

Road Report

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

RCOC joined by late employee's widow, Genesee County Road Commission & Operating Engineers 324 to bring attention to work zone safety

Officials with the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC), the Genesee County Road Commission, the Operating Engineers 324 and the widow of a Road Commission employee killed last year in a work zone joined forces on April 22 to draw attention to National Work Zone Awareness Week and the need for motorists to slow down and pay attention when driving through work zones.

The event was conducted at RCOC's Southfield garage, which, tragically, lost employee Cedric Jones to a work zone crash in July 2025. The crash, in which a motorist drove into a work zone, also resulted in the serious injury of employees Robert Dinkins and George Thomas.

Jones' widow, Roshanda Jones, spoke at the event, urging motorists to pay attention and slow down in work zones. "We have to treat driving as a privilege, and we must not get into work zones and treat them as

though they are an inconvenience because we did not plan accordingly or we are not sober or alert," she said. "Please take a moment to think hard when you get behind the wheel."

RCOC Managing Director Dennis Kolar noted that National Work Zone Awareness Week is held every spring to raise awareness as road construction season gets going. "The goal," he explained, "is to remind everyone of the importance of paying attention as they approach and drive through work zones, so that both motorists and workers remain safe."

Kolar added that in 2023, the most recent year for which statistics are available, there were more than 101,000 work zone crashes across the country, with an estimated 39,000 work zone injuries and 899 work zone fatalities. Of those fatalities, 176 were pedestrians or workers.

"At RCOC, safety has been our official



RCOC Managing Director Dennis Kolar and Roshanda Jones at the press conference.

number-one priority since 1978," Kolar stated. "Everything we do, from project selection and design, to work zone staging to employee training and much more is based on this safety priority."

"Sadly, though," Kolar added, "there
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Congressman Barrett visits RCOC to see culvert for which he got a \$1 million grant

US Congressman Tom Barrett (R-Oakland, Livingston, Eaton, Clinton, Ingham and Shiawassee counties) visited Oakland County May 8 to see first hand a culvert which carries the Yerkes Drain under Dixboro Road on the South Lyon/Green Oak Twp. border. He recently obtained a \$1 million grant to help fund the replacement of the culvert.

Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) Deputy Managing Director/County Highway Engineer Gary Piotrowicz showed Barrett the culvert and explained that it is 62 years old and failing. The grant will allow RCOC to replace the culvert in 2027.

Congressman Barrett was joined by State Senator Lana Theis (R-Livingston and Oakland counties) and a staffer for



RCOC Deputy Managing Director Gary Piotrowicz, right, tells Congressman Barrett, left, about the Dixboro culvert in South Lyon.

State Senator Jim Runestad (R-White Lake Twp.).

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Nuccio is new head of RCOC Construction Division

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) recently hired a new construction engineer – the head of the Construction Division of the Engineering Department, which oversees all RCOC road-construction projects.

New Construction Engineer Troy Nuccio started his new role at the right time – just in time for the start of the 2026 road construction season.

Nuccio takes over the position previously held by Mason Ali. This year, the division will oversee nearly \$60 million worth of RCOC road-construction projects, providing project management, inspection and materials testing for all RCOC construction projects.

He joins RCOC after 14 years at Hennessey Engineers Inc., where he provided construction engineering and municipal consulting services. He is a



Troy Nuccio.

graduate of Lawrence Technological University, with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He also is a licensed professional engineer (PE) in Michigan.

"My goals for the division are to bring in projects on time and on budget and to provide quality projects," Nuccio said. He added that he has been impressed with the division staff. "Everyone has been great at helping me get up to speed," he noted.

The Lake Orion resident is married with three children: a 10-year-old daughter and 6-year-old twin boys. His wife, Danielle, is an attorney with the Oakland County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

When not working, Nuccio enjoys playing golf and hockey and outdoor cooking. His boys both started playing hockey this year as well, and his daughter has been involved in Lego Robotics.

Happy 113th birthday to RCOC

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) celebrated its 113th birthday in May, having been established in 1913.

Much has changed since 1913, when the largely agricultural county (population of approximately 50,000) was served primarily by unpaved roads. In the early days, the unpaved roads were graded by horse-drawn graders.

When road construction projects were undertaken in more remote parts of the county, it often required "work camps," where road workers camped at the project location, sometimes for weeks at a time, to ensure the work was completed.

Even early on, though, safety was a top priority for the agency, with an early emphasis on road signs to warn of curves and other dangers.



