WORD

ON THE STREET



VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

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Commemorative sign placed at both new SCRC salt barns

CAREER IN THE REAR VIEW

At the end of May, the Saginaw County Road Commission said goodbye to Daniel T. Medina, a leader whose impact has shaped not only our roads, but the people who maintain them. After more than 46 years in public service, including 31 years with MDOT and 15.5 years as Saginaw County Road Commission's Director of Maintenance, his career reflects dedication, pride, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Dan's journey to SCRC began in late 2010, when he learned of the Director of Maintenance opening. After carefully researching the role and reflecting on what he could contribute, he took the opportunity, stepping into the position on December 1, 2010. What drew him to this field started much earlier on, a lifelong fascination with heavy equipment and the satisfaction of building and maintaining infrastructure that serves the public every day.

Overseeing 65 employees and approximately 1,850 miles of roadway, Dan embraced his role with a clear focus: his #1 priority being safety followed by structure, preparation, and leadership. "No excuses, no shortcuts" became the standard, ensuring that both employees and the traveling public remained protected.

When he first arrived, the road system faced serious challenges. Years of flat budgets combined with rising costs had pushed the department into a reactive mode, with many roads in need of significant repair. Through persistence, planning, and teamwork, the department began shifting toward a more proactive approach. While funding challenges remain, recent progress, including increased statewide investment, and a current countywide local road millage offers hope for continued improvement.



← ***Dan's MDOT ID from 1988***

Among the many accomplishments Dan is proud of, one theme stands above all, the strength of the TEAM. From major culvert replacements and expanded chip seal operations to improved drainage maintenance, and the construction of two new salt storage facilities just to name a few, the department consistently delivers high-quality results. One standout achievement was completing 200 miles of chip seal work in a single season in 2025, an effort that reflects both efficiency and coordination. The addition of the new salt sheds also significantly improved response times and operational effectiveness, making a lasting impact on service to the community.

Perhaps his most influential change came from day one, immediately shifting the department from a district-based structure to one unified, countywide TEAM. By breaking down boundaries and encouraging collaboration, employees, equipment, and resources could be deployed wherever they were needed most. The result was a stronger, more cohesive operation that focused on shared goals.

Winter Training Presentation



That TEAM-first philosophy carried through every aspect of Dan's leadership. He consistently emphasized that, "no one individual is smarter than all of us together," and that the best decisions come from collective input. By giving employees a voice, he fostered a sense of ownership, accountability, and pride in the work being done. At the same time, Dan maintained high expectations, ensuring the team had the tools, training, and structure needed to succeed.

He also recognized the challenges that come with the job, particularly during severe weather. From ice storms and flooding to high winds and heavy snow, road maintenance requires constant coordination, preparation, and adaptability. Behind the scenes, it's a 24/7 effort to keep roads safe, balancing logistics, staffing, equipment readiness, and real-time decision-making.

Continued on page 4

Shoulder Maintenance



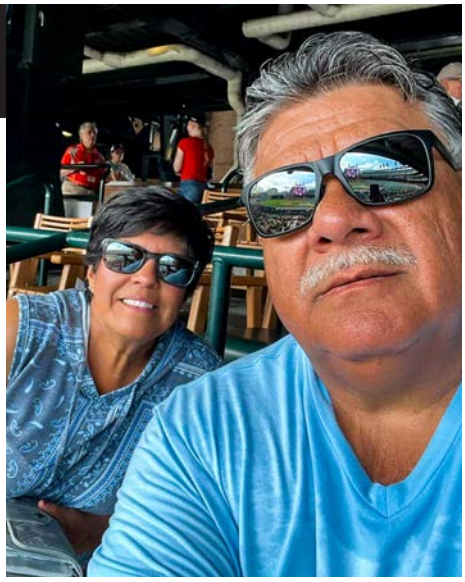


Dan with Rob Hudec (left) and former District 2 Foreman Joe Popp (middle) at a Tri-County Golf Outing

Beyond the work itself, what he values most are the relationships built along the way. Dan describes the department as a "brotherhood" a group that supports one another both on and off the job. He noted that he will forever cherish the friendships he's made throughout his career. As a leader, he prioritized listening, mentoring, and creating opportunities for others to grow. Every employee, he believes, plays a vital role and deserves respect, accountability, and support.

