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Tire Grants Help Communities Pave 17 Streets and Two Parking Lots

ROWE prepared applications for five clients to receive funds from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's "2013 Scrap Tire Market Development" grants; every client has been awarded funding. The Village of Birch Run and cities of Clio, St. Clair, St. Johns, and Vassar in Michigan are on their way to paving or repairing a total of 17 streets and two parking lots with the assistance of \$549,225 in grant money.

Scrap Tire Market Development grant applications are due at the end of each year and awarded in early summer the following year. They provide up to a 50 percent match for communities to complete paving or pavement repair projects with bituminous asphalt containing ground tires. ROWE is providing design for a majority of these clients' projects. Construction is slated for fall 2014 or spring 2015.

If you would like more information about how ROWE can help you apply for these grants, contact your project manager or ROWE Project Manager Louis Fleury, PE, at 800-837-9131 or LFleury@rowepsc.com.



Above, Church Street in the Village of Birch Run, MI before it was repaved with a Scrap Tire Market Development Grant last summer; at left is the street after paving.

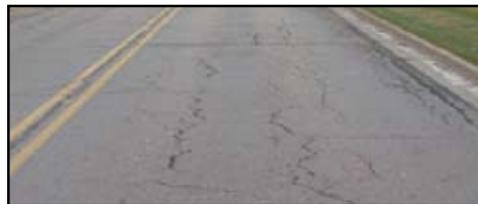
Asset Management Plans Provide Direction, Savings for Road Repairs

Does a money tree to fund road repairs grow behind your office? If you answered no, ROWE may be able to help. We cannot plant that tree, but we can rate the condition of your roads and create an asset management plan to assist you with making wise decisions regarding road projects and even save money.

Performing a Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (abbreviated as PASER), a method of evaluating and recording the condition of your roads, can help you prioritize projects. RoadSoft software will indicate how each road is projected to degrade. We use this information to create a plan, often for a span of five years, with suggestions about how to increase your road ratings each year and how to maintain your roads. We may recommend that a crack seal will suffice to maintain a road rather than more costly alternatives. While road repair priorities are based on the number of complaints received, other roads may be degrading so much that future repairs will be more costly than if needs are addressed earlier.

One client is using this data to determine a dollar amount for a millage they intend to pursue. Sharing hard facts may help them communicate the need with voters.

For more information about how ROWE can help you plan smarter with asset management plans, contact Senior Project Engineer Jill Bauer, PE, PTOE, at 800-837-9131 or JBauer@rowepsc.com.



The photo at left depicts a City of Swartz Creek, MI street with a PASER rating of 10, the middle photo has a rating of 4, and the photo at right has a rating of 2.

Work in the Energy Industry Increases

ROWE's work with energy companies continues to expand. ROWE began performing survey services for Enbridge Energy Company, Inc. / Enbridge (U.S.), Inc. four years ago and is now providing engineering support. In June 2013, Senior Engineering Technician Travis Siddall began a one-year contract to work in Enbridge's Superior, WI office. He performed specification reviews, constructability reviews, and safety inspections for a variety of what Enbridge classifies as major projects (\$100 million or greater). He also served on the company's safety committee, traveling to Houston, TX for committee meetings. Siddall is now working out of Enbridge's Bloomington, IL office, providing field inspection support for a 120-mile, 24-inch pipeline. ROWE Assistant Project Engineer Jonathan Lane is now performing Siddall's responsibilities in Superior, WI. Their experience allows ROWE to expand the services we can offer clients.

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Client and Employees Earn Awards

ROWE was happy to learn a client received an award for a project and two staff members were recognized for stellar work.

The Village of Lake Isabella was presented with the Vernon Deines Award for an Outstanding Small Town or Rural Plan from the American Planning Association. The village received the award for its master plan. ROWE created color CAD exhibits for the plan.

ROWE Survey Office Technician II Jason Plummer, CST I, received two awards from the International Right of Way Association (IRWA) for his map of a gas main relocation in the City of Midland, MI for Consumers Energy Company. One award was for the pipeline category, the other was for best of show. It is the third year Plummer has received an IRWA award.