Long-time RCOC Customer Services Director Dave Czerniakowski retires

Longtime Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) Department of Customer Services (DCS) Director David Czerniakowski (better known as CZ) retired June 1 after nearly 34 years at the agency.

In addition to serving as the DCS director, Czerniakowski also held the positions of engineering technician II and citizen services coordinator during his RCOC career. In his role as DCS director, Czerniakowski regularly interacted with local officials and was well known by many of them.

And while he's enjoying retirement, Czerniakowski said he will definitely miss

the Road Commission. "I'll miss the people and structure," he noted. "We've got a great workforce, and I had a great staff."

So, what's next on the agenda for Czerniakowski? "Initially, I'm keeping my schedule open," he noted, adding he will continue to referee high school basketball, something he has done for more than 30 years. He also plans to travel.

Later this year, he and his wife plan to visit Guam, where one of his three



daughters lives while her husband, a naval officer, is stationed there. Then, with his daughter and son in law in tow, they will visit New Zealand.

Of course, there will also be regular trips to visit his daughters in Michigan – one near Kalamazoo and one in Ann Arbor, as well as golf-

ing (including rounds with his father and daughters).

"And, of course, I've got a lot of projects around the house," he said.

ZONE — CONT'D FROM FRONT
are times when all the best planning and execution cannot prevent tragedy. That's why we're here today: to spread the message to drivers to please slow down and pay attention when you enter a work zone."

Genesee County Road Commission Communications Coordinator Kylie Dontje agreed, noting that it is often motorists themselves who are injured when they are not paying attention in a work zone. "More than 80 percent of work zone fatalities are actually drivers and their passengers,"

Dontje said. "This week, we want to remind everyone that safe actions save lives. By eliminating distractions, obeying signs and paying attention, the life you save could be your own."

Ryan Doom, director of transportation and infrastructure for Operating Engineers 324, which represents RCOC road workers as well as many employees of private contractors working on RCOC road projects, added that "Operating Engineers 324 represents the men and women doing this work every day, and nothing matters more to us

than making sure they return home safely to their families.

"We are constantly working to improve work zone safety through training, awareness and strong jobsite practices," Doom said. "Our partnerships with the Road Commission for Oakland County and the Genesee County Road Commission are important because when labor and management stand together on safety, we send a stronger message: Slow down, stay alert and respect the work zone. Better decisions behind the wheel save lives."

RCOC staff hep out at Operating Engineers 324 career day event



Above left, RCOC staff demonstrate a gradeall operation for student participants. Above center and right, RCOC staff manning the agency's info booth. Below right, RCOC staffer David Conrad instructs the students on proper hand-digging techniques.

Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) staff joined the Operating Engineers 324 April 29 and 30 for the union's annual Career Day for high school students at OE's train-

ing facility near Howell.

At the event, RCOC staff demonstrated heavy equipment operation, the use of hand tools and more, as well as manning an info booth.



RCOC announces 2026 Preservation Overlay resurfacing list

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) has announced the roads that will be resurfaced this year through its Preservation Overlay program.

The Preservation Overlay program involves "simple resurfacing" projects – jobs where a contractor applies two inches of new asphalt to a road that is in moderate condition. The projects provide a smooth new surface for the road and extend the life of the road by up to 10 years.

"The Preservation Overlay program projects are a cost-effective way to extend the life of the road while also being minimally disruptive to traffic," explained RCOC Managing Director Dennis Kolar. He explained that the projects are typically completed within a couple weeks and usually require only lane closures as opposed to fully closing a road.

This year's program includes 53.25 miles of roads.

Here is the list of the projects included in this year's Preservation Overlay program:

