



**County Road Association**  
OF MICHIGAN

# What's goin' on at CRA?

*County Engineers Workshop*

*Feb. 5, 2026*

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**Steve Puuri, PE, CRA/MML,**  
*Engineering Specialist*



# Local Road Research



**Legislative General Fund \$1M grant to CRA for pilot Local Road Research Program (LRRP)**

**30+ proposals** from county road agencies!

3 “most popular” ideas selected:

- Chip seal, fog seal best practices;
- Aggregate surface best practices; and
- AI for PASER!

Complete in 2028.

***Deliverables!*** New spec's, BMPs, efficiencies



# Local Road Research



## “Standing up” LRRP activities – 2026

Work group (7), administrator ...

- Formed “champion” groups – 20+ CRCs.
- Developing final Scopes and RFPs.
- Finalizing “U” contract terms patterned on MDOT.
- Meeting w/public, accredited engineering U’s.

Proposals due: April 2026.

Contract kick-off: June 2026.

18-36 month research projects.





# Rubber Modified Asphalt Grant Update

**Bay CRC, CRA have FHWA STIC grant, EGLE funds**

- \$150 K to develop spec's from >100 scrap tire projects.
- MTU, Dr. You began Sept. 2024.
- RMA overlays and chip seal spec's.
- Ideally, fed'l. aid spec's.
- Final report – Sept. 2026.

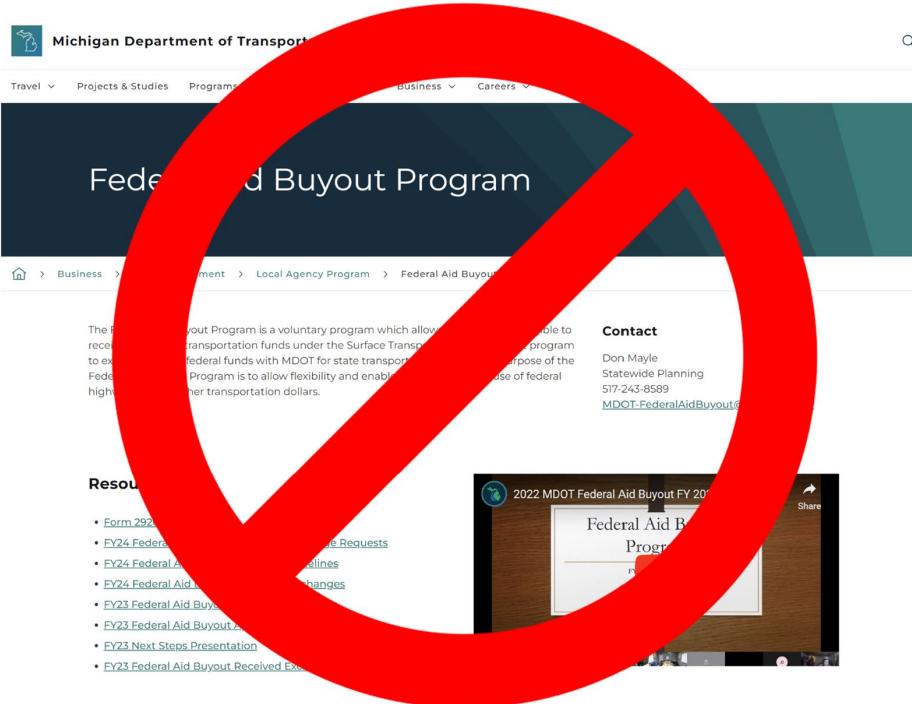
**Goal: MDOT, FHWA review/accept – 2027!**





# FY 2027 MDOT Buyout Project

*It's baaaack! 2-yr. hiatus.*



MDOT rec'd. \$54.5 M projects (82)  
w/ \$49 M available.

PA 51 reporting.

Davis-Bacon wage compliance req'd.

New approach to DB monitoring.

Project documentation assist DB monitoring

***A CRA Legislative Priority!***



*Dreamy County Road Commission*

# NBIS Bridge Compliance Update



**Assistance for locals to comply  
w/FHWA's NBIS bridge rules**

- CRA, MML, MDOT partnered on NBIS compliance, inspections, overweight analysis.
- 5-yr. agreement to perform, fund.
- Funding w/federal aid, unused MTF movable bridge account



# NBIS Bridge Compliance Update

## To handle NBIS compliance, MDOT...

- ...will update NBIS data, future inspections, overweight analysis.
- ... will notify when inspections occur.
- ... may determine a new load limit and notify agency.

