



2009 LEGISLATIVE YEAR-END REVIEW

CRAM and other transportation advocates started 2009 with great expectations on the introduction and passage of legislation to increase transportation funding. Unfortunately, that didn't happen. It was not from a lack of effort in identifying and proving the need for funding, or educating the legislature, media and the public. It comes down to one thing – political will – and there is an extreme shortage of this in Lansing.

With the exception of **P.A. 3 of 2009 (HB 4582)**, sponsored by Rep. Gonzales (D-Genesee) to provide \$873 million of federal stimulus money for transportation from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), legislation passed in 2009 was not overly positive for road commissions.

CRAM was successful in mounting several challenges and achieving small victories for road commissions on a variety of issues. In several instances, CRAM was successful in reducing the negative impact to our members' financial and/or operational responsibilities.

CRAM has been actively involved in approximately 80 pieces of legislation throughout the year, including a number of budget and supplemental budget bills. The following is a synopsis of some of the bills that saw legislative action in 2009:

Public Act 39 of 2009 (HB 4830), sponsored by Rep. Miller (D-Macomb), allowed the residents of Macomb County to vote whether to continue road duties and responsibility by the Road Commission of Macomb County or to allow the new county government to absorb the duties and responsibilities of the road commission. This legislation was enacted in June 2009, with immediate effect.

Public Acts 99-101 of 2009 (SB 494, 495 & 540), all sponsored by Sen. Jelinek (R-Berrien), extend the sunset of Transportation Administrative Collection (TAC) fund service fees from September 30, 2009 to October 1, 2011. This legislation was enacted in September 2009, with immediate effect.

The service fees generate approximately \$110 million to reimburse the Department of State (DOS) for collection services. Had the bills been enacted in their original form, transportation agencies (road owners) would have lost control or input into the ongoing debate to determine the actual cost of collecting registration fees.

Public Act 116 of 2009 (SB 254), sponsored by Sen. Hardiman (R-Kent), FY 2009-10 appropriation spending authority for the Department of Transportation. This legislation was enacted in October 2009, with immediate effect.

Public Act 118 of 2009 (HB 4446), sponsored by Rep. Lahti (D-Houghton), FY 2009-10 appropriation spending authority for the Department of Conservation (DEQ and DNR). This includes the continuation of the federal and state wetland permit programs. This legislation was enacted in October 2009, with immediate effect.

Passage of this legislation prevented a takeover of the federal wetland permit program by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the substantial program delays that would have resulted.

Public Act 120 of 2009 (SB 785), sponsored by Sen. Birkholz (R-Allegan), authorized the Department of Conservation to continue the federal wetland program and created a statewide committee to review and make recommendations on certain aspects of their environmental responsibilities.

(Continued on next page)

2009 LEGISLATIVE YEAR-END REVIEW (CONTINUED)

CRAM was appointed by Governor Granholm to fill a position on this committee. This legislation was enacted in October 2009, with immediate effect.

Public Act 128 of 2009 (SB 245), sponsored by Sen. Pappageorge (R-Oakland), FY 2009-10 appropriation spending authority for a multitude of Departments, including the Departments of State and Treasury. This legislation was enacted in October 2009, with immediate effect.

Public Act 136 & 137 of 2009 (HB 5072 & 5073), sponsored by Rep. Gonzales (D-Genesee), allowed the transfer of \$18 million from the Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF), Category "A" (Targeted Industries), to the General Fund to help balance prior year budgets. This legislation was enacted in November 2009, with immediate effect.

Public Act 146 of 2009 (HB 4999), sponsored by Rep. Mayes (D-Bay), expanded the special permit process for routine maintenance granted to public utilities during the frost law period to their subcontractors. This legislation was enacted in November 2009, with immediate effect.

Public Act 175 of 2009 (HB 4507), sponsored by Rep. Espinoza (D-Sanilac), expanded the number of eligible counties that can approve ORV ordinances to include Gratiot, Huron, Montcalm, Saginaw, Sanilac, St. Clair, and Tuscola. This legislation was enacted in December 2009, with immediate effect.

