



## “WE NEED TO HEAR FROM OUR CONSTITUENTS”

CRAM members from across the State showed up in force at the State Capitol last month as legislation was unveiled to implement several recommendations of the Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2). Thank you to everyone who took time from your busy schedules to make time for this important event. CRAM’s presence at this event was recognized by the Governor’s Office and many others.

Several parts of this package have been introduced, and the House and Senate Transportation Committees have started to hold hearings. Legislation to implement funding increases is on hold while bipartisan sponsorship is identified. This has not slowed the efforts of CRAM and other Michigan Transportation Team coalition members.

In the past month, editorial boards across the State have taken positions requesting the legislature to act soon to increase transportation funding. Headlines have publicized the 100-year-old bridges in need of repair and county primary roads being reverted to gravel.

Our message is being delivered to the Granholm Administration and members of the legislature on a consistent basis, and the coalition will continue to exert pressure on the legislature. We have reached the point where the majority of legislators understand the need, but we have not cleared the most important hurdle.

Despite the significant efforts made by many of our members, legislators continue to say, “We need to hear from our constituents.” We know they have heard from road agencies, but they have also heard from individuals and groups who advocate against any increase in taxes.

For our efforts to be successful, they need to hear from other local organizations (county boards, townships, local chambers and economic development groups) and motorists frustrated by the condition of our roads, and who understand we have no room left to cut.

We need to flood local newspapers with letters to the editor in support of increased road funding, and inundate legislators’ offices with letters (not just e-mails) and telephone calls in support of this legislation. A major election is just around the corner with every seat in the Michigan House of Representatives, Michigan Senate, and the Executive Offices up for election.

Our legislative efforts will be successful only when legislators believe that they will be held accountable for the condition of our roads. They must come to the recognition that they are better off supporting fuel tax and vehicle registration fees rather than voting against them.

**We need your help!** Please consider submitting a general letter to the editor or opinion editorial; responding to newspaper articles by blogging or submitting letters to the editor; calling or writing your legislator and encouraging your staff, friends and neighbors to do the same; approaching local organizations for support; and coming to Lansing when we need to register a collective voice.

Please help us ensure that legislators cannot honestly say, “We have not heard from our constituents.” If you would like more information on how to get involved, please contact Monica Ware at the CRAM Office.

## MDOT ANNOUNCES 2009 CONSTRUCTION MAP

The annual state highway construction map is now available from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The free guide, called "Paving the Way," is updated each year to help motorists locate major road and bridge projects across the state. The 2009 map will be available at MDOT's Transportation Service Centers and region offices, as well as at Travel Michigan's Welcome Centers. The map is also available for viewing at state rest areas.

"A good road system is crucial for economic growth in order to attract new business across the state, and road construction is necessary to preserve and maintain our roads," said State Transportation Director Kirk T. Steudle. "MDOT is committed to keeping the public informed about our projects, and we are pleased to offer this map as a resource for motorists to use in planning their routes this construction season. We also want to remind motorists to slow down and pay attention when driving through construction work zones."

As in past years, the 2009 edition of "Paving the Way" also details construction on state roads in Detroit and Grand Rapids, providing maps specific to these two areas of the state.

Information on the map is current at the time of printing. Motorists are encouraged to check MDOT's frequently updated list of lane closures on the Web at [www.michigan.gov/drive](http://www.michigan.gov/drive). The Web site features an interactive map showing current and planned construction projects throughout the state, as well as images from traffic cameras in Detroit and Grand Rapids and rates of speed and incidents on Detroit freeways.

To request copies of "Paving the Way," contact the MDOT Office of Communications in Lansing at 517.373.2160.

## JOB OPENING

**The Grand Traverse County Road Commission is accepting applications for the position of Financial Director/Deputy Clerk** until June 9, 2009. Individuals should be knowledgeable and experienced in performing all accounting and financial duties under Act 51 (road commissions) and application of state and federal regulations. A bachelor's degree in accounting plus a minimum of one year experience in cost accounting. CPA preferred. Knowledge of Microsoft Office is required and use of Precision Financial Software desired. Excellent organizational and communication skills are required. Qualification-based compensation and a competitive benefit package are offered. Submit application and resume to Grand Traverse County Road Commission, 1881 LaFranier Road, Traverse City MI 49686. Applications available Monday–Friday, 7:30 AM–4:30 PM at the office or on-line at [www.gtcrc.org/General/Employment EEO/ADA](http://www.gtcrc.org/General/Employment/EEO/ADA)

**THE 2009 CRAM DIRECTORY  
IS SOON HEADED TO THE  
PRINTER.**

**WE HOPE TO HAVE COPIES IN  
YOUR MAILBOX BY MID-JULY.**

*"How you look at a situation is very important, for how you think about a problem may defeat you before you ever do anything about it. When you get discouraged or depressed, try changing your attitude from negative to positive and see how life can change for you. Remember, your attitude toward a situation can help you to change it -- you create the very atmosphere for defeat or victory."*

*~ Franco Harris ~*

## UPCOMING ACT 51 WEBINARS

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is holding two Webinars and a seminar on the use and reporting of the Michigan Transportation Funds (MTF) distributed through Public Act 51. The sessions are targeted to street administrators, clerks, treasurers or other staff from your agency who may be interested.