## Local road agency will continue ...

- ... Performing maintenance.
- ... Applying for reconstruction funding.



# Permit checklist



## Adopt CRA's permit fee schedule

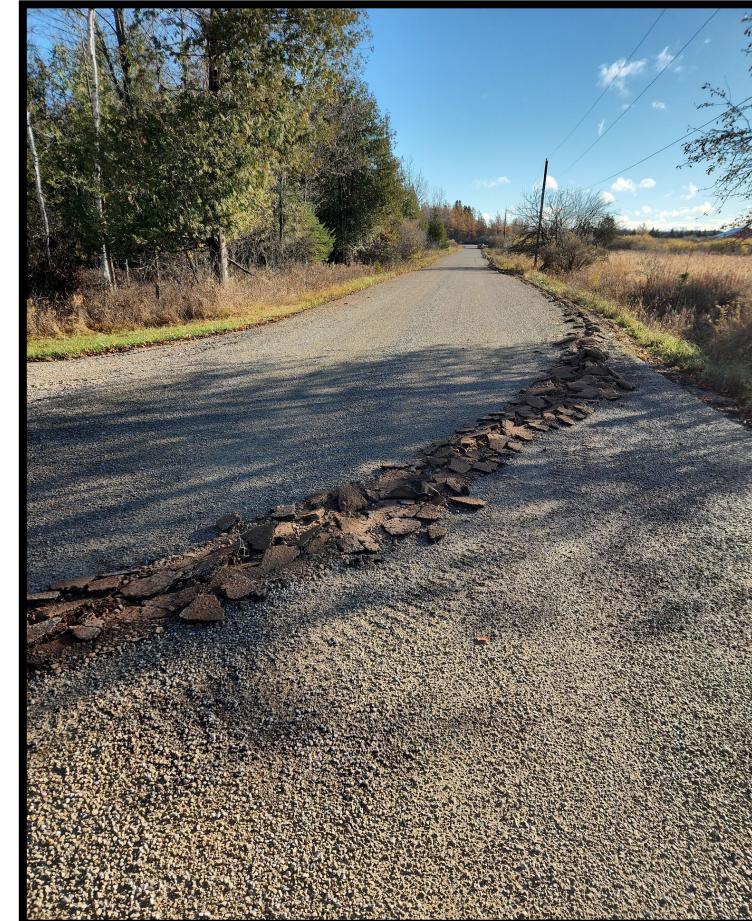
- **Look here!** CRA Tool Crib:  
Fees, permit, guidance.
- Law OKs fee +10% increase / 5 yrs. ✓ **DONE**
- Last increased: Oct. 2024.

## Project fiber-only use CRA 100:

- Cable and fiber guidelines.

## Project w/some wireless use CRA 100-WP:

- Use wireless guidelines, fee schedule.



# Transportation Permits



## CRA Permit Subcommittee to update

- Last updated: in 2016.
- Annual Permits to require bridge overload analysis.
- Agencies should update restricted bridge map.
- ***Coming soon!*** Bridge modeling use in Oxcart.
- As MDOT completes Load Analysis Oxcart will beta test their review process.



