual budget.

RCOC Board Chairman Richard Skarritt welcomed Jamian to the Board. "Greg is a respected community leader and businessman," Skarritt said. "We look forward to his valuable input on the Board."

Prior to his appointment to the RCOC Board, Jamian spent four years on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners (2002 through 2006), was elected to the Board of Trustees of Bloomfield Township and served as a member of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

He is vice president of the board of the Manoogian Manor Home for the Aged and serves on the board of the Oakland University School of Nursing. He is a 15-year member of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce and served for four years on the Birmingham/Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce.

Jamian has served on numerous other boards as well, including: the School of Business Administration at Oakland University, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), Oakland Family Services and the Area Agency on Aging 1-B. His philanthropic initiatives include numerous community fundraising efforts, and he continues to support hospitals, schools, churches and the arts, with the mission of making his community a better place to live.

A graduate of Oakland University with a BA in economics, for more than 30 years Jamian has been president and CEO of an integrated health-services corporation in Troy. He and wife of 35 years, Sandra Jamian, have three daughters.

### RCOC FAST FACT:

**The Road Commission for Oakland County maintains the largest county road system in Michigan, with more than 2,700 miles of county roads, including nearly 800 miles of gravel roads.**

## Contacting RCOC

If your constituents need information about a road project or want to report a pothole, traffic signal problem or other road issue, they should call RCOC's **Department of Citizen Services** toll-free at:

**(877) 858-4804, OR**

**Send us an e-mail via the RCOC Web site:**

**[www.rcocweb.org](http://www.rcocweb.org)**

**(click on "Contact us")**

## ROAD REPORT

*Road Report is published quarterly by the Road Commission for Oakland County. Have a question or comment about Road Report? Call Public Information Officer Craig Bryson at (248) 645-2000, ext. 2302 or send him an e-mail at [cbryson@rcoc.org](mailto:cbryson@rcoc.org).*

### **Board of Road Commissioners:**

***Richard G. Skarritt, Chairman***

***Eric S. Wilson, Vice-Chairman***

***Greg C. Jamian, Commissioner***

***Brent O. Bair, Managing Director***

***Dennis G. Kolar, Deputy Managing Director/Co. Highway Engineer***

***Have a question for RCOC? Call or write:***

***Department of Citizen Services***

***2420 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328***

***(877) 858-4804 or visit RCOC online at:***

***[www.rcocweb.org](http://www.rcocweb.org)***

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