The Webinars are scheduled for June 25 and July 9, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. During these Webinars, representatives from MDOT will make presentations on Asset Management Planning, Economic Developments Grants, Mileage Certification Requirements, Non-motorized Transportation Requirements, Act 51 MTF Revenue Collections and Distributions to Cities and Villages, and Financial Reporting Requirements of Act 51. Participation is limited to the first 125 callers on the day of the Webinar.

In addition to the two Webinars, an Act 51 Seminar will be held on September 17, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Horatio S. Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowser Drive, Dimondale, Michigan. Participation is limited to the first 100 people who register. There is no charge for the seminar.

Web Meeting Access Information - If you are using the AT&T Web Meeting service for the first time, you will want to sign in early to download the software. Web Meeting Address: <https://www.webmeeting.att.com> Meeting Number: 877.873.8017 Access Code: 6081517. The first time you sign into the AT&T web meeting service, you will be instructed in how to download their software. Web meeting HELP and Software Downloads are found at <https://www.webmeeting.att.com> on the meeting site. The AUDIO portion of the webinar is by conference call. Audio Conference Access Information - Toll Free Dial-in Number: 877.873.8017 Access Code: 6081517. Please contact Ann Keilen for additional information [keilena@michigan.gov](mailto:keilena@michigan.gov) 517.373.7777. Registration is only required for the face-to-face seminar in September.

## HEC-RAS AND SCOUR TRAINING WORKSHOPS

### *HEC-RAS 4.0*

#### *for Beginning to Intermediate Users*

*July 20-22, 2009 - Hours 8AM - 5PM*

Concepts covered include: Open channel flow; Basic input requirements; Application of Bridge & Culvert routines; Data requirements, Output analysis; and Floodway determination.

The cost for this seminar is \$700.00 for public agencies and \$800.00 for private agencies.

### *Scour Analysis for Intermediate*

#### *to Advanced Users*

*July 23 & 24, 2009 - Hours 8AM - 5PM*

Concepts covered include: Computations of Bridge Scour according to FHWA HEC-18 Guidelines; Long-term scour, contraction scour, pier scour and abutment scour; Limitations of the methods; Incipient Motion; Stable Channel Design; Modes of Sediment Transport; and Modeling Hydraulic Structures with HEC-RAS

The cost for this seminar is \$500.00 for public agencies and \$600.00 for private agencies.

Both seminars will be held at Lansing Community College, West Campus, M-TEC Center 5708 Cornerstone Dr., Lansing, MI. Registration fee is due by July 13, 2009. Maps, agendas, and additional information will be sent with confirmed registration. Fee includes lunch, break refreshments and the following course materials: Instruction binder, CD-ROM containing HEC-RAS software, User Manual, Applications and Hydraulic Reference Guides, and HEC-RAS technical support

Cancellations must be received before July 13, 2009 for a full refund. Substitutions will be accepted. For more information, please contact Michigan's LTAP: 906.497.2102 or [ltap@mtu.edu](mailto:ltap@mtu.edu).

***Save \$100 when you sign up for both:***

***Public Agencies - \$1100***

***Private Agencies - \$1300***



# CRAM RUSH-PAC



## *Mark Your Calendars For The Following Golf Outings:*

**Southwest Golf Outing** - Wednesday - June 10 - 9:00 a.m.

L.E. Kaufman Golf Course in Wyoming - Hosted by Kent

**Call TODAY to golf or to sponsor!** Don't miss out on this fun event. If you need information, please contact the CRAM Office or Diane Martin at 616.242.6960 or e-mail [dmartin@kentcountyroads.net](mailto:dmartin@kentcountyroads.net).

**Southern Mid-Michigan Golf Outing** - Friday - July 31

Cascades Golf Course in Jackson - Hosted by Jackson

Watch your mailbox or the Events section of CRAM's Web site ([www.micountyroads.org](http://www.micountyroads.org)) for registration information.