To the next generation of road maintenance professionals, Dan's advice is clear: focus on preparing your TEAM for success. Set achievable goals, prioritize safety above all else, enforce standards and policy consistently, and never lose sight of where you started. Strong leadership, he believes, is about building people as much as it is about maintaining roads.

Dan and his wife, Olga, enjoying a Detroit Tigers game →



As he looks ahead to retirement, Dan is most excited for time with family and the freedom to travel, especially to warmer destinations during Michigan winters. Still, leaving won't be easy. "I'll miss most all of it," he reflects, noting the joy he's carried since first entering the field at 18 years old. That sense of purpose, being part of a TEAM that keeps the public safe, has never faded throughout his career at both MDOT as well as SCRC.

Serving the residents of Saginaw County has been, in his words, "an honor and a privilege." Seeing how far the maintenance department has come and knowing he played a role in that progress, brings a deep sense of fulfillment.

When asked to sum up his career, his answer says it all:

Grateful. Thankful. Fulfilled. Proud. Complete.

Dan's legacy will live on in the roads we maintain, the standards we uphold, and the TEAM he helped build.

As I bring this piece to a close, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to Dan for taking the time to share his story and insights. It is truly an honor to write this article about someone I have long looked up to as both a professional and a mentor. Thank you for your trust, your time, and the example you continue to set every day.

Sarah Gross,
Admin. Assisstant/
Board Secretary /
Communications Coordinator

Years of service gift Dan received from our vendor, Truck & Trailer Specialties





Retirement Celebration











MAINTENANCE

The day is nearly upon us, and our formidable partnership is coming to an end. I would like to sincerely thank each of you for everything you have done, your support has made this job truly enjoyable.

To the entire SCRC Maintenance TEAM, it has been a pleasure managing and working alongside you. Leading this group has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to get to know you both professionally and personally over the past 15.5 years. Your friendship, support, and collaboration have meant a great deal to me and have made my time here truly special. The steady improvements in all aspects of our maintenance operations are evident; take pride in the accomplishments you've achieved through your hard work and dedication.

To my peers, managers, and commissioners, I would like to personally thank you for your continued support and mentorship throughout the years. Because of your guidance, I have grown significantly as a professional, and for that I am truly grateful. Working together across departments to achieve SCRC's goals; delivering safe, efficient, and high-quality service to our customers has been incredibly fulfilling. The "I" or "me," approach dissolved years ago and the TEAM approach has become the foundation of our strength. I have also valued getting to know you on a personal level and hope our relationships continue well beyond my final day.

To all our partners who provide equipment, materials, and services to the SCRC, thank you. We greatly appreciate not only the resources you supply, but also the strong relationships we have built over the years. Your continued support plays a vital role in helping SCRC achieve its goals. With clear communication and mutual respect, I am confident these partnerships will remain strong for years to come.

I would also like to welcome and congratulate the new SCRC Director of Maintenance, Sean Reinig. Sean is a driven and capable leader with the dedication needed to succeed. Sean is a leader and a winner, and I am confident he will continue to guide SCRC as a respected leader across the state.

It is hard to believe that 46.5 years have passed, and that a career I have loved and cherished is now coming to a close. As this chapter ends, I feel a deep sense of gratitude. I have been truly blessed to serve in a role where I could make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Always put safety first, set your goals high, strive to make a difference, and give your very best each day. Most importantly, to continue to work together as one unified, strong TEAM, success will certainly follow.

I sincerely wish the entire SCRC team the very best in all future endeavors.

It has been an honor and a privilege; one I will cherish for the rest of my life.