ROWE Assistant Project Engineer Ashley M. Hufnagel was named the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials-Michigan Chapter Member of the Year for her volunteering efforts with the organization. This included attending the national conference in Washington DC, assisting with the organization's golf outing, and serving on the Website/Twitter/Facebook Committee.



At left is Plummer; right is Hufnagel.

Staff Overcome Challenges During M-33 Project

ROWE's survey and engineering staff are successfully tackling the challenges of upgrading M-33 in Cheboygan County, MI. Heavy snow, wind, and ice are constant obstacles to overcome when completing survey during winter months in northern Michigan's snow belt, which were especially difficult during 2014 when record snowfalls occurred. A large group of survey staff from ROWE's Grayling, Mt. Pleasant, Flint, and Lapeer, MI offices began working on the project in January to ensure they adhered to the client's schedule. Work included horizontal and vertical control, topographic mapping, as-constructed and legal alignment, government corners, and right-of-way determination along the 6.25-mile project area. They also completed a hydraulic survey at the tributary to Hatt Creek and Ballard Creek.

As the Survey Department's duties wrap up, ROWE engineers are tackling challenges of the project's design, which includes widening the shoulders for maintenance of traffic and increased safety throughout the area. This widening will push the ditches closer to the right-of-way, requiring grading easements and additional right-of-way in many locations. ROWE is evaluating several possibilities to provide the desired roadway section and proper drainage while minimizing the amount of right-of-way impacts.

The project also extends through several wetland areas and areas with peat, muck, and other undesirable underlying soil conditions. The project will include roadway reconstruction with the placement of high-performance biaxial geogrid in an effort to provide a stable foundation on which to build the proposed roadway. They will closely evaluate the constructability and traffic control of these areas.



Surveyors worked on the project during winter, staying inside when weather was prohibitive.

ROWE's As-Needed Planning Assistance Fills in the Gaps

ROWE's planning staff love doing big projects, but they also offer their expertise on an as-needed basis, such as providing advice or information via a quick phone call. These as-needed support services have become very valuable for a variety of reasons, such as cut-backs to a client's planning or zoning department due to budget concerns.

Many times, a community planner or zoning administrator has questions about a new or unique issue, such as a proposal for an adult-use or medical marihuana facility. Other times staff have provided as-needed support, such as answering questions or reviewing an ordinance for a township supervisor or building inspector thrust into the role of planner or zoning administrator due to budget cuts. In many cases, ROWE's planning staff are able to leverage the expertise of our landscape architecture, engineering, surveying, or aerial mapping professionals to answer questions.

One community recently contacted ROWE after State of Michigan staff informed them they needed a map of their voting precinct boundaries. They did not have the resources to create such a map. ROWE was able to easily use one of the municipality's existing maps as a base to create the new map.

ROWE Planner J. Douglas Piggott, AICP, PCP, can attend planning commission or zoning board of appeals meetings to provide extra support. Using his 34 years of experience, he also offers training, which he tailors to that community's local ordinances. If you need planning support, contact Piggott at 800-837-9131 or DPiggott@rowepsc.com.

If you are attending the Michigan Association of Planning's 2014 Annual Conference (Oct. 8-12) make sure to attend Doug's presentation titled "Updating Your Zoning Ordinance."

The ROWE Team Expands

- **Eric M. Bollaert** joined ROWE as a graduate surveyor in the Survey Department in the corporate office in Flint, MI. He comes to ROWE with two years' surveying experience.
- **Daniel E. Miller** joined ROWE as a survey field technician in the Survey Department in the Lapeer, MI office. He comes to ROWE with more than 12 years' surveying experience.
- **Donald G. Pearce** joined ROWE as an engineering technician III in the Civil Utilities Division in the corporate office in Flint, MI. He comes to ROWE with 24 years' CAD experience.
- **William J. Schlichting** joined ROWE as a senior engineering technician in the Transportation Division in the corporate office in Flint, MI. He has 19 years' CAD experience.

For questions about these projects and more, contact Director of Corporate Marketing Jack Wheatley, PE, at JWheatley@rowepsc.com or (800) 837-9131.

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