

Road Report

A publication of the Road Commission for Oakland County for public officials serving Oakland County www.rcocweb.org

Jamian named RCOC chairman, Fowkes named vice chairman

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) Board in January selected Greg Jamian to be the Board chairman for 2013. Ron Fowkes was named vice chairman.

The third Board member is former Chairman Eric Wilson.

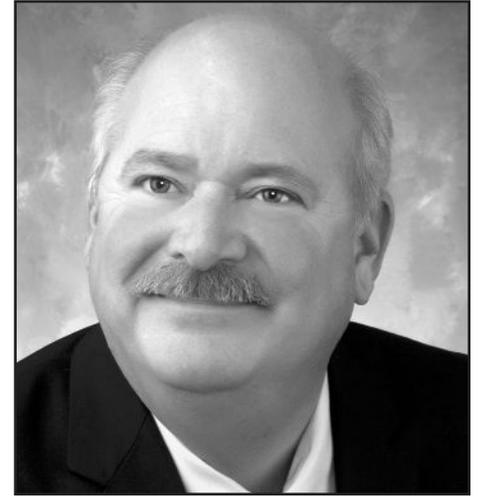
"I am pleased to have the opportunity to lead this organization," Jamian said. "While the Road Commission, like most governmental agencies, is facing financial challenges, I, along with this Board, am committed to finding ways to cut costs and improve efficiency so that we can maintain the level of service that the residents and businesses of Oakland County deserve."

Jamian has served on the RCOC Board since 2009. A resident of Bloomfield Township and former Oakland County commissioner and Bloomfield Township trustee, he has frequently advocated for better roads and highways in Oakland County as well as improvement to the regional connectivity of multimodal trans-



Greg Jamian

portation systems in Southeast Michigan. The vice president of the board of the Manoogian Manor Home for the Aged, Jamian also serves on the board of the Oakland University School of Nursing and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Traffic Improvement Association's Board of Directors. He is a



Ron Fowkes

17-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

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RCOC's biennial Strategic Planning Process with county communities now underway

Top administrators, planners and engineers of the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) in February began the process of meeting with officials of almost every city, village and township in Oakland County as part of RCOC's biennial Strategic Planning process.

Since 1985, RCOC officials have met every two years with the communities to ensure the community officials play an active role in setting the Road Commission strategy for coming years.

"This is a very time-consuming activity," explained RCOC Chairman Greg Jamian. "But it is one of the best investments of our time that we can make. Nothing else truly gives us such a clear understanding of what the important issues and priorities are for the communi-

ties." Jamian noted the process involves almost 60 separate meetings.

"To our knowledge, we are the only road commission in Michigan that goes to this length to ensure our communities have input in our planning process. It's part of our philosophy of open communication with our customers."

RCOC Managing Director Dennis Kolar explained that the process allows RCOC to regularly take the pulse of the communities on large issues as well as ensure community officials have an avenue to discuss road needs and provide feedback on day-to-day road-maintenance issues. "Through these meetings, we keep abreast of what is happening in the communities. We learn about the new

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Business Roundtable publishes brochure explaining Michigan's road-funding dilemma

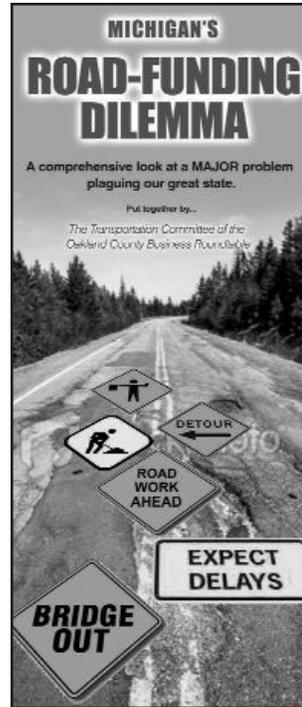
While wide-ranging discussions about road funding continue to occupy many a committee meeting in Lansing, the underlying realities of road funding in Michigan sometimes get lost. In an effort to ensure the basic facts of the situation are clearly evident to all involved, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's Business Roundtable Transportation Committee recently created a brochure highlighting critical points.

The brochure explains that road funding has been declining in recent years in Michigan. It also points out that, according to U.S. Census Bureau data, Michigan has been among the bottom nine states in the nation in per capita road funding since at least 1964.

Also included is an overview of how roads are currently funded in Michigan, providing an explanation of what the Michigan Transportation Fund is (MTF is the pot of state-collected road fund-

ing that is distributed to road agencies across the state) and what revenues go into the fund (primarily the gas tax and vehicle registration fees).