Thank you,

Dan Medina,
Director of Maintenance
Saginaw County Road Commission



Dan and our new Director of Maintenance, Sean Reinig (Former District 4 Foreman)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Each year, the Saginaw County Road Commission (SCRC) welcomes approximately 18 summer temporary employees to support essential maintenance and engineering operations. These team members play a critical role in completing tasks such as mowing, pothole patching, paser rating, and catch basin inspections. Their contributions help ensure that our full-time CDL drivers can remain focused on larger, scheduled maintenance activities like shoulder work and our chip seal operation, keeping our roadways safe and efficient for the community.

In an effort to enhance our hiring process, SCRC introduced a new initiative this year which was hosting our first Open Interview Day. We invited individuals interested in summer employment to visit our maintenance facility, meet our staff, and complete applications on-site. The event was met with strong attendance, and we look forward to expanding this approach in future hiring seasons. In addition to hosting our own event, SCRC also actively participated in other local job fairs including:

- SVSU Spring Employment Fair
- Delta College Great Lakes Bay Job Fair

SCRC also continues to strengthen partnerships within the community. Recently, we collaborated with the Saginaw County Sheriff's Department and welcomed Sheriff William Federspiel as a guest speaker for our Blue Water Highway Council group. Sheriff Federspiel shared insights into the longstanding partnership between the Sheriff's Department and SCRC, particularly the deer carcass removal program. He also highlighted the broader statewide challenges of roadside carcass management and introduced the Saginaw County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) mobile app, which allows residents to report carcass locations efficiently. The department coordinates weekly pickup efforts based on these reports, helping maintain safer and cleaner roadways.

Through workforce development, community partnerships, and responsive communication, SCRC remains committed to serving the residents of Saginaw County with dedication and innovation.



WNEM News coverage of Open Interview Day



Facebook Post announcing the event



Sheriff Federspiel presenting at the Blue Water Meeting

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK



Each year, staff from the Saginaw County Road Commission (SCRC) attend the annual County Road Association (CRA) Highway Conference and Road Show. This highly anticipated event provides an excellent opportunity to connect with industry vendors, strengthen professional relationships, and participate in a wide range of breakout sessions covering engineering, finance, communications, and more. It is also a time to highlight the outstanding work being done by county road agencies across the state.

A key component of the conference is the awards program, which recognizes agencies in three categories: communications, collaboration, and operations. This year, SCRC proudly submitted entries in all three categories, each representing the dedication, innovation, and teamwork of our staff.

For the communications category, SCRC submitted its bi-annual newsletter. This publication serves as an important communication tool, reaching county officials, township leaders, stakeholders, and residents throughout Saginaw County. Each department contributes articles, ensuring that the information shared is both meaningful and valuable to our audience. The newsletter continues to play a vital role in keeping our community informed and connected to the work we do.

In the collaboration category, SCRC highlighted its 5-year road plans, made possible through the successful passage of the 6-year county-wide local road millage at the end of 2024. With this dedicated funding source now in place, SCRC is able to partner more effectively with local townships to develop long-term road improvement strategies. This marks a significant shift from previous years, when limited funding required short-term, year-by-year planning. Today, we can work together proactively to prioritize projects and maximize impact for our communities.

For operations, SCRC submitted the construction of two new salt storage facilities located in the Village of Chesaning and Richland Township. These facilities have been in discussion for nearly a decade, and through extensive planning and coordination, they have finally become a reality. The new salt sheds significantly enhance operational efficiency by increasing storage capacity, reducing travel time for crews,



Deb Kestner (Road Commissioner), Rob Hudec (Maintenance Superintendent), Sarah Gross (Admin. Assistant), Dennis Borchard (Managing Director), and Dan Armentrout (Director of Engineering / Deputy MD) accepting our 2025 IMPRESS Awards

and enabling faster service to residents. Additionally, they provide improved protection for valuable materials and equipment.

SCRC is proud to share that all three submissions received awards at this year's conference. In addition, the organization was honored with the People's Choice Award in two categories: collaboration and operations.

These achievements are a direct reflection of the dedicated team behind the work. The success of SCRC would not be possible without the commitment, professionalism, and can-do attitude demonstrated by staff every day. Together, we continue to deliver results that our community can be proud of while striving for excellence in everything we do.