**Southeast Golf Outing** - Friday - August 7

Selfridge AFB Golf Course in Harrison Township - Hosted by Macomb

**Northern Golf Outing** - Tuesday - September 8

Black Bear in Vanderbilt - Hosted by Cheboygan

If you are not a RUSH-PAC member, please send in your dues today! 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

Make your checks payable to "CRAM RUSH-PAC" and mail to PO Box 12067, Lansing, MI 48901.

## **YOU ARE THE KEY TO THE FUTURE OF MICHIGAN'S ROADS!**

You, yes you, the one reading this, are the key to the success of Michigan's transportation infrastructure. You have the influence and the knowledge to educate and inform the residents of your county and the elected officials who represent them. But in order for our effort to enhance the investment in this critical component of Michigan's economic success to fruition it takes your involvement.

Call, write, or e-mail your media outlets, elected officials and community leaders. Explain the situation facing your road agency. Show them how far you spread the available dollars and how those dollars compare to the needs on your system.

If you are not engaged in this effort, we will not be successful. Do not assume that someone else is making the effort on your behalf. It takes all of us—both as individuals and collectively—to push the legislature to take the steps needed to secure Michigan's future as a leader in transportation.

## MIS/CRAM DATA

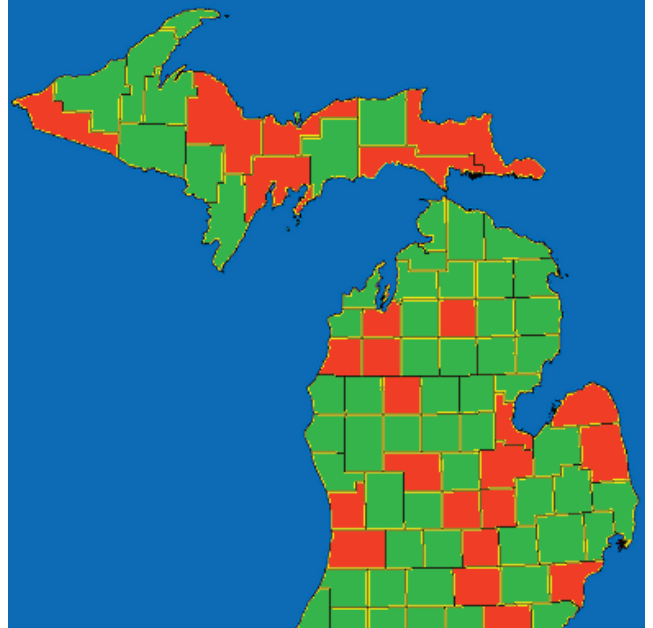
For several months now we have requested that data be entered into the MIS/CRAM system. Realizing how important this data is to your peers, the CRAM Board decided that those counties not yet responding be identified in *CRAM News*.

CRAM relies on this information to respond to legislative inquiries, and fellow road agencies use this information to benchmark themselves. Given the holes in the data, these tasks are often made more challenging.

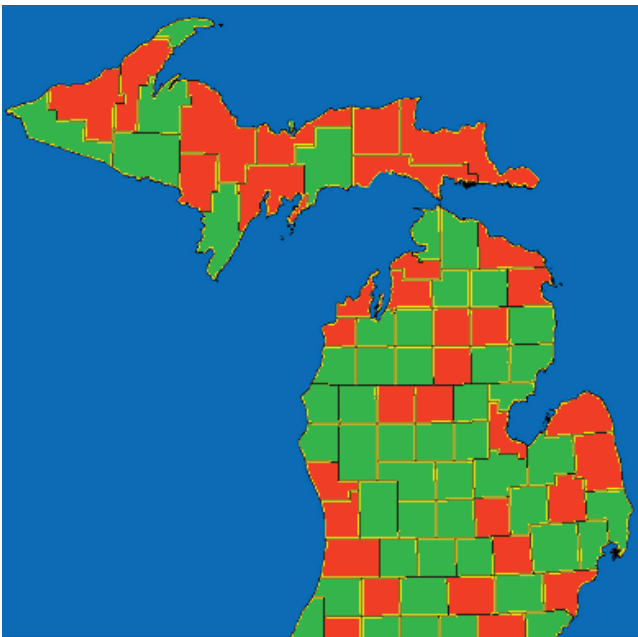
If your county is indicated in red on any of the three maps on this page, please enter your data. These maps will be repeated in the July Edition as we strive to obtain 100% participation in this tool.

The coding reflects the status of each county as of the morning of June 3, 2009. Counties that are green have either entered their data or called to request additional time for entry.

