



County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

101 S. WASHINGTON SQUARE, STE. 200
LANSING, MI 48933

MICHIGAN
NACE ANNUAL STATE REPORT
2023-2024

State Association Name: County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan

Number of Counties: 83

Number of State Assoc. Members: 0

Number of NACE Members: 113

State Annual Meeting/Conference:

- CRA Highway Conference and Annual Business Meeting: *Shaping the Future of County Roads*
March 19-21, 2024
Lansing, MI
Presentation by Kevan Stone, Executive Director, NACE.

Other significant meetings during 2023-2024:

- CRA Managers Retreat – May 4-5, 2023
- Finance and Human Resources Seminar – May 9-11, 2023
- Roads+SM Members Only Event – June 7, 2023
- Summer Upper Peninsula Road Builders Association Meeting – June 14-15, 2023
- Northern Michigan Association of County Road Commissions Conference – September 13-15, 2023
- Superintendents Association of Michigan Seminar – October 4-6, 2023
- Commissioners Seminar – October 22-23, 2023
- Communications Workshop – November 8, 2023
- December Educational Event and Legal Issues Symposium – December 5, 2023
- Winter Upper Peninsula Road Builders Association Meeting – February 1-2, 2024
- County Engineers Workshop – February 6-8, 2024
- *County Road Investment Plan* communications webinar – February 23, 2024
- Quarterly meetings: 9 CRA District meetings, each held quarterly.

Notable achievements of State Association and/or Individual members:

- Published *The 2023 County Road Investment Plan* outlining the full cost to maintain the Michigan county road and bridge system, and deficiencies in revenue stream.
- Achieved 71 county road agencies on Oxcart transportation and right-of-way permits platform and updated mobile app to benefit heavy haulers.

Individual member/agency achievements:

- CRA President for 2023-2024 was Mark Christensen, Road Commission for Montcalm County
- CRA Rural Engineer of the Year was Doug Mills, PE, Baraga County Road Commission
- CRA Project Manager of the Year was Tim Brown, Saginaw County Road Commission
- Recognized 14 county road agencies with IMPRESS Awards for “best practices” in communications, collaboration or operations.

Important events in which CRA participated during 2023-2024:

- Representation at NACE Annual Meeting.
- Representation on the Michigan Rural Task Force Advisory Board to ease federal fund aid burdens on local road agencies.
- Testimony to Michigan House and Senate Transportation Committee and House, Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Transportation.
- Presentations at Michigan Association of Counties Annual Conference, Michigan AgriBusiness Association breakfasts, American Council for Engineering Consultants meeting, American Public Works Association federal aid webinar.
- Representation at Michigan Association of Counties annual legislative conference, Michigan Townships Association annual expo, Great Lakes Timber Professionals Logging Congress and National Mileage Based User Fees Conference.

Important issues for County Road Association of Michigan during 2023-2024:**State-Level Issues:**

The strength of the County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan comes from 83 counties’ commitments to speak with a unified voice on issues impacting local roads, bridges and rights-of-way, as well as road agency operations. Some of those recent issues include...

- Advocating for additional road funding immediately as well as advancing discussion of a mileage-based user fee.
- Equity of fund distribution and preservation of the state’s Michigan Transportation Fund Act distribution formula with the introduction of new road funding.
- Telling the story of road commissions with emphasis on innovation and collaboration across county lines.
- Telling how Michigan’s new road funding dollars are being used to facilitate transparency, trust and future funding.
- Strengthening relationships with other statewide governmental associations and private organizations in the service of Michigan’s county transportation system.

- Protecting county road agencies' ability to apply mineral brine for dust control and winter maintenance without onerous and unnecessary regulations proposed by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.
- Ensuring county road agencies continue to receive funding for the state highways they have taken ownership of due to a jurisdictional transfer as the from the Michigan Department of Transportation.

National-Level Issues:

- Communicating to members the many changes and new opportunities with federal funding in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs act.
- Working with the University of Illinois-Chicago and US Fish and Wildlife Service to meet upcoming rules and regulations related to the Monarch butterfly while giving county road agencies the flexibility to properly maintain the road rights-of-way.
- Maintaining the safety and integrity of the county road right-of-way as broadband entities begin widespread deployment using \$42.45 billion in Broadband Equity Access and Deployment funding.

Ideas/concerns to share with other NACE Members:

- Maintaining and increasing funding for county road agencies while removing unnecessarily restrictive guidelines prohibitive to timely, efficient completion of road work.
- Seeking improved communication/engagement by NACE to Michigan county members.

Report Submitted by:

Wayne A. Schoonover, PE

County Highway Engineer, Grand Traverse County Road Commission

NACE Michigan Board Director