Public Act 197 of 2009 (SB 388), sponsored by Sen. Birkholz (R-Allegan), extended the state's ability to collect state park sticker fees for 3-months or until April 1, 2010. Had it not been for the aggressive actions of CRAM and other transportation advocates, this bill along with SB 389, sponsored by Sen. Basham (D-Wayne), would

have added a \$10.00 state park fee to the annual vehicle registration process. This would have severely hindered our ability to pass legislation to increase vehicle registration fees as a way to increase transportation revenues. This legislation was enacted in December 2009, with immediate effect.

Public Act 200 of 2009 (HB 5087), sponsored by Rep. Sheltroun (D-Ogemaw), expanded the definition of an off-road vehicle (ORV) and its sub-category all-terrain vehicle (ATV) to include six-wheel vehicles and an engine size from up to 500cc to up to 1,000cc. This legislation was enacted in December 2009, with immediate effect.

We cannot wrap up 2009 without providing special thanks to those of you who responded by contacting your legislators on specific pieces of legislation as they moved through the legislature, and those of you who attended the press conference in Lansing or called the Michigan Transportation Team (MTT) toll-free number.

This legislative session is far from over. Legislation is in the works that could positively impact road agencies in 2010 and beyond; including diesel parity and increasing the transfer authority from primary to local roads. CRAM is also expecting the introduction of bills in January 2010 to increase road and bridge funding through fuel tax and registration fee increases.

We must remain vigilant in our efforts to educate legislators, local elected officials, road commission employees, the media and the public. CRAM cannot do this alone. In 2010, we must make a comprehensive effort to get road commission employees more involved - increasing transportation revenues means jobs for now and in the future!

Call 888.719.3087

tell your legislators they need to fix MI roads!

JOB OPENING

The St. Joseph County Road Commission is located in Centreville, in rural southwestern Michigan. The Road Commission has jurisdiction of 1,022 miles of primary and local roads and employs 43, with an annual operating budget of \$7.5 million.

The St. Joseph County Road Commission is seeking candidates for the position of Shop Foreman. Under the supervision of the Engineer-Manager and Superintendent of Operations, supervises the maintenance, repair and modification of vehicles and equipment used by Road Commission personnel to construct and maintain county roads and rights-of-way. Ensures adequate parts, materials, supplies and tools are available to maintain and repair vehicles and equipment. Is responsible for departmental budgeting.

The position offers a competitive salary with excellent benefits. Please send resume to the St. Joseph County Road Commission, 20914 M-86, Centreville, MI 49032, or email to adm@sjrc.com. Full job description can be requested by email; no phone calls please.

Application Deadline is January 15, 2010 by 3:30 p.m. or until position is filled.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

CRAM BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Every year, there is interest expressed by CRAM members as to how one goes about getting their name considered for inclusion on the ballot for election to the Board of Directors.

Under the Association's Constitution and By-laws, the CRAM Board consists of 16 elected members and the most recent eligible Past President. Of those 16, 4 members are elected by their respective sectional associations for a term of 1 year; and 3 members are elected from each sectional association for staggered 3-year terms. The 3 from each sectional association are elected by the Association as a whole from a slate of candidates drawn up by the Nominating Committee for the statewide ballot.

Serving on the CRAM Board requires time and dedication. The members of your council/sectional association may consider your attendance and participation in council/sectional events—along with your experience and length of service—when making the decision to nominate you.

If you think you would like to serve on the CRAM Board, talk to members of your council and sectional and submit your name to the Nominating Committee for consideration.