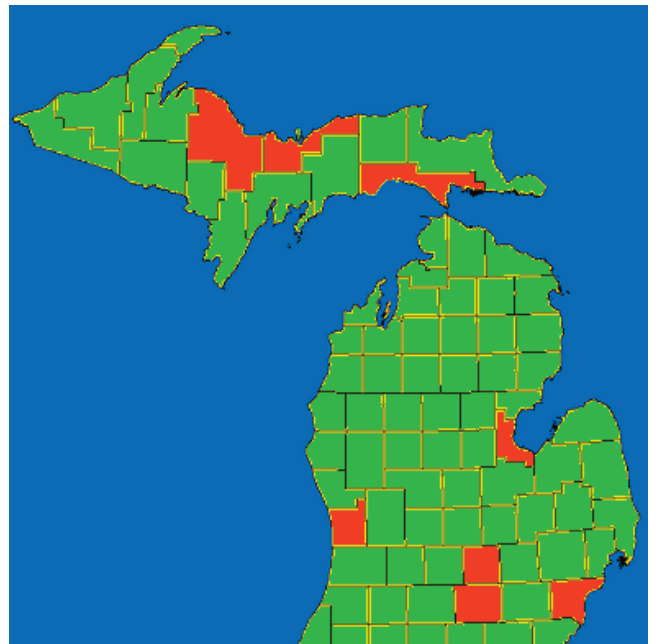
If you have questions related to MIS/CRAM, contact Tom Eldred at the CRAM Office by phone at 517.482.1189 ext. 10 or by e-mail to [teldred@localroads.net](mailto:teldred@localroads.net)



*Twenty-four counties have yet to enter the data from their 2008 Act 51 reports into the MIS/CRAM system. Those counties which have not entered data for this component—or made arrangements to do so—are indicated in red.*



*Thirty-four counties have yet to enter the general, wage, and benefit data for 2009. These counties are indicated in red.*



*All but eight counties have entered the general, wage, and benefit data for 2008. These counties are indicated in red.*

## TRANSPORTATION ASSET MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Approximately seventy-five people attended the Transportation Asset Management Conference in East Lansing on May 19. Those attendees were treated to a series of informative presentations covering two tracts.

In addition to general sessions covering how to build an asset management plan, township involvement, and a success story from using asset management; there were breakout sessions for technical and non-technical topics.

Sixteen road commissions attended the conference. Karl Hanson (Wexford), Jerry Byrne (Kent), Russ Williams (Marquette), John Keck (Lenawee) each did an excellent job of representing their respective counties and CRAM as they delivered informative presentations.

The Asset Management Council estimated that 43% of non-federal aid roads were in poor condition; another 43% of these roads were fair and only 16% were good based on the samples obtained to date.

One of the most important takeaways was the importance of including a preventative maintenance line item in your annual budget. Three acceptable methods of including this item were mentioned. Those techniques include: a line item with a \$0 placeholder that can be adjusted as funds become available, a line item with a dollar amount assigned but with the location to be determined, or lastly, a line item with a specific dollar amount for a specific number of miles.

The inclusion of such a line item helps an asset management plan meet the goal of expanding the service life of a road by increasing the amount of time spent in the “middle of the maintenance curve to get the most bang for the buck.”

In the non-technical breakout sessions, attendees were presented information on how utilities influence project selection as well as the role of elected officials in the asset management process.

The Asset Management Council recognized Alcona County Road Commission for its outstanding record in instituting the asset management process. Also recognized during the award ceremony at lunch were John Daly of Genesee and Brian Gutowski of Emmet for their asset management efforts.

More information on the Conference can be found by visiting the Asset Management Council on-line at [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot) and then clicking *projects & programs* and then *Asset Management*.

***The next Transportation Asset Management Conference will be held October 27, 2009 in Marquette. Watch for details coming soon.***

***“The longer we wait to fix Michigan’s roads, the more expensive it will be”  
~The Michigan Asset Management Council~***

## ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN ESSENTIALS

Michigan is a leader in the field of asset management and each road agency is expected to have a plan in place. This plan doesn’t need to be overly complex. In order to be approved, your plan must be performance-based, decisions must be based on quality information and policy-driven, the plan must contain an analysis of the mix of fixes, and it must include monitoring for clear accountability.

If you need assistance with drafting your plan, contact Brian Sanada at 517.373.2220 or by e-mail at [sanadab@michigan.gov](mailto:sanadab@michigan.gov).

## KEEPING EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN TOUGH TIMES

Employee engagement is critical in times of economic crisis such as those currently facing our local road agencies. Yes, times are tough, but building employee engagement should be a non-negotiable part of every employer's survival strategy. During hard times, do your best to help ensure everyone is engaged—and pulling in the same direction. The following tips from *Workforce Management* magazine can help.

