



CITY OF NOVI
Administrative ePacket
October 31, 2024

Council Action/Attention

[October 30th Planning Commission](#)

Departmental Updates

[The Buzz Report](#)

[Older Adult Services \(OAS\) Office Update - Kieser](#)

[DEA Drug Take Back Event - Gilmore](#)

For Your Information

[2024 Third Quarter Road Report – Road Commission for Oakland County \(RCOC\)](#)



PLANNING COMMISSION

AGENDA

CITY OF NOVI

Regular Meeting

October 30, 2024 7:00 PM

Council Chambers | Novi Civic Center

45175 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 (248) 347-0400

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Avdoulos, Becker, Dismondy, Lynch, Pehlivanian

The Planning Commission wishes to advise the general public that all remarks shall be limited to ten minutes per person during both the Public Hearing and Audience Participation portions of the meeting. Remarks exceeding ten minutes shall be limited to ten minutes.

No person, other than a Commission member, shall address an issue for public hearing or audience participation without being called to the public hearing by the Chairperson (except during Audience Participation).

The above participation policy is outlined in Sections 3.4 and 3.8 of the Planning Commission Procedure.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

CORRESPONDENCE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CITY PLANNER REPORT

CONSENT AGENDA - REMOVALS AND APPROVALS

1. JSP17-37 ARMENIAN CULTURAL CENTER

Approval of the request of Zeimet Wozniak & Associates, on behalf of the Armenian Community Center of

Greater Detroit, for the one-year extension of the Final Site Plan and Special Land Use approval. The subject property is located on the north side of Twelve Mile Road, east of Meadowbrook Road, in the Residential Acreage (RA) zoning district. The project area is approximately 19.30 acres. A revised Special Land Use Permit was granted by the Planning Commission on October 14, 2020 to permit a Place of Worship, a daycare in a residential district, and a proposed Armenian Genocide Memorial structure within the courtyard.

[Click for this packet item](#)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor and Council –

Below is the agenda from the 10/30/24 Planning Commission. Two items of note for you.

1. The proposed Grove development (12 Mile and Meadowbrook). It's a PRO request that will be coming to you for early input.
2. Novi Ten (Novi Rd. and 10 Mile) PRO received approval and will soon come before Council. There was LOTS of public comment on this item.

- Victor

1. JZ24-31 THE GROVE PRO PLAN WITH REZONING 18.745

Public hearing at the request of Ivanhoe Development for initial submittal and eligibility discussion for a Zoning Map Amendment from Office Service Technology to High-Density Multiple Family with a Planned Rezoning Overlay. The subject site is approximately 62 acres and is located east of Meadowbrook Road, south of Twelve Mile Road (Section 13). The applicant is proposing to develop 438-unit multiple-family residential development.

[Click for this packet item Responses](#)

2. JZ23-09 NOVI-TEN PRO WITH REZONING 18.740

Public hearing at the request of Novi-Ten Associates for Planning Commission's recommendation to City Council for a Zoning Map Amendment from Light Industrial and Office Service to Low Density Multiple Family and Community Business with a Planned Rezoning Overlay. The subject site is approximately 34-acres and is located east of Novi Road, south of Ten Mile Road (Section 26). The applicant is proposing to develop a 71-unit multiple-family townhome development on the RM-1 portion, and approximately 35,900 square feet of commercial space on the B-2 portion.

[Click for this packet item Responses](#)

3. JSP23-33 SHEETZ

Public hearing at the request of Silken Gold for Preliminary Site Plan, Wetland Permit, Woodland Permit, and Stormwater Management Plan. The subject property is zoned B-3 General Business and is located in Section 13, west of Haggerty Road and south of Twelve Mile Road. The applicant is proposing to demolish the existing gas station on the site to redevelop with a new gas station/convenience store.

[Click for this packet item](#)

4. 21111 MEADOWBROOK ROAD WOODLAND PERMIT PWD24-0024

Public hearing at the request of Barina Opong-Owusu, for a Woodland Use Permit for 21111 Meadowbrook Road. The site is located west of Meadowbrook Road, and north of Eight Mile Road in Section 35 of the city. The applicant is asking for a delay in the implementation of the standards of Woodland Section 37-9 which calls for immediate woodland replacement or payment into the tree fund for trees that were negatively impacted by the encroachments into the critical root zones of the woodland trees.