Dennis Borchard,
Managing Director

FINANCE

MORE ROAD FUNDING IS COMING

The state approved a record-breaking new funding package for roads with their 2026 budget. An estimated $1.4 billion in additional revenue statewide is expected. Saginaw County is expected to see an increase of 20%-25% in 2027 between Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) and the new Neighborhood roads fund (NRF).

Key Changes Statewide:

Fuel Tax 52.4 cents per gallon

- Removed 6% sales tax, previously directed to schools & other entities
- Added 20.0 cents/gal to current 31.0 cents/gal
- 2.7% Inflation adjustment
  - 51.0 CENTS* 1.027 = 52.4 cents (rounded)

Neighborhood Road Funding

- $688 million from Corporate Income Tax
  - $88 million increase annually until 2030
- $315 million from Wholesale Marijuana Tax
  - Currently in court of claims

Redirected Income Tax Revenue Removal

- $600 million was removed from roads effective Oct 2025, and given to schools

Since the removal of the $600 million in redirected income tax in October, and the fuel tax swap not taking effect until January 1st, 2026, SCRC has seen a 19% decrease in MTF revenue. With the timing of collections as required by law from the reporting units, funding to the roads is delayed by approximately 3 months. Our April 2026 MTF payment increased by the 19% previously lost plus an additional 19%, based off from the prior month's payment. Compared to April 2025, we received an 11% increase.

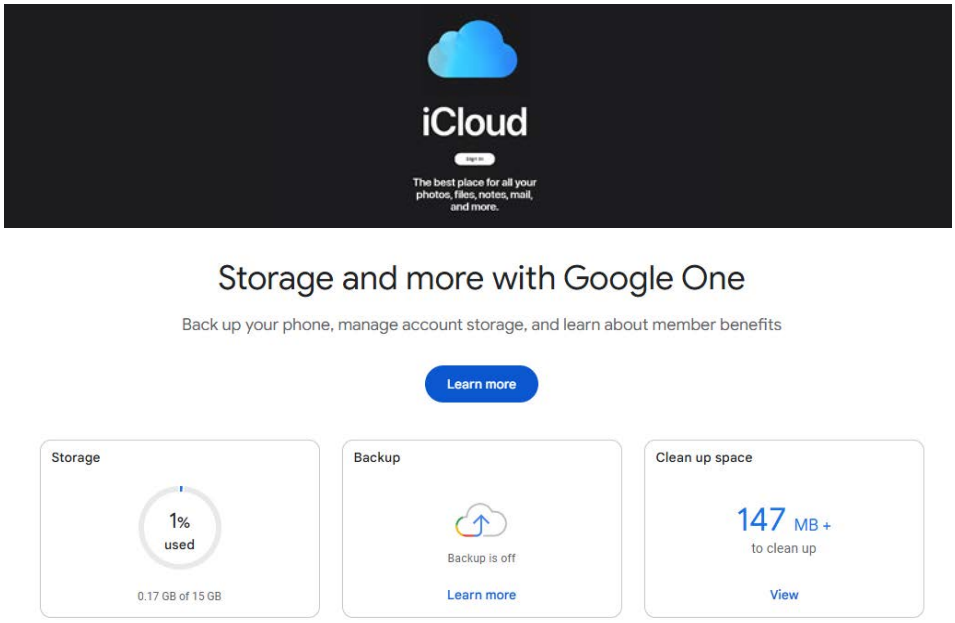
The NRF Revenue is also delayed and collections from each source are on a quarterly basis rather than monthly like fuel taxes. The state budget also designates the first $1.25 Billion collected from corporate income tax and goes to the State General Fund ($1.2B) and Michigan Housing / Community Development Fund ($50M), then to the NRF. Marijuana money will go directly to the NRF.

Between timing and uncertainties of when the revenue will be available to SCRC, we did not budget an increase for 2026. We are excited for the additional revenue and are planning and preparing for a big year of road projects in 2027 & beyond.