Nominating Committee Members are:

Chr.	Steven M. Puuri	Washtenaw
V.C.	Dirk Heckman	Mackinac
	Paula Mack-Crouchman	Macomb
	Gerald C. Peterson	Manistee

AGGREGATE/DENSITY CONTROL COURSES

Michigan Tech University's Transportation Materials Research Center has scheduled recertification programs for 2010. All sessions will be held on Michigan Tech's campus in Houghton, Michigan. The dates are as follows:

March 9 & 10	Aggregate Refresher Course and Recertification Test
March 11 & 12	Aggregate Refresher Course and Recertification Test
March 10 & 11	Density Control Refresher Course and Recertification Test

Complete program & registration information can be found at the following link:

http://michiganltap.org/workshop/2010_TRMC.html

CERTIFIED INSPECTOR OF SEDIMENT & EROSION CONTROL (CISEC)

Did You Know? As the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) begins to increase its enforcement of compliance for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, liability for engineers, planners, designers, and inspectors on construction sites are increasing. In Michigan, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is empowered by the EPA to manage the State's NPDES program.

February 2 & 3, 2010
Kalamazoo, MI
Visit www.michiganltap.org/cisec
for training details & agenda.

Consider This Case: In 1998, a major storm event caused a hillside to erode at a golf course construction site in Manistee, MI, resulting in approximately 7,000 tons of sediment-laden stormwater washing into Lake Michigan. The State of Michigan fined the contractor \$125,000 in penalties for violations against the project's NPDES permits.

Training Overview: The Certified Inspector of Sediment and Erosion Control (CISEC) program is a nationally-recognized inspector training and certification program for construction professionals, inspectors, regulatory agencies, and anyone responsible for NPDES compliance on a construction job site as required in Michigan by the DEQ and nationally by the EPA. The 1 1/2 day (9-hour) training session is designed to exceed NPDES training requirements for inspectors. CISEC training can help you to reduce your liability associated with sediment discharge from a construction site.

Registration: CISEC training costs are \$455, and include approximately 9 hours of training, all materials, lunch, and break refreshments. To register for CISEC training, call the Michigan Local Technical Assistance (LTAP) office at 906.487.2102.

This training is offered in partnership by the Michigan Tech Transportation Institute, Michigan's Local Technical Assistance Program, and CISEC, Inc.

2009 DIRECTORY CHANGES

BAY	Cory L. Wales, P.E., Civil Engineer, replaces John Lambert
ISABELLA	Jalene Sandel, Finance Clerk, replaces Deborah Buesking
KEWEENAW	Bruce Simula, Shop Foreman, replaces Joe Rozich
OSCEOLA	Alan Gingrich new address is 14233 Lake St., Leroy 49655
SAGINAW	Add Richard Crannell, Commissioner, 63 Sawmill Creek Tr., Saginaw 48603 Add Todd M. Hare, Commissioner, 145 Snow Ave., Saginaw 48602
WAYNE	Delete Robert A. Conrad

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Add:	Fredrickson Supply LLC , 3705 Linden Ave SE, Wyoming MI 49548, ph. 616.949.2385 Michigan Association of Counties , 935 N. Washington Ave., Lansing MI 48906, ph. 517.372.5374
Change:	Fahrner Asphalt Sealers , LLC to 2224 Veterans Memorial Pkwy, Saginaw, MI 48601
Delete:	AK Equipment, Advanced Drainage Systems, R.W. Armstrong, Cargill Deicing, Concrete Pipe Assn., Driesenga & Associates, Grand Haven Plastics, PRP Industries, Superior Chip Sealing, Tenmile Creek Excavating, Wenn Seal Coating, Wilcox Professional Services, Willamette Valley Company

ROAD COMMISSIONS RECOGNIZED FOR PROJECT EXCELLENCE

The Kent, Macomb, Oakland, and Ottawa County Road Commissions were recognized by the Asphalt Pavement Association of Michigan (APAM) at an awards celebration held in December.

The APAM Awards recognize road agencies, contractors and engineers for project excellence. All nominations are rated on the following characteristics: **Appearance**- includes overall neatness, no over-



Pictured left to right: Ryan Kemppainen, Ottawa County Road Commission Project Engineer; and John Boven, Rieth-Riley Construction Company Inc. / Zeeland Plant.

spray or left-over materials; **Ride**- must be smooth; **Texture Uniformity**- free of segregation, major surface grinding, roller markings, etc.; **Longitudinal and Traverse Joints**- straight, well-blended, smooth and uniform; **Edges**- straight, uniform, true to the contour of the road; **Approaches**- blended well with the main-line pavement; **Utility Covers**- flush with the pavement; and **Degree of Difficulty**- includes exceptional circumstances, maintenance of traffic, night paving, etc.

