

PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE

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Genesee County Road Commission to help school officials reach early decisions on snow days

Flint, Michigan. ---

The Genesee County Road Commission announced today that it is testing a new arrangement with the superintendents of Genesee County schools designed to help school officials make the decision whether to call a snow day or not, and make it as early as possible, thereby assisting not only school officials, but thousands of parents and students as well.

Road Commission Manager-Director John Daly explained that Jeffry Morgan, superintendent of Kearsley Schools asked him if there was anything the Road Commission could do help make that decision as early as possible. “Jeff explained the hardship that the decision caused, both for students and their families and for school employees if not made in a timely manner. If they announce at 6:00am that school is closed, many parents have to scramble to find child care. How much better it would be to announce that decision earlier – preferably the night before. While we don’t want to inject ourselves in their decision-making, and we won’t be forecasting weather or road conditions, we can easily let the school officials know what we will be doing overnight, whether we are salting or plowing.”

The arrangement is simple. When a winter storm is forecast or underway, the Road Commission’s Director of Maintenance will send an email to the decision-makers identified by each school, usually the superintendent or transportation director, regarding what the Road Commission crews will be doing overnight to clear the roads of ice and snow. The school officials can then use this information, together with the information they get from weather forecasts and other sources, to help them make the decision whether to close schools or not.

According to Daly, the response from superintendents has been unanimously positive. “Many have told me they appreciate the Road Commission’s willingness to help them in this way. Our job is to keep the roads safe for the motoring public. Helping school officials make the correct snow day call – and make it in a timelier manner, can contribute to that, and we are happy to do so.”

For more information contact Bob Slattery, director of Information Systems and Planning at (810) 767-4920. And visit the Road Commission’s website (www.gcrc.org) for winter safety tips, the Road Commission’s winter maintenance policies and a wealth of road-related information and links to other resources.

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Remember – in Ice and Snow, Take it Slow!