# Monarch status unlikely to impact ROW work for counties



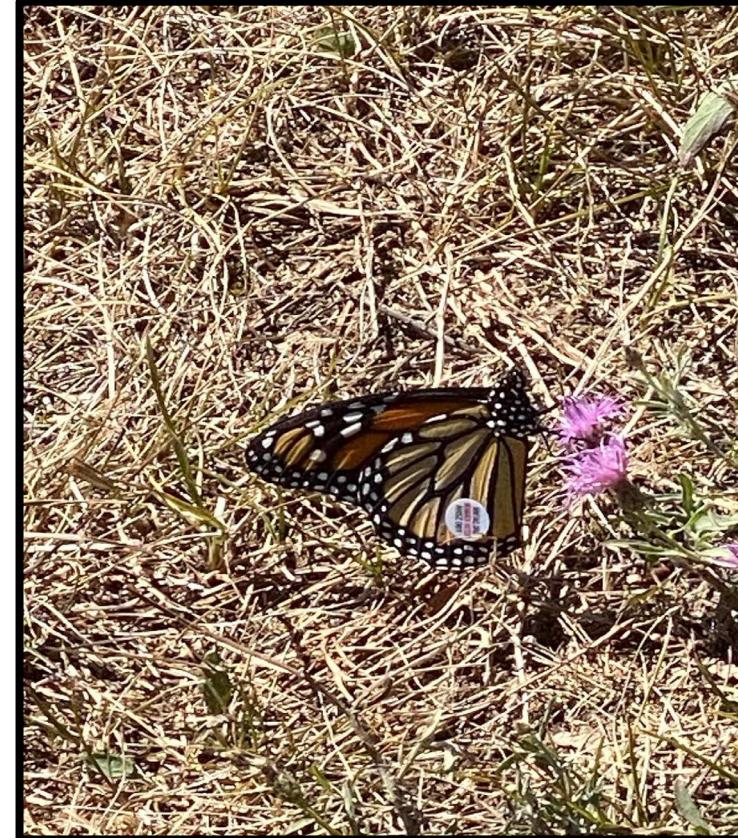
## *Threatened status delayed!*

New decision delayed until spring 2026

If designated, CRA to sign Candidate Conservation Agreement w/Assurances (CCAA)

- USFWS CCAA establishes plan to mitigate.
- 100% county ROW enrolled.
- 5% of Rural ROW adopted.
- Routine const./maint. covered.

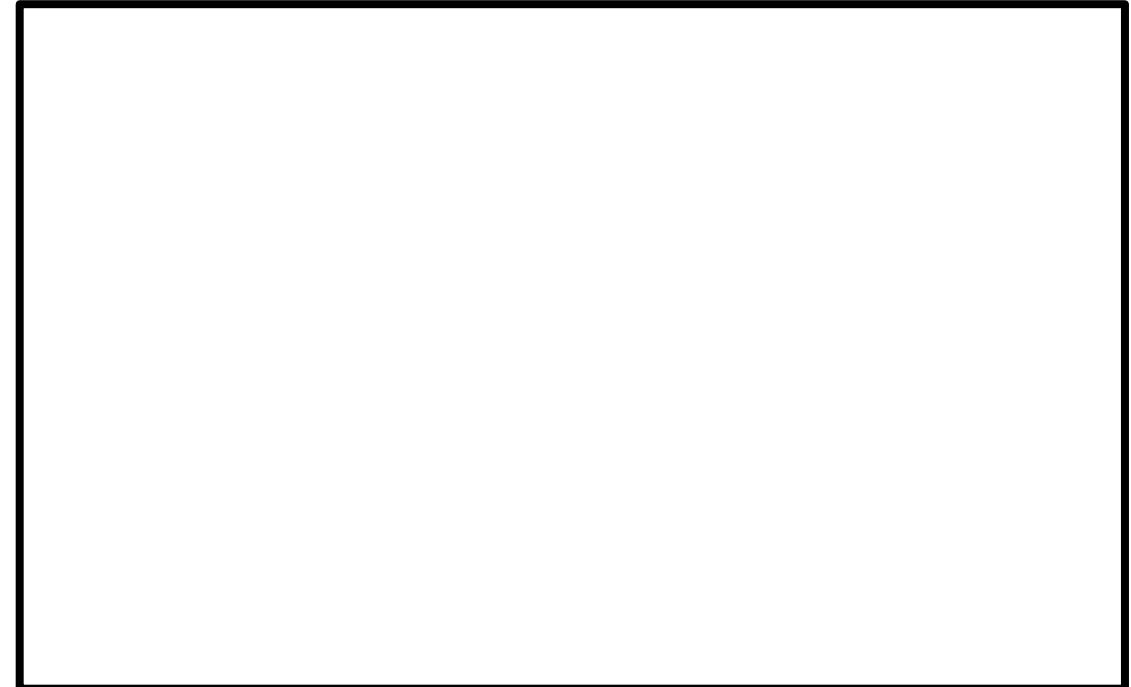
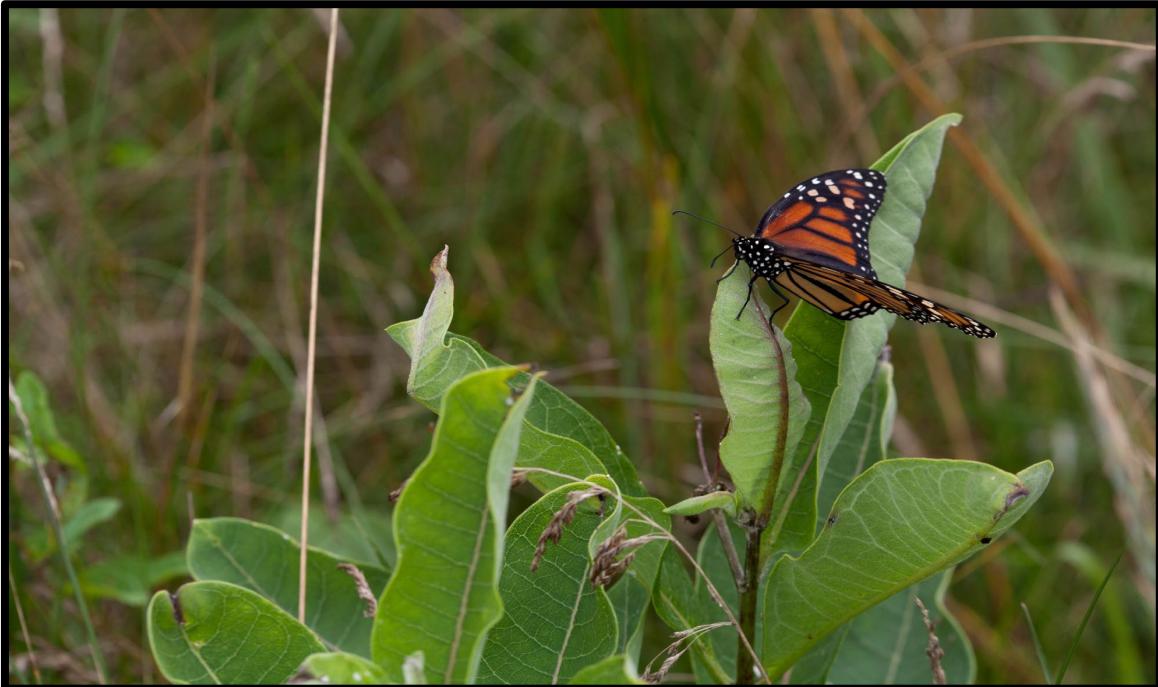
*All 83 counties will participate!*