The Kent County Road Commission received the Award of Merit for Projects 2,500 to 20,000 tons. This 1.3 mile long portion of Northland Drive is a five lane road that is often used as a bypass for US-31. This project received high scores for appearance, ride, edges and longitudinal joint construction. The award was accepted by John Niemela, CRAM Director, on behalf of the Kent County Road Commission, and a representative of Rieth-Riley Construction Company.

The Road Commission of Macomb County received the prestigious Award of Excellence for Local Agency Projects. The two mile long project on 12

Mile Road, from Hayes to Gratiot Avenue, was one of the highest scoring road projects for the year. It received high marks for appearance, ride, surface texture, edges, cover and joint construction. The award was accepted by John Niemela, CRAM Director, on behalf of the Road Commission of Macomb County, and a representative of Ajax Paving Industries, Inc.

The Road Commission for Oakland County received the Award of Merit for Urban Street Projects. This project at 14 Mile and Farmington Road is a very busy intersection in Farmington Hills. The project included a 1.4 mile long intersection reconstruction project including a new roundabout. The project



Pictured left to right: Jerry Jehle, RCOC project engineer; Jim Marcinkowski, OHM Project Manager; Jim Cubera, Farmington Hills Senior Engineer; and Dale McIntyre for Cadillac Asphalt, LLC / Wixom Division.

received high scores for overall appearance, surface texture, joint construction, cover and difficulty. The award was accepted by Jerry Jehle, RCOC Project Engineer, representatives of Cadillac Asphalt and consulting engineers OHM and DLZ Michigan.

The Ottawa County Road Commission was recognized with an Award of Merit for Local Agency Projects. This 1.9 mile projects at Douglas Avenue and Lakewood Blvd received high scores for appearance, surface texture, longitudinal and transverse joint construction and edge construction. This award was accepted by Ryan Kemppainen, Ottawa County Road Commission Project Engineer, and a representative of Rieth-Riley Construction Company.

The County Road Association of Michigan was honored to have been a part of this evening to recognize the outstanding work of county road agencies.

2010 RUSH-PAC MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The 2010 Membership Drive has begun and RUSH-PAC needs **YOU!**

RUSH-PAC will be extremely active in the upcoming November election and we need **YOU** to help make this year a success.



Political Action Committee

RUSH-PAC memberships are available at four levels of commitment. By staying with RUSH-PAC over the years, annual contributions can add up to life membership:

\$50-\$99	Annual Contributing Member
\$100-\$499	Team Player
\$500-\$999	Life Member
\$1,000-over	Second Life Member

At the March Annual Conference, special recognition will be given to the paid 2010 RUSH-PAC members. Please make your checks payable and mail to:

CRAM RUSH-PAC
PO Box 12067
Lansing MI 48901

(cash contributions over \$20 and corporate checks are prohibited by law)

BE PART OF THE SURVEY: THE NATIONAL SCAN OF BEST PRACTICES FOR CHEMICAL TREATMENTS ON UNPAVED ROADS

Montana State University's Western Transportation Institute (WTI) Road Ecology Program Area is conducting a survey as part of The National Scan of Best Practices for Chemical Treatments on Unpaved Roads and is seeking survey participants.

This survey takes about 20 minutes and is intended for practitioners, decision makers and researchers involved in unpaved road management. A diverse team of stakeholders under the sponsorship of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the coordination of the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University developed the survey.

Participation in the anonymous survey will assist FHWA in identifying future research and documentation needs pertaining to effective and sustainable use of chemical treatments on unpaved roads.

To take the survey, go to www.roaddustinstitute.org. The survey link will remain active though Jan. 31. For more information on the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University, go to www.westerntransportationinstitute.org.