Lacey Ziola,
Director of Finance & Benefits

TECH COMMUNICATION





Summer weather is here, which also calls for more outdoor adventures. Whether you find yourself at the ball fields, on the water, or in your backyard, accidents can happen with your smartphone. The last thing you want to experience when replacing your smartphone is losing your digital life. From precious photo memories, important contact lists, and passwords for that app you haven't logged out of in ages, a simple automated backup can resolve this headache.

Using native cloud backup services is the simplest route to protecting your digital life. Now is a good time to review which apps automatically back up to the cloud and whether a recent successful backup exists. Ensure you have a copy of your cloud password and any other important passwords, such as your primary email, stored elsewhere that you can access without your smartphone.

To check your backup settings:

- iPhone users: Visit Apple's iCloud Backup guide
- Android users: Visit Google's Android Backup guide

Spending a few minutes to verify your backups today can make recovering from a lost or damaged device much easier tomorrow.

Mariah Kelly,
Senior GIS Analyst /
Project Coordinator

ENGINEERING

2026 PROJECT LIST

Township	Road	Location	Project Scope
Birch Run	Canada	Dixie Hwy to Maple	Crush, Shape, Pave
Blumfield	Hack	M-15 to Gera	Crush, Shape, Pave
Blumfield	Wadsworth	Over Uncle Henry Drain	Bridge Replacement
Brady / Brant	Gary	Steel to Fowler	HMA Paving
Bridgeport	Southfield Dr	Washington to Williamson	Mill & Fill
Bridgeport	Sun Valley Dr	Galaxy to Dixie	Mill & Fill
Buena Vista	Airport	M-46 to Twp Line	Crush, Shape, Pave
Carrollton / Kochville / Saginaw	Tittabawassee	Bay to Michigan	Concrete Repair
Carrollton / Saginaw	Benjamin St	Weiss to Greenfield	Asphalt Overlay
Carrollton / Saginaw	Hermansau	Weiss to McCarty	Mill & Fill
Carrollton	Cecelia St	Weiss to Greenfield	Asphalt Overlay
Carrollton	Greenfield	Benjamin to Hermansau	Asphalt Overlay
Carrollton	Meadowlawn	Bauer to Church	Crush, Shape, Pave
Chapin	Chapin	Over Lamb Creek	Bridge Replacement
Frankenmuth	Junction	City Limits to Reese	HMA Paving
Frankenmuth	Junction	Dixie Hwy to Dehmel	HMA Paving
Kochville	Davis Subdivision	Off Michigan & Liberty	Crush, Shape, Pave
Kochville	Diceglie Ct	West of Mackinaw	Crush, Shape, Pave
Kochville	Kabobel Dr	West of Bay	HMA Paving



Township	Road	Location	Project Scope
Maple Grove	Bishop	M-57 to Volkmer	Crush, Shape, Pave
Maple Grove	Chesaning	Over Misteguay Creek	Bridge Replacement
Richland	Lunney	Hemlock to Raucholz	Crush, Shape, Pave
Saginaw	Frost Dr	Gratiot to Colony	Reconstruct / Mini Roundabout
Saginaw	Thistle Dr	Lawndale to Midland	Mill & Fill / Crush & Shape
Saginaw	Weiss	Mackinaw to Bay	HMA Paving
Saginaw	White Trillium Sub	West of Hemmeter	Mill & Fill
Spaulding	Youngstown Pl	South of Houlihan	Crush, Shape, Pave
St. Charles	Carr	Fergus to Brant	Asphalt Overlay
Taymouth	Bell	Over Birch Run Creek	Bridge Replacement
Taymouth	Morseville	Over Pine Run	Bridge Replacement
Taymouth	Pettit	Busch to Townline	Road Reconstruction
Thomas	Dice	Thomas to River	Crush, Shape, Pave
Thomas	Lone	Frost to Tittabawassee	Crush, Shape, Pave
Thomas	Thomas	South of Gratiot	Bridge Replacement
Tittabawassee	Dawn Subdivision	7th to Railroad Tracks	Asphalt Overlay
Tittabawassee	Freeland	Webster to Garfield	Asphalt Overlay / Roundabout
Tittabawassee	Garfield	Pierce to Freeland	Asphalt Overlay
Tittabawassee	Kochville	Garfield to Hospital	HMA Paving

SAFETY

Spring is in the air – and so is that construction dust! Roadwork is ramping up, with projects focusing on fixing roads and bridges. As work zones increase, drivers are urged to "Respect the Zone", slow down, and stay alert to ensure worker safety.

