

While the No. 1 priority of the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) is safety, the agency is also committed to several other goals, including improving road conditions, congestion reduction, motorist convenience, protection of the environment and roadway aesthetics. In fact, RCOC is devoted to making its roadways as aesthetically pleasing as possible with the available funding.

RCOC provides the following services which affect roadway aesthetics:

- ◆ Curb sweeping
- ◆ Right of way and median mowing
- ◆ Brush removal
- ◆ Tree removal (where necessary)
- ◆ Dust control
- ◆ Drainage structure cleaning
- ◆ Weed control
- ◆ Litter pickup (by RCOC staff and through the Adopt-A-Road program)

RCOC would like to do more of each of these activities, but doing so would take money away from other critical activities.

Following are descriptions of each of RCOC's aesthetic maintenance activities.

CURB SWEEPING

RCOC's goal is to sweep the curb lanes (not the entire road) on curbed subdivision streets once per year and to sweep the curb lanes on primary or "mile type" roads under its and MDOT's jurisdiction three times per year.

Some communities wish to have more frequent sweepings on RCOC roads. RCOC offers these communities the amount of money the Road Commission would have paid its contractor for curb sweeping in that community. The community can then do the work itself or hire its own contractor and augment this amount to do more sweeping.

RCOC privatized curb sweeping years ago because doing so was cost effective. However, RCOC operates one curb sweeper to respond quickly to isolated problems.

MOWING

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) contracts with both RCOC and private contractors to mow the grass in the medians of and along all state highways in the county. MDOT determines how frequently the grass is mowed,

though in recent years, RCOC has persuaded MDOT to reimburse the Road Commission for more frequent mowings than in the past.

Additionally, where needed, RCOC mows along county roads in rural areas to ensure clear site distance. RCOC's goal is to mow these areas at least once per year.

As with curb sweeping, RCOC has privatized many mowing activities, particularly along state highways, because doing so is cost effective.



BRUSH REMOVAL

Where needed, RCOC removes small trees and brush along roads so that drivers can see other motorists and to improve roadway aesthetics. Work is performed as time, manpower and scheduling permit.

TREE REMOVAL

Where needed, RCOC's Maintenance staff removes trees smaller than 18 inches in diameter. Private contractors are hired to remove larger trees. RCOC's staff forester marks the trees to be removed and provides the contractor or Maintenance staff with the location and a priority list of trees to be removed. Work is performed as time, manpower and scheduling permit.

DUST CONTROL

RCOC controls dust on primary gravel roads by spraying them with brine (salt water). The Road Commission considerably reduce the cost of this

activity some years ago by installing its own brine wells, eliminating the need to purchase brine.

Brine is sprayed on primary gravel roads at least four times per year (more as needed). For a modest fee, the Road Commission will also apply brine on local roads (residents pay for four applications). Townships can also purchase dust-control services for all local gravel roads within their borders.



DRAINAGE STRUCTURE CLEANING

RCOC uses "vactors" (truck-sized vacuum cleaners) to clean drainage structures along county roads. RCOC owns six vactors, with one assigned to each of its six Maintenance garages. In the past, RCOC reviewed the possibility of privatizing this service, but found it is more cost effective to do the work itself.

LITTER PICK-UP (ADOPT-A-ROAD)

One of RCOC's most visible programs aimed at improving aesthetics is the Adopt-A-Road program.



The program involves organizations and concerned individuals cleaning up litter along designated road segments. RCOC installs signs along the roads crediting the volunteers for their efforts. The

Road Commission provides training, safety vests and litter bags to participants.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Road program, call RCOC's Permits Division at (248) 858-4891.

WHAT IS RCOC?

The Road Commission for Oakland County maintains Michigan's largest county road system, with 2,700-plus miles of roads (including more than 750 miles of gravel roads). Only the state highway system is larger.

RCOC also maintains:

- Approximately 90 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 and does not directly receive property tax revenues.
- Receives the majority of its funding from the state gas tax & vehicle registration fee.
- Has congested roads due to the tremendous growth in the county.
- Receives no direct revenue from growth and development.
- Pays as much as \$2.5 million to pave a mile of gravel road.
- Pays approximately \$8 million to widen one mile of road from two lanes to five.
- Is located in a state that has for years ranked in the bottom nine states in per capita road funding.

ROAD COMMISSION for OAKLAND COUNTY

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BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS:

RONALD J. FOWKES

ANDREA LALONDE

NANCY QUARLES

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

HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE ROAD COMMISSION?

Call or write:

Department of Customer Services
2420 Pontiac Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48328
(877) 858-4804
TDD: (248) 645-9923

**VISIT RCOC ONLINE AT
WWW.RCOCWEB.ORG**

ROAD COMMISSION for OAKLAND COUNTY

LOOKING GOOD:



RCOC's AESTHETIC MAINTENANCE PROGRAM