

INGHAM COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

AUSTIN E. CAVANAUGH ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
301 Bush Street, P.O. Box 38, Mason MI 48854-0038

Joseph A. Guenther, Chair
Shirley M. Rodgers, Vice Chair
Thomas M. Mitchell, Member
James Dravenstatt-Mocerri, Member
Norman L. Gear, Member

William M. Conklin, P.E.
Managing Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact the Road Commission:

November 23, 2009

(517) 676-9722

INGHAM COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION WINTER OPERATIONS 2009-2010

The Ingham County Road Commission has been busily preparing for another winter maintenance season and would like to update motorists on what to expect as they head out on the roadways this winter.

Although many aspects of Michigan's budget are underfunded, few are more crucial to the safety of our residents and health of our economy than roads. "We have been making major cuts at the Road Commission for the past few years, but have reached a point where there is nothing left to cut that does not impact the level of services we provide," said Bill Conklin, Managing Director.

The majority of funding for road commissions comes from the Michigan Transportation Fund which is made up of fuel tax revenues and vehicle registration fees. Residents should be aware that transportation revenues have fallen as people drive less and purchase more fuel-efficient vehicles. Revenues to this fund have fallen below the level of receipts in 1998, the year the last transportation funding increase took effect. Revenues for 2009 are running 5 percent less than 2008 revenues.

The Road Commission has to adjust its spending to match shrinking revenues and skyrocketing operation costs. Since 2004, the cost of winter maintenance salt has nearly doubled from \$24.89 per ton to \$49.27 per ton this winter; the cost of gasoline has increased by 95 percent and by 130 percent for diesel fuel.

THE ROAD COMMISSION WANTS YOU TO KNOW . . .

1. Normal operations of the Ingham County Road Commission are scheduled between the hours of 7:30 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday.
2. Each winter storm will be treated as an individual occurrence. During storms, routine scraping and ice control will be performed during normal work hours.

Telephone: (517) 676-9722 1-800-968-9733 Fax: (517) 676-2085 TDD: (517) 676-7798

E-Mail: roads@inghamcrc.org Web Site: <http://www.inghamcrc.org>

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3. Routine snow removal operations will begin on county primary (heaviest travelled) roads, as a first priority. Secondly, plows will then move to through and higher volume local roads. Lastly, plows will move to subdivision streets since they have the lowest volume and speed limits.

4. After normal operation hours the Road Commission will have two trucks on night shift to keep primary roads (especially intersections) safe throughout the night. There will be no night shift on Saturday night, only staff on call.

5. For snowfalls overnight prior to business day mornings, the Road Commission we will send out plow trucks at about 4 a.m. or 5 a.m. to get at least one pass done through most primary roads by the start of the 7 a.m. rush hour. Generally by 10 a.m., most primaries will be cleared completely. The Road Commission will make every effort to have most local roads and subdivisions completed by the end of the work day. Any streets that have not been plowed by the end of the work day, will be plowed the following work day.

6. Salt/Sand mixture will only be used on local roads at hills, curves, intersections and other potential danger points after plowing. In certain situations, pure sand may be used to provide traction in place of high cost salt. Primary roads will receive a light, but complete salt application after being plowed. Since salt is ineffective and susceptible to night-time refreezing of melt-water at temperatures below 20 degrees F; salting will be reduced or curtailed as temperatures drop below 20 degrees F.

7. The Road Commission will not continue to salt during constant snow falls as this will only waste the salt due to being buried and then scraped away by subsequent plowing.

8. Plows will continue to scrape high volume primaries during snow falls occurring during regular business hours to keep them passable. Other than the night shift working on the highest volume roads as previously mentioned, plowing will not be done on overtime until the snow stops falling.

9. Given the constricted budget, the Road Commission cannot continue to plow subdivisions and very low volume rural locals on overtime--after 4 p.m. and weekends, unless they are judged to be impassable and/or hazardous. Night shift may continue such plowing if they are able to keep primary roads maintained safely throughout the night.

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10. Since winter maintenance activities will primarily be confined to regular operation hours, some services such as tree removal/trimming, and brush cutting will be reduced.

11. Every effort within the physical and financial resources of the Road Commission shall be made to keep the roads in a safe and reasonable condition for public travel.

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