Crews are rolling up their sleeves to make improvements on our county roads. While road work may seem inconvenient at times, we can all agree – It's about time!



Worker Risks	Driver Risks
Run overs / Back overs	Distracted Driving
Struck-by incidents	Speeding
Heat Stress	Unclear Signage
Limited Barriers	Reduced Visibility

Work zones pose significant risks to both workers and drivers.

In 2025, preliminary work zone crash statistics included:

- 5,942 work zone crashes
- 24 fatal work zone crashes
- 1,199 work zone injuries
- 25 work zone fatalities

The highest number of work zone crashes occur when lanes are closed. The second and third highest number of crashes occur when there is work on the shoulder/median and lane shifts/ crossovers.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. If you think a job or a task is unsafe, stop the work and ask questions. Don't wait until something happens and an injury takes over your life. It is important to look out for one another and raise awareness of unsafe practices so we may all go home at the end of the workday the same way we showed up.

The safety committee meets monthly to ensure safety is always a topic of discussion. Please feel free to reach out to any member of the committee if you have a concern or suggestion.

Permit Enforcement / Safety Officer:
Haley Christensen

Safety Committee: *Mike Ecker, Glenn Hardy, Rob Hudec, Ben Iliff, Jason Windy, Dalton Bissonnette, and a rotating district foreman*

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Fenmore Rd (Gratiot & Ederer) - Jonesfield Twp

Culvert Replacement



Hermansau Rd (Weiss & Shattuck) - Saginaw Twp

Storm Drain Repair



Cole Rd (Evon & Houlihan) - Spaulding

Tile Jetting



Burt Rd (Bishop & Briggs) - Albee Twp

Bridge Deck Repair



Lunney Rd (Hemlock & Raucholz) - Richland Twp

Paving



Beaver Rd (Fordney & Townline) - Fremont Twp

Tree Cutting

UPCOMING DATES

6/19 Juneteenth

6/21 Father's Day

7/02 Independence Day Observed**

7/04 Independence Day

9/07 Labor Day**

10/31 Halloween

11/01 Daylight Savings Time Ends

11/11 Veterans Day**

11/26 Thanksgiving**

11/27 Thanksgiving Observed**

** SCRC offices and facilities are closed **

RETIREES



Dan Medina,
Director of Maintenance
15.5 Years of Service



Rich Vollmer,
Grader Operator
20 Years of Service

SCRC ANNIVERSARIES

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY DATES

EMPLOYEE	YEARS OF SERVICE
Ben Iliff	30
John Flynn	20
Ryan Lee	1

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS (April - October):
Monday—Thursday 6:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.
CLOSED FRIDAY

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS (October - April):
Monday—Friday
7:00 A.M.—3:30 P.M.

COMMISSIONERS

Ed Wasmiller - Chairperson
Todd Hare - Vice-Chairperson
John D. Sangster - Member
Richard H. Crannell, P.E. - Member
Deb Kestner - Member

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Dennis L. Borchard

The Saginaw County Road Commission maintains over 1,850+ miles of roads. While some local road projects are able to be done by cost-sharing with townships, the majority of the maintenance is the Saginaw County Road Commission's responsibility.

There are 205 bridges to maintain along with smaller tributaries and ditches adding more than 3,474 culverts to the road system. The list continues to grow as new roads are built to meet the needs of our ever changing and expanding community.

Maintaining the county road system is no easy task. However, every Saginaw County Road Commission employee is committed to building and maintaining a quality road system that will last for generations to come. We are proud to be a part of and to serve the Saginaw County Community.

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