

# VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

## NEWS RELEASE

BETTER HIGHWAYS: SAVE LIVES, SAVE TIME, SAVE MONEY

---

Lawrence, Michigan

2025-07

---

DATE: April 4, 2025

CONTACT: Bret Witkowski, Managing Director  
Van Buren County Road Commission

RELEASE: Immediately

Post Office Box 156  
Lawrence, Michigan 49064  
PHONE: (269) 674-8011, Extension 222

### **Van Buren County Road Commission Honored With Statewide IMPRESS Award!**

#### ***THE ROAD COMMISSION WANTS YOU TO KNOW . . .***

The Van Buren County Road Commission (VBCRC) has earned statewide recognition, taking home an IMPRESS Award for Operations at the 2025 County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan Highway Conference in Lansing. The award honors VBCRC's successful transition to conducting roadside mowing operations in-house, a move that has improved efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and safety across Van Buren County.

For two decades, roadside mowing was outsourced to contractors due to VBCRC's limited staffing and equipment. Contractors, paid by the mile, prioritized covering more ground, often leading to a narrowing right-of-way as trees and brush encroached further each year. In 2023, the VBCRC made a transformative shift: the Board of County Road Commissioners budgeted for and purchased tractors and offset-style deck mowers, giving VBCRC staff the tools to take ownership of roadside mowing. These tractors were equipped with bucket attachments for clearing debris, as well as buddy seats to enhance hands-on staff training.

"The overall outcome of bringing roadside mowing in-house has been transformational," said Greg Brucks, Operations Director for the Van Buren County Road Commission. "Residents and Townships now enjoy safer roads thanks to well-maintained right-of-way areas, and our staff takes immense pride in this work. I must also commend our mechanic team, whose dedication to adjusting, maintaining, and repairing equipment was critical to the program's success." The VBCRC aims to complete three rounds of mowing each year across its 1,313 miles of certified roadway ensuring consistent upkeep and safety for the motoring public.

An independent panel of experts from Michigan's 83 county road agencies reviewed all IMPRESS Award submissions. VBCRC is proud to join the ranks of other innovative road commissions celebrated by CRA of Michigan, solidifying its commitment to creating safer roads and operational excellence.

**VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**