- 14 Mile Rd., Telegraph Rd. to the Beverly Hills village limits in Bingham Farms
- Commerce Rd., Union Lake Rd. to Carroll Lake Rd. in Commerce Twp.
- Crescent Lake Rd., Elizabeth Lake Road to M-59 in Waterford Twp.
- Davisburg Road, Milford Rd. to Andersonville Rd. in Holly Twp.
- Elizabeth Lake Rd., Cooley Lake Rd. to Cass Lake Rd. in Waterford Twp.
- Farnsworth Rd./Round Lake Rd., Union Lake Rd. to Cooley Lake Rd. in White Lake Twp.
- Furbush Rd., Belford Rd. to Evans Rd. in Holly Twp.
- Grange Hall Rd., Perryville Rd. to Jossman Rd. in Groveland Twp.
- Gunn Rd., Adams Rd. to the end of pavement in Oakland Twp.
- Hutchins Rd., Farnsworth Rd. to Union Lake Rd. in White Lake Twp.
- Lincoln Rd., Lahser Rd. to Windham Rd. in Bloomfield Twp.
- Lyon Center Ring Rd., Milford Rd. to Pontiac Trl. in Lyon Twp.
- Maybee Rd., Baldwin Rd. to Grafton Rd. in Orion Twp.
- Morgan Rd., Rohr Rd. to Baldwin Rd. in Orion Twp.
- Nelsey Rd., Andersonville Rd. to Maceday Lake Rd. in Waterford Twp.
- Newton Rd., Commerce Rd. to Oakley Park Rd. in Commerce Twp.
- Orchard Lake Rd., 8 Mile Rd. to 9 Mile Rd. in Farmington
- Porter Rd., M-59 to Grass Lake Rd. in White Lake Twp.
- Rohr Rd., Morgan Rd. to Maybee Rd. in Orion Twp.
- Sleeth Rd., Duck Lake Rd. to Bass Lake Rd. in Commerce Twp.
- Stoney Creek Rd., Orion Rd. to Rochester Rd. in Oakland Twp.
- Teggerdine Rd., White Lake Rd. to Elizabeth Lake Rd. in White Lake Twp.
- Watkins Rd., Dixie Hwy. to Pontiac Lake Rd. in Waterford Twp.
- Westview Rd., Squirrel Rd. to Adams Rd. in Bloomfield Twp.



RCOC receives 2026 CRA Award for cutting-edge traffic-signal collaboration with U of M

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) received a County Road Association of Michigan (CRA) 2026 IMPRESS Award for its cutting-edge collaboration with the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI).

CRA presents the awards annually to county road agencies in the state that have demonstrated leadership in the areas of collaboration, public relations or operations. The RCOC/UMTRI collaboration identified a new, far more efficient way to update traffic-signal timing, which was demonstrated along two corridors in the county.

Road agencies have long struggled with the challenges of updating traffic-signal timing, which refers to the amount of time a signal maintains the red, green and amber signals. The goal is to ensure the signals operate as effectively as possible, moving traffic safely and efficiently without unnecessary delays.

Because most traffic signals around the world are “fixed-time” signals, meaning they operate on a set timing schedule, and because traffic flows change frequently due to new development, changes in traffic patterns, population growth or loss, etc., the timing of traffic signals can quickly become “out of whack.” RCOC also has one of the largest “smart” signal systems in the nation that detects traffic present and automatically retimes signals every cycle to provide the most efficient timing possible – but this project focused on RCOC’s fixed-time signals.

Historically, it has been very expensive and time consuming to retime traffic signals,

requiring a staff member stand at an intersection and count vehicles in the intersection for a number of hours to try to get a representative traffic count for the intersection. Then, engineers take those traffic counts and extrapolate the most effect timing scheme for the signal given the traffic counts.

Often, because of the staff time, and therefore cost, of retiming signals, agencies do not retime their signals more than once every five or ten years or more.

For this project, engineers at UMTRI worked with a vehicle manufacturer to gather vehicle data from cars sold by that company that drive along specific corridors in Oakland County. Using that data, UMTRI developed an algorithm to extrapolate the most efficient timing for the signals along those roads.

RCOC worked with UMTRI to implement the timing produced by the algorithm along several corridors and then determined if the new timing improved traffic flow. The results were amazing.

RCOC updated the signal timing at four signals along Eight Mile Road in Farmington Hills. The new timing produced a 30 percent reduction in traffic delays and a 40 percent reduction in traffic stops.

RCOC also implemented the new signal timings at nine signals along 12 Mile Road in Royal Oak, which resulted in a 20 percent reduction in both delays and stops.

These improvements in traffic flow were quite significant, given that the new traffic signal timings were created quickly and easily based on the vehicle data.

Contacting RCOC

If your constituents need information about a road project or want to report a pothole, traffic-signal concern or other road issue, they should call RCOC’s **Department of Customer Services** toll free at:

(877) 858-4804

OR

Fill out a report via the RCOC Web site:
www.rcocweb.org

ROAD REPORT

Road Report is published quarterly by the Road Commission for Oakland County. Have a question or comment about **Road Report**? Call Senior Communications Manager Craig Bryson at (248) 645-2000, ext. 2202.

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