

# Road Commission Keeps Work in House to Save Money

After a couple of successful “pilot projects” the Genesee County Road Commission is expanding its practice of keeping smaller resurfacing projects in house, performing the work with its own staff and equipment instead of contracting it out to an independent paving company as has been the practice historically. Using paving equipment purchased two years ago, the Road Commission started small, doing spot repaving on several roads including Sharp Road between Reid Road and Grand Blanc Road, and on Jennings Road between Reid Road and Grand Blanc Road.

With safety and cost-effectiveness always the overriding factors in the decision-making process, the Road Commission looked at the result of these smaller pilot projects and concluded that they could indeed do a quality job of paving larger stretches of road, making these roads safer while extending their service life for 8-10 years, and do so at considerable savings. So the Road Commission purchased a larger paver and took on larger challenges – beginning with Maple Avenue between Linden Road and Elms Road.

This road was in a good candidate for repair, rating a 3 (Poor) on the PASER Road Condition 10-scale. But to resurface this road the traditional way, by contracting out to a paving company, would cost approximately \$1,000,000, which was beyond the budget of the Road Commission and Flint and Mundy Townships which the road borders. And since this section of Maple Avenue is classified as a Local Road, the Road Commission is prohibited from paying for more than half of the cost of the project. Which meant that if this road was going to be resurfaced the Townships would have to participate.

The Road Commission estimated that to do the project with its own workers and equipment would cost only \$ 200,000. This was a figure the three entities could work with. The Townships agreed to participate and the Road Commission resurfaced the road.

Maintenance Director Anthony Branch sees this as a money-saver this year and in the future. “We have proven that we can do these larger jobs with excellent results. We can give these roads several more years of life at a fraction of the cost of contracting it out. We can’t do this with all resurfacings because we still have all of our other maintenance tasks to do, like mowing and sweeping, sign, signal and guardrail repair and the like, but in certain instances we can save quite a bit by doing these ourselves. At this rate the paving machine will pay for itself in 2 years.”

To see pictures of the paving in progress or for more information visit the Road Commission’s web site (<http://www.gcrc.org/PhotoPage15.html>) or call Anthony Branch, director of maintenance, at (810) 767-4920, extension 286