**Focus on open, honest employee communication** - people crave information in times of crisis. Unfortunately employers too often try to hide negative information which ends up hindering communication and morale. Wise companies focus on building trust by being open and forthcoming with information. They also seek employee feedback. Allow employees to vent and express their concerns.

**Promote stability and security** - many employees have friends or family who have lost jobs and many are concerned about their futures. Respond to your employees' cares and concerns, show them how they fit in the future of your agency. Investments in your employees show you care.

**Set a clear, compelling direction that empowers each employee** - being constantly bombarded by bad economic news can cause

employees to become distracted. To help keep them on track, managers should regularly communicate their expectations—even those they think are implied or understood. Set and discuss clear goals and review and refresh them on a regular basis.

**Emphasize career growth and training** - by investing in your existing human resources you have a much better chance of retaining a workforce that is committed to the organization's success.

**Continue recognizing and rewarding high performance** - recognition provides employees with a personal, positive indication that they are valued contributors. If an employee has taken on a heavier workload, managers should acknowledge it. If an incentive program is in place, the manager should not forget to use it. Even small recognition can go a long way.

**Demonstrate a strong commitment to employee wellness** - Down-sizing and job consolidation cause stress and this has a direct impact on quality and productivity. Continue to assess employee workloads and promote benefits that focus on health, exercise and stress-reduction.

By focusing on these tips, you can turn these challenging times into an opportunity to strengthen your agency.

## SELECTED CRAM MAILINGS NOW AVAILABLE AS RSS FEEDS

You can now subscribe to select CRAM Mailing lists by RSS Feed. These lists are not part of the list-serv system; they instead allow people outside the targeted audience access to communications sent to specific groups. Anyone can subscribe by visiting the links listed below. Available lists (primary mailing items) are:

Engineers (MDOT Specs/Info) <http://www.localroads.net/sendstudio/sendstudionx/rss.php?List=7>

External (E-news, press releases) <http://www.localroads.net/sendstudio/sendstudionx/rss.php?List=2>

Legislators (E-news) <http://www.localroads.net/sendstudio/sendstudionx/rss.php?List=3>



# THE ROAD AHEAD



## June

- 10 Southwest Golf Outing  
L.E. Kaufman Golf Course, Wyoming
  
  - 17-19 UPRBA Summer Meeting  
Kewadin Hotel & Convention Center  
Sault Ste. Marie
  
  - 25 Vacationland Council  
Woodland Sanctuary, Mio
- ## July
- 3 CRAM Office Closed - Independence Day
  
  - 9 Great Lakes Council  
Baraga Lakeside Inn, Baraga
  
  - 15-16 MCRCSIP Annual Meeting  
Soaring Eagle Hotel & Convention Center  
Mt. Pleasant
  
  - 31 Southern Mid-MI Golf Outing  
Cascades Golf Course, Jackson

## August

- 7 Southeast Golf Outing  
Selfridge AFB Golf Course, Harrison Twp.

## September

- 8 Northern Golf Outing  
Black Bear Golf Club, Vanderbilt
  
- 9-11 NMARC Annual Conference  
Boyne Mountain Resort, Boyne Falls
  
- 30-Oct 2 Superintendents' Seminar  
Kewadin Hotel & Conv. Ctr.  
Sault Ste. Marie

## December

- 7-9 ASMRC Annual Conference  
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth

## 2009 ARTBA NATIONAL CONVENTION WEB SITE LIVE REGISTER BY JUNE 15 & SAVE \$150

Registration for the 2009 National Convention, to be held October 6-9 in Charleston, S.C., is now available at [www.artbanationalconvention.org](http://www.artbanationalconvention.org). If you register by June 15, you will receive a \$150 discount; bring your spouse and they'll get \$100 off.

The theme for the meeting is "Leading in a Tough Market" and will feature a key session by a leading industry expert that is designed to help transportation design and construction firms "survive and thrive" during these unprecedented economic times. The president of The Citadel will share his thoughts about the importance of strong leadership skills under adversity, and a veteran college basketball coach will explain "leadership and balance in work and life."

Policy sessions will focus on the status of the federal surface transportation authorization bills, environmental, legal and safety issues, and a transportation construction market economic report. Project tours of the landmark Cooper River Bridge and a new U.S. Navy terminal containment wall are also on the agenda.

Check out the convention Web site to view the full program schedule, spouse activities and a whole host of sightseeing activities to do in one of the nation's most historic cities. Or contact ARTBA's Director of Meetings Ed Tarrant at 202-289-4434 or [etarrant@artba.org](mailto:etarrant@artba.org) with any questions.