

WHAT IS RCOOC?

The Road Commission for Oakland County maintains Michigan's largest county road system, with more than 2,700 miles of roads (including 750-plus 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 highways.

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



RCOC:

- ✓ Is separate from county general government and does not receive any revenue from property taxes
- ✓ Receives the majority of its funding from the state-collected gas tax and vehicle-registration fees
- ✓ Has congested roads due to the tremendous growth in the county over many decades
- ✓ Receives no direct revenue from growth and development
- ✓ Pays approximately \$3 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 ranks in the bottom 10 states in per capita road funding

ROAD COMMISSION
for OAKLAND COUNTY

31001 Lahser Road · Beverly Hills · MI 48025

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
- Respect for the environment
- Sensitivity to community concerns

HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE ROAD COMMISSION?

CALL OR WRITE:

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

TOLL-FREE: (877) 858-4804

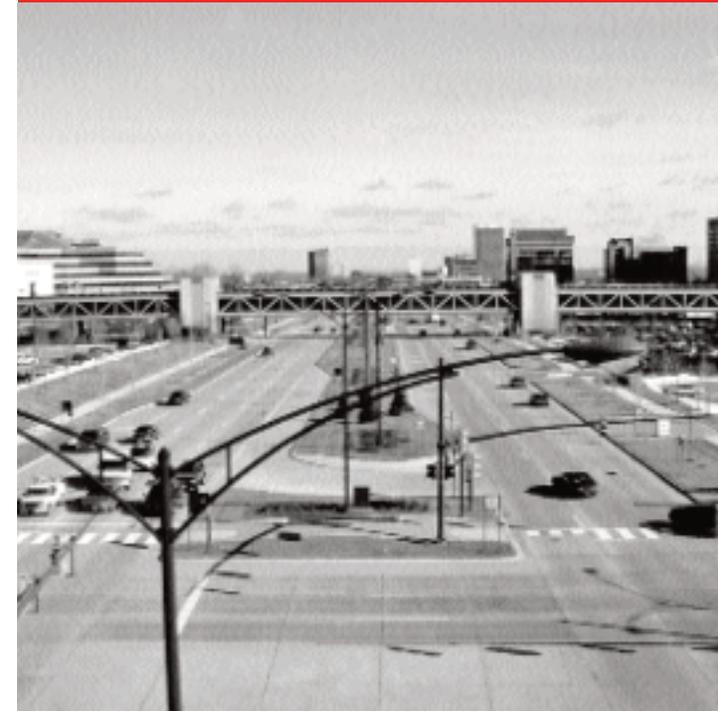
TDD: (248) 858-8005

**OR, visit RCOC online at
www.rcocweb.org**

Updated 01/21

ROAD COMMISSION
for OAKLAND COUNTY

YOUR RCOC



- ◆ Road jurisdiction?
- ◆ Who runs it?
- ◆ How is it funded?

YOUR ROAD COMMISSION:

WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

WHAT IS THE ROAD COMMISSION?

In Michigan, about 8 percent of all roads are state highways (including freeways). Cities and villages control 17 percent of roads. The remaining 75 percent fall under the jurisdiction of countywide governmental agencies known in most cases as road commissions.

The law enabling the creation of road commissions was adopted by the Michigan Legislature in 1909, and the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) was established in 1913. The 1909 law was created to achieve two primary goals:

- To provide uniformity in road construction and maintenance across the state, and
- To provide efficient and economic road services for townships that, individually, cannot achieve the economies of scale of a countywide agency.

County road agencies save money, standardize road work and efficiently provide safe and convenient roads.

Road Commissions have no taxing authority and receive no direct revenue from property taxes. They receive most of their funds from fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees. Fuel taxes, as user fees, are considered the most equitable way of paying for roads.



UNIQUE AMONG ROAD COMMISSIONS

RCOC maintains the largest county road system in the state and spends more on winter road maintenance annually (approximately \$12 million) than many Michigan county road commissions receive in state funding. Despite installing energy saving LED lights in most traffic signals, RCOC still spends nearly \$900,000 per year just on electricity for its traffic signals.

It costs RCOC more for road projects than many other counties because of the high price of right of way in Oakland and because of soil problems caused by all the lakes and wetlands.

WHAT ROADS BELONG TO RCOC?

County roads range from seven-lane thoroughfares to two-lane unpaved roads. Among the roads under RCOC's jurisdiction are many major "mile-type" roads (such as 12 Mile) in cities and villages and all public roads in townships other than state highways. This includes more than 1,120 miles of residential subdivision streets in townships.

The Road Commission provides summer and winter maintenance on its roads and is contracted by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to maintain state highways. State highways are identified with "I," "M" or "US" signs, such as the Chrysler Freeway (I-75), Woodward Avenue (M-1) and Telegraph Road (US-24).

Because many people do not know road commissions are **separate** from county general government, in Oakland County the name was changed to the Road Commission **FOR** Oakland County to make that clearer and to emphasize a customer-service focus.

TECHNOLOGY

Some people may not think of road commissions as "high tech." However, for approximately 30 years, RCOC has been on the cutting edge of road-related technology. In fact, RCOC is a national leader in using technology to make its road-maintenance and improvement dollars accomplish as much as possible.

RCOC was one of the first public road agencies in the nation to introduce computerized "smart" traffic signals that actually monitor traffic flow and automatically adjust traffic signals based on the amount of traffic present at all times.

Today, this system, known as FAST-TRAC (Faster And Safer Travel through Traffic Routing & Advanced Controls), remains among the largest systems of its type in the nation (for more information about FAST-TRAC, visit the RCOC Web site at www.rcocweb.org). FAST-TRAC can be found at some 800 locations along major roads across Oakland County.

Additionally, RCOC operates a cutting-edge winter road-maintenance fleet-management program, which



involves satellite-based vehicle-tracking technology and other cutting-edge advancements for winter road maintenance across the county.

RCOC LEADERS

RCOC is governed by a three-member Board of Road Commissioners. Board members are: Ronald J. Fowkes, Andrea LaLonde and Nancy Quarles.

Board members are appointed by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners for six-year terms. One member is appointed every two years. The Board members serve on a countywide basis, rather than from "districts."

While the RCOC Board sets policy, day-to-day operations are run by Managing Director Dennis G. Kolar and Deputy Managing Director/County Highway Engineer Gary Piotrowicz.

BOARD MEETINGS

RCOC Board meetings are open to the public and are conducted twice monthly on Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. at the RCOC administrative offices, 31001 Lahser Road in Beverly Hills (a complete schedule of meetings is available at the RCOC Web site at www.rcocweb.org).