



County Road Association
OF MICHIGAN

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

Statewide Schedule of Driveway, Transportation and Utility Permit Fees *Updated fee schedule effective Oct. 1, 2024*

Background. For much of the 2010s, the Michigan Legislature was concerned about inconsistency in fees county road agencies were charging for various transportation permits. While the law requires road agencies to utilize true administrative costs, this itself created differing fees in neighboring counties. Some county road agencies charge nothing possibly due to tradition, which also creates inconsistency.

Rather than have the Legislature set permit fees for us and to establish uniformity, in 2018 CRA's Board requested that the Engineering Committee and Permit Subcommittee develop a **Statewide Schedule of Driveway, Transportation and Utility Permit Fees**. Over 70 counties supplied their permit categories/fees, which were used to mathematically calculate the most common fee structure.

The Statewide Schedule was approved by the CRA Board and is the **recommended uniform fee structure for all counties** not currently having a fee schedule.

Legal Basis. In 2018, Gov. Snyder signed the Small Wireless Infrastructure Act (Public Act 460.1315). Among other things, it established permit fees for wireless infrastructure. The law also established the authority for road agencies to set permit fees.

Based on this authority, **earlier in 2024 the CRA Engineering Committee recommended that permit fees be adjusted 10% effective Oct. 1, 2024**. This amount is specified by a different law (denoted with an asterisk) and will be voted to update and re-release the Statewide Schedule.

This Schedule allows county road agencies to know the fees they will be charged and discourages legislative fee-setting. All counties are encouraged to properly advertise the public hearing and whether the county chooses to collect the fee is, of course, up to the county.

Please note that the **law authorizes an increase only every five years and specifies the amount**; in essence your transportation fees will remain "frozen" at the amounts below (if you adopt them) until Oct. 1, 2029. Unless your agency is calculating actual costs.

CRA has notified Oxcart of this action. They will need to hear from you if your county will be adjusting fees on Oct. 1, 2024, or some time after that. (Oxcart is likely to implement its own increase at the same time, so that permit-pullers get all changes at the same time.)



Statewide permit fees



Following reference guides and policy adoption, statewide permit fees adopted.

- Statewide permit fees for consistency and to recognize inflationary costs.
- Fee schedule incorporates specific \$ amounts in law for:
 - Cable, fiber projects.
 - Wireless projects.
- CRA statewide permit fees adopted Oct. 2024.

History of fiber buildouts in Leelanau, lessons learned

2019/2020

- Small Company Fiber Build:
 - A \$200 permit fee for 5-mile project and no inspection fee structure for over 80 hours of combined meeting and field visit time.
 - Resulted in contractor having to do extensive rework over a year later.



History of fiber buildouts, lessons learned

2020/2021

- Large Company RDOF Build:
 - Appropriate permit fees and early communication with company representatives.
 - Communication breakdown of message to contractors and subcontractors.
 - Countless escalation calls and eventual rework on several projects that could have been avoided.



2023-2025 fiber build – Keys to success

\$20 M fiber build financially backed by County Board of Commissioners

- Prior to construction
 - Met with project and county officials early on.
 - Established permit fees and permitting process/timing expectations.
 - Set out expectations of contractors and escalation process when we have issues.
 - Set internal escalation process for when they have issues: **No need to resolve at Board level.**



2023-2025 fiber build – Keys to success

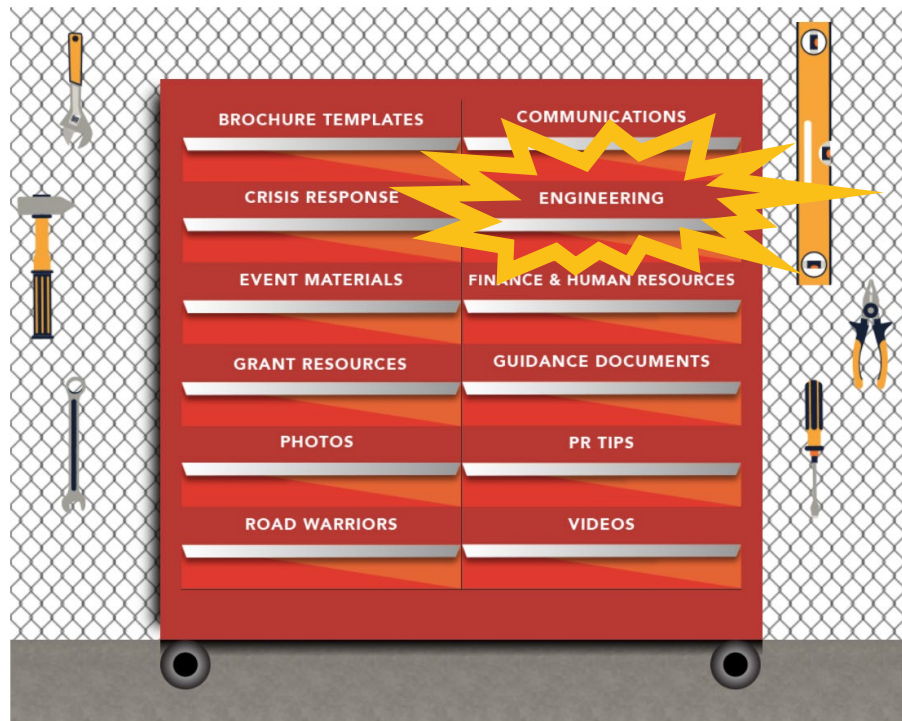
\$20 M fiber build financially backed by County Board of Commissioners

- During Construction:
 - Made sure to be available to field crews and permit agents.
 - Held contractors to the terms set out in the permit; make sure they know you are going to hold them to it.
 - **If you don't care about the terms, why would they?**
 - Being responsive to requests for field changes, encouraged them to ask beforehand.



Where to find resources

Where can I find the resources from this webinar?



- MyCRA >
- Tool Crib >
- Engineering >
- Permits >
- Fiber and Cable Reference Guide

Scan for a direct link!



PR resources



CRA has PR tools to help

- Broadband video
 - ~3 min.
 - Aimed at subs.
 - Covers project size, comms., traffic control, etc.
- Palm card
 - Directs to video.



Avoiding conflict

5 tips to avoid, de-escalate conflict

1. Be proactive.
2. Be clear, concise.
3. Be consistent.
4. Face-to-face.
5. Educate, educate, educate.



A photograph of a two-lane asphalt road stretching into the distance. The road has a double yellow center line and white edge lines. On either side of the road are trees with foliage in various shades of green, yellow, and orange, suggesting an autumn setting. The sky is blue with some light clouds. The word "Questions?" is overlaid in large white text across the center of the image.

Questions?



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Thank you!

@micountyroads
517.482.1189

