



Department of Transportation

Mission Statement

“Keeping our community safely in motion with a modern, appropriate, multi-modal, well-maintained transportation and infrastructure network.”

Programs

[Primary Roads](#)

[Local Roads](#)

[County Road Fund](#)

Department of Transportation





Primary Road Fund

Activities

The County has over 544 miles of primary roads within its 1,600-mile road network. The 2021 budget includes record levels of structural improvements and preservation treatments on county primary roads, as well as routine repairs and daily routine maintenance.

Strategic Plan Impact

✓ Safe Community

Safe Roads are important to having a safe community, particularly in a location like Jackson, Michigan, that experiences four seasons and feels the impact of harsh seasons on the road infrastructure.

✓ Economic Development

Sustainable infrastructure is essential to support economic development retention and attraction.

Accomplishments

- ✓ This 2020 construction season was a record-breaking year, despite the many challenges and restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most improvements to the county's primary road infrastructure system continued with minimal interruption. While we have seen some decrease in Act 51 funding due to decreased fuel usage throughout the state, grant and local funding sources have remained stable, and as a result, projects have been able to continue as planned for the most part.
- ✓ We continued implementation of our new, innovative, and nationally recognized/award-winning Road Recycling and Improvement Program. Three years in, the program has reconstructed nearly 70 miles of roads using cold-in-place recycling technology. The 2020 season involved additional training for employees and completion of more than 25 miles of roadway. This season brought mastery and the execution of increasingly sophisticated projects and tasks (e.g., milling the airport runway to reuse premium asphalt material, and advanced cold stationary plant use for subdivisions with cul-de-sacs and McDevitt Ave.). As a result, the effective, equivalent mileage is substantially more.
- ✓ In 2019, we completed \$4.5 million in grant projects to improve primary roads within the county. In 2020, we plan to complete \$11 million in grant projects, which includes a few projects carried over from 2019.



- ✓ We recently spearheaded a program to purchase federal aid dollars from several other county road agencies throughout Michigan. This allowed us to gain approximately twenty cents on the dollar, which leverages our limited road improvement dollars. In 2018 and 2019, we purchased \$2.50 million and \$3.62 million respectively. This resulted in a net gain of \$1.43 million for Jackson County, helping us to complete over 60 miles of 2" asphalt resurfacing.
- ✓ We continued implementation of an innovative public-private partnership for comprehensive pothole patching in Jackson County. Private contractors were engaged to patch all potholes in the County. The program was highly successful in 2018, costing just under \$1,000,000. In 2019, private contractors were able to reach every road in the county faster, and at approximately 2/3 of the cost. This allowed them to complete a second round of patching that was not possible in 2018. In 2020, this program expanded with 18 crews in order to address all seasonal potholes as quickly as possible given the constraints of Covid-19.
- ✓ Reconstruction of the South Jackson Road Bridge is scheduled for late 2021 or early 2022. The design process has begun and will continue into 2021.
- ✓ Reconstruction of the \$3 million Michigan Avenue Bridge west of the Village of Parma was completed in 2020.
- ✓ In 2019, we implemented a new and innovative pavement preservation treatment on primary and local roads. This program involved treating 18 miles of road with an asphalt rejuvenator, called BIORESTOR®. In 2020, we plan to complete over 50 miles of primary and local roads with this same treatment.

Budget Adjustments

- ✓ The Primary Road Fund was new to the Jackson County budget in 2014 following the Board of Commissioners decisions to assume the powers and duties of the Jackson County Road Commission in 2013.

Local Road Fund

Activities

The County maintains approximately 1,039 miles of local roads throughout Jackson County, which comprise approximately 65% of its 1,600-mile road network. Local roads typically have lower traffic volumes and are more residential in nature, or serve less populated parts of the County. Generally speaking, they are not long through-routes, arterials, or connectors. The 2021 local road funds budget also includes blading and dust control on 217.94 miles of gravel roads, patching potholes, and daily routine maintenance.

Strategic Plan Impact

✓ Safe Community

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✓ Economic Development

Sustainable infrastructure is essential to support economic development retention and attraction.