The brochure also provides a summary of information compiled by the Michigan Asset Management Council, which is the body charged with promoting the use of asset management to most efficiently use available transportation dollars in the state. It quotes the 2012 Asset Management Council report that documented the continuing decline of the collective condition of Michigan's roads due to the decades of inadequate funding.



"This brochure is a great tool to provide a quick and simple overview of road funding and the road-funding crisis in Michigan," explained Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) Managing Director Dennis Kolar. "It is very effective at providing people with the nuts and bolts of the problem we're facing in a simple and straightforward manner."

The brochure is available to view or download at the RCOC Web site (www.rcocweb.org). It's located on the website homepage in the "Quick Links" section (listed as "The Road-Funding Dilemma").

CHAIR -- CONT'D FROM FRONT

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.

For more than 30 years, Jamian has been president and CEO of an integrated health-services corporation in Troy. A graduate of Oakland University with a BA in economics, he and his wife of 37 years, Sandra Jamian, have three daughters.

Jamian also was appointed as the Road

Commission representative to the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission for 2013.

Vice-Chairman Fowkes, a Milford businessman, was appointed to the RCOC Board in 2011. "This Board is committed to providing the highest level of service possible with the resources available," Fowkes said. "We believe in the philosophy of customer service, and we're committed to the residents of Oakland County."

Commissioner Wilson also was appointed to his second term on the RCOC Board in January. Road commissioners are appointed by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and serve for six-year terms.

STRATEGIC -- CONT'D FROM FRONT

developments, redevelopment efforts and the related traffic problems and road needs," Kolar noted. "It helps promote a better understanding of the issues on the parts of both the communities and the Road Commission."

In addition to identifying current and future road needs and maintenance issues, during the process RCOC asks the local officials to prioritize the needs on county roads within their communities. This information is then used to help prioritize

RCOC projects in coming years.

"Since 1985, we have addressed many of the high-priority needs identified during the Strategic Planning meetings. We have also adjusted our road maintenance activities based on community concerns," Kolar said.

He pointed out that after the last round of Strategic Planning meetings in 2011, RCOC calculated the cost of addressing the current and projected needs identified by the communities on county roads alone. The total came to just over \$2 bil-

The cost of inaction

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, Michigan has underfunded its roads compared to most other states for nearly 50 years. The price for that is a severely deteriorating road system.

In fact, the Michigan Asset Management Council recently calculated that the cost of inadequately funding just the busiest roads over the last two years, just in Oakland County, is approximately \$70 million.

That is the cost of road repair work now needed because there was not sufficient funding to perform lower-cost routine maintenance activities on those roads during those two years.

lion worth of road needs expected between 2011 and 2021. Kolar expects this figure to have increased since then.

Also, at the meetings, the RCOC administrators share with local officials important developments at the Road Commission, such as new technology initiatives, and convey financial news.

The Strategic Planning meetings will take place through May. Once they are completed, RCOC will compile a report summarizing the information gathered at the meetings.

It's almost road-building time:

RCOC has a busy construction season planned this year

At long last, winter is over. That means road-construction season is just around the corner.

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) has a variety of projects

planned across the county this year, ranging from reconstruction projects to bridge replacements to simple resurfacing jobs.

Most work will take place during the

traditional road construction season, which runs from approximately April 15 to approximately Nov. 15

Below is a listing of the projects planned for the year.

2013 RCOC Road Improvement Program

This list includes only projects to be constructed in 2013, not those where design or right of way acquisition work is planned for 2013 (and where construction will occur in a later year). The costs listed are the total costs for each project, including any preliminary engineering, right of way acquisition and construction costs. For many of these projects, some of the costs (such as preliminary engineering or right of way costs) were paid for in previous years' budgets, so the total project costs are not necessarily representative of the dollars included in the 2013 budget for each.

