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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 17, 2011

Contact: Fred Peivandi, Director of Engineering
(810) 767-4920

GCRC Web site: www.gcrc.org



Road Commission culvert program replaces failed culverts and bridges

Flint, Michigan. ---

John Daly, Manager-Director of the Genesee County Road Commission has announced that the Road Commission is in the final stages of completing a very successful program of leveraging federal ARRA funds to replace several failed large cross road culverts around the County. “Culverts are sort of the neglected step child of roadway structures. Since they typically span only 8-18 feet, they are not large enough to be classified as bridges and be eligible for local bridge funding, but they are definitely large enough to close a road when they fail. These structures are both critical to the function and structure of the road system and nearly prohibitively expensive to replace. To make matters worse, many of these culverts have been under the road for 80-100 years, and flow and structural requirements imposed by the DNRE - and the cost to meet the requirement - have increased dramatically.

Since May, 21 culverts and 1 bridge have been replaced on County Local and County Primary Roads. At the same time, 4.25 miles of asphalt resurfacing has also been completed. Two more culverts, which were added late or delayed by environmental concerns will be completed in the summer of 2012. Here is a list, by township, of the culverts and bridges that have been or will be replaced.

Using \$6 million dollars of federal Recovery Zone Bond funding the Road Commission replaced 21 failed culverts, throughout the county this summer. The 25% matching funds provided by the townships will be repaid over a period of 10 years. Dr. Daly pointed out that this is “a pretty good investment, especially when you consider that the life expectancy of these structures is up to 70 years.”

“We were able to leverage federal funding and partner with 13 of our townships to replace these failed culverts and bridges that would otherwise have been impossible to replace”, said Dr. Daly. “We are grateful for the committed partnership we enjoy with our townships.”

For additional information contact Road Commission Manager-Director John Daly at (810) 767-4920.

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