Accomplishments

- ✓ Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 has been a record-breaking year. Work on improvements to the county's primary road infrastructure progressed with only minor interruptions and delays. While we have seen some decrease in Act 51 funding due to decreased fuel usage throughout the state, grant and local funding sources have remained stable, and as a result, projects have been able to continue as planned for the most part.
- ✓ We continued implementation of our new, innovative, and nationally recognized/award-winning Road Recycling and Improvement Program. Three years in, the program has reconstructed nearly 70 miles of roads using cold-in-place recycling technology. The 2020 season involved additional training for employees and completion of more than 25 miles of roadway. This season brought mastery and the execution of increasingly sophisticated projects and tasks (e.g., milling the airport runway to reuse premium asphalt material, and advanced cold stationary plant use for subdivisions with cul-de-sacs and McDevitt Ave.). As a result, the effective, equivalent mileage is substantially more.
- ✓ In 2020, we collaborated with several townships on various improvement projects, including Blackman, Concord, Henrietta, Parma, Sandstone, Spring Arbor, Springport, and Summit. Additionally, we partnered with the villages of Brooklyn, Grass Lake, Hanover, and Parma for mowing, snow plowing, engineering, road projects, and capital planning.
- ✓ We continued implementation of an innovative public-private partnership for comprehensive pothole patching in Jackson County. Private contractors were engaged to patch all potholes in the County. The program was highly successful in 2018, costing just under \$1,000,000. In 2019, private contractors were able to reach every road in the county faster, and at approximately 2/3 of the cost. This allowed them to complete a second round of patching that was not possible in 2018. In 2020, this program expanded with 18 crews in order to address all seasonal potholes as quickly as possible given the constraints of Covid-19.
- ✓ Reconstruction of the \$1.2 million Moon Lake Road Bridge was completed in 2020.
- ✓ The Cornell Road (Concord Twp.) and Kennedy Road (Henrietta Twp.) bridges were completed in 2020. The existing abutments (foundations) were reused in conjunction with placement of new timber bridge decks, which were assembled and installed by JCDOT crews. These bridges have a design life of 50+ years, and cost far less than new, complete concrete bridges. The cost of each of these structures was a little over \$100,000, whereas equivalent new concrete bridges would have cost \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 each, depending on environmental/permitting requirements.



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- ✓ In 2019, we implemented a new and innovative pavement preservation treatment on primary and local roads. This program involved treating 18 miles of road with an asphalt rejuvenator, called BIORESTOR®. In 2020, we plan to complete over 50 miles of primary and local roads with this same treatment.
- ✓ Several miles of failed local roads (PASER rating between 1 and 4, out of 10) were adequately and safely maintained without having to turn them back to gravel.

Budget Adjustments

- ✓ The Local Road Fund program was new to the Jackson County budget in 2014 following the Board of Commissioners decisions to assume the powers and duties of the Jackson County Road Commission in 2013.



County Road Fund

Activities

The County Road Fund can be used by the Jackson County Department of Transportation for matching federal funds, matching local funds, and for making capital expenditures. County Road Funds are primarily derived from contracted services and locally generated revenues that are not otherwise dedicated to primary or local road projects (e.g., the lease and/or sale of assets, and royalties from sand and gravel used on primary and local roads). Additionally, County Road Funds are raised from issuing permits for work on primary and local roads.

The Jackson County Department of Transportation purchases all land, buildings, and equipment from its County Road Funds, and essentially “rents” these assets to projects as they are used for maintenance and improvements.

The Jackson County Department of Transportation maintains 280.5 miles of state trunk lines, for which the County is under contract with the State of Michigan to maintain. Those expenditures, as well as the offsetting revenues, are included in the County Road Funds. Reimbursement for administrative and overhead costs are received for maintaining the state trunk lines, however, this contract with the State of Michigan is generally considered to be cost neutral.

Strategic Plan Impact

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✓ Economic Development

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Accomplishments

JCDOT continues to build capacity in an effort to invest in the County’s transportation infrastructure as MTF funding increases continue to roll out. The department’s buildings and facilities are nearly 50 years old and are starting to require significant maintenance and repairs. Additionally, there is a renewed focus on maintaining a professional work environment and protecting and preserving equipment.

Despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 has been a record-breaking year. Improvements to the county’s primary and local road infrastructure continued in 2020 without significant delays or interruptions. While we have seen a modest decrease in Act 51 funding due to decreased fuel usage throughout the state, grant and local funding sources have remained stable, and as a result, projects have been able to continue as planned for the most part.

Budget Adjustments

The County Road Fund program was new to the Jackson County budget in 2014 following the Board of Commissioners decisions to assume the powers and duties of the Jackson County Road Commission in 2013.



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