# Monarch T&E status along roads



A successful CCAA may look like both of these.



# MDOT LAP Cultural Review



Local Agency Projects stats for FY '25. *Update!*

## LOCAL AGENCY PROJECTS UPDATE

544 TOTAL LAP PROJECT REVIEWS WERE COMPLETED between  
October 1, 2024 and Sep. 30, 2025

105 Group 1 Conditionally Excepted Projects (only NEPA review)  
37 Group 2 Conditionally Excepted Projects  
15 No Adverse Effect Determinations  
387 No Historic Properties Affected Determinations

We currently have 129 projects in our review queue.

✓ DONE ?? early submittals

# MDOT LAP Sect. 106 Cultural Review

**CRA-proposes 60+ App. B “excepted” items – in process.**

## ***What you can do now:***

Submit projects early;

Encourage “Early Scoping”;

Project sketch w/early submission;

Non-technical work activity descriptions;

Allows earlier clearance;

2025 Training webinar recorded - CRA website



*Roman highway.*

# Early Acquisition ROW



**CRA to request MDOT to allow CFR Title 23 Section 108:**

## STATE-FUNDED EARLY ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY INTERESTS -

**(1) IN GENERAL.**—A **State** may carry out, **at the expense of the State, acquisitions of** interests in **real property** for a project **before** completion of the **review process** required for the project under the **National Environmental Policy Act** of 1969 (42 USC 4321 et. seq.) **without** affecting subsequent approvals required or **the project by the State or any Federal agency.**



# BMP for Township Participation



**There are conflicts in the preservation definitions**

CRA will be setting up a work group!

- Managers, Engineers, Finance Superintendents

Our goal is establish consistency

- Neighborhood Road Fund \$0 local match
- Current match programs vary

Complete in 2026.





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**Questions?  
Thank you!**

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