MDOT PARTNERS WITH MICROSOFT TO ENHANCE GIS

The description below is from a recent announcement. The full announcement, along with other related documents, is available at: www.michigan.gov/cgi. Look under 'What's New'. Please check back often as this is where new information will be posted as it becomes available.

State of Michigan / Microsoft Bing Maps for Enterprise with Imagery Collection

- The State of Michigan is now licensed for the Microsoft Bing Maps for Enterprise (BME) platform (<http://www.microsoft.com/maps/>).
- This "Bing Maps Ultimate" license is designed to enable Michigan governmental units to use BME in any official application without limits to users, transactions, or applications.
- Offering provides software and imagery.
- Unlimited access to the Bing Maps for Enterprise (BME) platform for all participating state & local Michigan Government units.
- BME Custom Collection Imagery @ 12in. resolution covering one-fifth of the state each year over the next three years for a total of approximately 34,000 square miles.
- Total Cost: \$40/sq. mile
- Includes BME licensing and imagery.
- Partner Contribution: \$28/sq. mile (70/30 partner/State cost share) for 12" inch imagery and unlimited usage of BME Platform. This is a one-time cost that acquires imagery and access to the BME Platform.

The flights will be organized by county, any county in Michigan is eligible, and counties do not have to be contiguous.

For any additional information, please feel free to contact Everett Root, Geodata Services Manager, Center for Shared Solutions & Technology Partnerships (CSSTP), Department of Information Technology, State of Michigan at 517.373.7910 or by e-mail to roote@michigan.gov.

WINTER NOTE

As winter descends upon us, we would like to take a moment to remind you that the section of law that prohibits the piling of snow onto a roadway or in such a way as to obstruct the line of sight is MCL 257.677a. Complete text of this section can be found online by searching for the MCL section number at:

www.michiganlegislature.org.

MIS/CRAM

With fiscal year 2010 under way for many road commissions, it is time to remind everyone of the need to add your county's data to the MIS/CRAM system. A few road commissions have yet to enter the data for 2008 and 2007. Please do so at your earliest convenience. Those counties with 2009 data outstanding will be listed in next July's CRAM News. Thank you to those who have entered your data in a timely manner.

"Reflect on your present blessings, of which every man has many;
not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some"

-Charles Dickens



THE ROAD AHEAD



2010 Events

January

- 19 Seven County Council
Road Commission for Montcalm County
Stanton
- 22 Blue Water Highway Council
Doubletree Conference Center, Bay City

February

- 1 Southeastern Council
Location to be announced
- 2 37th Senatorial District Council
Audie's Restaurant, Mackinaw City
- 8 Southwestern Council
Location to be announced
- 11-12 UPRBA Winter Meeting
- 19 Paul Bunyan Council
Location to be announced
- 23-25 County Engineers' Workshop
Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant
- 25 General Policy Committee
Comfort Inn, Mt. Pleasant
- 26 Vacationland Council
Location to be announced

March

- 9-11 CRAM Highway Conference
Causeway Bay Hotel, Lansing

April

- 11-13 Commissioners' Seminar
Holiday Inn West Bay, Traverse City
- 25-29 NACE Annual Conference
Fort Worth, TX

May

- 18-20 Finance and Human Resource Bus. Seminar
Holiday Inn of Marquette, Marquette

June

- 16-17 UPRBA Summer Meeting
Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, Copper Harbor

September

- 8-10 NMARC Annual Conference
Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire
- 29- Oct. 1 SAM Annual Conference
Kewadin Hotel & Conv. Ctr.,
Sault Ste. Marie

December

- 6-8 ASMRC Annual Conference
Soaring Eagle, Mt. Pleasant

NAME BADGE REMINDER

To post job openings or to include other items in CRAM News, contact Tom Eldred at the CRAM Office. Openings/information should be sent electronically to teldred@localroads.net no later than Wednesday of the last full week of the month before publication (i.e., openings to be included in the 2-5-10 edition would be due not later than 1-27-10).

If you have a new commissioner and/or new staff member in need of a blue name badge, please order by February 1 for delivery at the Highway Conference. An order form was mailed in December to each road commission office. Badges are \$12.00 each.