<u>ROAD</u>	<u>FROM/TO</u>	<u>COMMUNITY</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>COST</u>
<u>SAFETY WIDENINGS</u>				
Tienken	Rochester to Sheldon	Rochester Hills	widen 2 lanes to 3	<u>\$2.6 mil.</u>
Total Safety Widenings:				\$2.6 mil.
<u>RECONSTRUCT/REPLACE</u> (completely reconstruct or replace existing road)				
County Center Drive E.	within County complex	Pontiac	reconstruct existing road	\$915,000
North Court Tower Blvd.	within County complex	Pontiac	reconstruct existing road	<u>\$315,000</u>
Total Reconstruct/Replace:				\$1.2 mil.
<u>REPAIR, REHABILITATE AND RESURFACE</u> (repair road base & add 3-4 inches of new asphalt to existing lanes)				
Cooley Lake	Union Lk. to Williams Lk.	White Lake Twp./Commerce Twp. border		\$450,000
Rochester	Lakeville Rd. to Leonard Village limit	Addison Twp.		\$4.9 mil.
8 Mile	Napier to Taft	Novi and Northville		\$4.6 mil.
Coolidge	Webster to Woodward	Royal Oak		\$1 mil.
Joslyn*	Collier to north of Pacific	Auburn Hills		\$1.8 mil.
12 Mile	Stephenson to Dequindre	Madison Heights		\$3.4 mil.
14 Mile	Haggerty to Country Way	Farmington Hills/Commerce Twp. border		\$450,000
Haggerty	9 Mile to north of Village Woods Dr.	Novi/Farmington Hills border		<u>\$900,000</u>
Total Repair, Rehabilitate and Resurface				\$17.5 mil.
<u>BRIDGE REPLACEMENT</u>				
13 Mile over the Rouge River		Bingham Farms (between Lahser & Telegraph)		<u>\$3.1 mil.</u>
Total Bridge Replacement:				\$3.1 mil.
<u>OVERLAYS</u> (simple asphalt resurfacing, with 1.5 inches of new asphalt)				
Livernois	Long Lake to Avon	Troy & Rochester Hills		\$1.4 mil.
Stony Creek	Orion to Rochester	Oakland Twp.		\$1 mil.
Joslyn	Waldon to Clarkson	Orion Twp.		\$575,000
Baldwin	I-75 to Indianwood	Orion Twp.		<u>\$1.4 mil.</u>
Total Overlays:				4.375 mil.
Repair Projects				
Pontiac Trail	at the Underhill Drain	Lyon Twp.	culvert replacement	\$445,000
Crooks	at I-75	Troy	concrete slab replacement	\$535,000
Livernois	Avon to Walton	Rochester Hills	crack/joint sealing	<u>\$315,000</u>
Total Repair Projects:				\$1.3 mil.
Total cost of projects to be under construction in 2013:				\$30.1 mil.

*Whether this project goes in 2013 is dependent upon whether or not all necessary right of way can be acquired.

Road Commission gearing up for May centennial celebration

Join the celebration!

That's right, the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) is turning 100. The official date of the centennial is May 7, the date of the first meeting of the Board of Road Commissioners in 1913.

The current RCOC Board will mark that date with a special Board meeting. Additionally, RCOC will hold an open house on May 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The open house will take place at RCOC's Waterford Township garage located at the Paul Van Roekel Service Center, 2420 Pontiac Lake Road (at County Center Drive West) in Waterford Township.

There will be displays highlighting the agency's history as well as equipment to view at the open house. There will also be snacks and giveaways.

"We're very proud of our history and our role in Oakland County," stated RCOC Managing Director Dennis Kolar. "From the beginning, this agency has been committed to serving the residents and businesses of Oakland County, and that remains our focus today, 100 years later."

So, mark your calendar and bring the whole family to the RCOC open house.

RCOC staffing numbers continue to fall

Due to Michigan's ongoing road-funding crisis, RCOC is continuing its six-year trend of reducing staffing levels.

Since 2007, the agency has reduced its staff by more than 31 percent. As of March, the agency had a workforce of 385, down from 556 in 2007 -- a reduction of 171 employees. To date, these reductions have occurred through attrition, as the agency has not replaced employees who have retired or left, except in a few critical positions.

"We are committed to efficiency and customer service," Managing Director Dennis Kolar stated. "I am proud that we have continued to provide a basic level of service to our customers despite these severe staff reductions. I am concerned that further staff cuts will significantly reduce our ability to meet our goals and objectives."

Kolar noted the agency's long-range financial planning suggests that unless the state increases road funding, RCOC will have to continue to reduce its workforce for the foreseeable future, making it increasingly difficult to provide core services.



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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.

Board of Road Commissioners:

Gregory C. Jamian, Chairman

Ronald J. Fowkes, Vice-Chairman

Eric S. Wilson, Commissioner

Dennis G. Kolar, PE, Managing Director

**Gary Piotrowicz, PE, PTOE, Dep. Managing Dir./
County Highway Engineer**

**Have a question for RCOC? Call:
Department of Customer Services
(877) 858-4804 or visit RCOC online at
www.rcocweb.org**

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 Customer Services** toll free at:

(877) 858-4804

OR

**Send us an e-mail via the
RCOC Web site:
www.rcocweb.org**