[Click for this packet item](#)

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. JSP24-07 GREAT OAKS LANDSCAPE BUILDING ADDITION

Consideration at the request of Great Oaks Landscape for Preliminary Site Plan approval. The subject property, 28025 Samuel Linden Court, is located north of Twelve Mile Road and west of West Park Drive on a 19.12 acre parcel within the I-2 General Industrial Zoning District. The applicant is proposing to construct a 1,700 square foot addition onto the existing 3,000 square foot office building.

[Click for this packet item](#)

2. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2024 PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

[Click for this packet item](#)

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS FOR COMMISSION ACTION

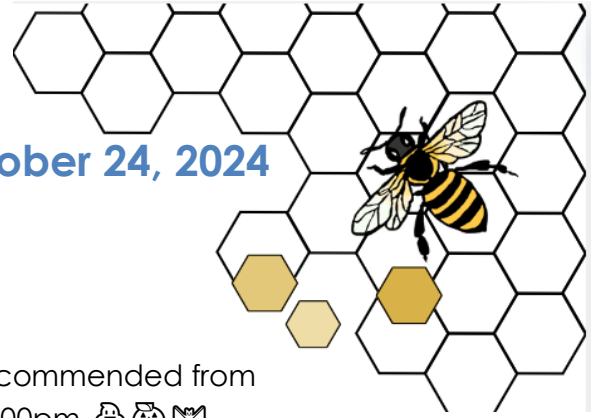
SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES/TRAINING UPDATES

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

ADJOURNMENT

Buzz Report

October 24, 2024



Hot Topics:

- **Halloween Trick or Treating!**



Happy Halloween!

Trick or Treating is recommended from the hours of 6:00 – 8:00pm 🎃 🧛 🦋

- **Maples Clubhouse**

We received reports that employees of the Maples Golf Club are telling residents & neighbors that the City of Novi is holding up their liquor license. However, they received departmental approvals in late 2022/early 2023 and the Resolution recommending approval to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission was approved by City Council on April 17, 2023. Following this approval the applicant signed the agreement regarding the liquor license, and it was sent to the State.

While the Community Development did hold up approval of the kitchen construction work as the Maples had challenges getting the equipment screening installed, Final Approval was granted on September 5, 2024 and the Final Certificate of Occupancy issued on September 10, 2024. Community Development Director, Charles Boulard, will be reaching out to the owner to clarify any misconceptions.

- **Election Updates – Early Voting and Extended Office Hours**



Early in-person voting opened this past Saturday, October 26th and will run until Sunday, November 3rd. Hours are from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm at the Novi Civic Center daily, except for Thursday, which offers the later hours of 12 pm - 8 pm.

Early Voting has proven very popular this year, with 4,000 having cast their ballot by this method at last count (seeing the lines today, we expect this number to grow).

- **9 Mile and Napier**

The Oakland County Federal Aid Committee met on 10/15/2024 with Novi staff in attendance. The committee approved the RCOC's request to include a Roundabout Project at the 9 Mile and Napier Intersection for Fiscal Year 2029. The entire agenda can be viewed [here](#) (page 22). Staff will include the project information in the CIP during this budget cycle.

- **Wainwright St.**

Back in [March City Council heard from residents](#) regarding on-street parking and issues between neighbors. "Issues" seem to have been raised again as Novi PD and Code Compliance have been called to that area for trash can placement complaints and trespassing concerns related to where people walk their dogs. We wouldn't be surprised if future communications were directed to City Council.

- **Strategic Community Recreation and Master Park Plan**

The City of Novi has developed a Strategic Community Recreation and Master Park Plan. The Plan evaluates existing recreation opportunities, review's public input regarding recreation, establishes recreational goals, and proposes a five-year schedule of improvements and other related items the City wishes to pursue.

A draft version of the 2025-29 PRCS Strategic Community Recreation and Master Park Plan has been posted on the [City webpage](#) and a hard copy is available at the PRCS front desk during regular office hours. Residents interested in submitting comments are being directed to send comments to Jeff Muck, City of Novi, PRCS Director at jmuck@cityofnovi.org, or by phone at 248-347-0400.

The draft will be available for public comment through November 25. The PRCS Commission will be discussing at their meeting on November 17 and will make a recommendation for adoption to City Council. A hearing to take input on the draft plan will be held on November 25, at the City Council meeting where action on the adoption of the plan will also be on the agenda.

- ~~**Pink Police Car Returns for Breast Cancer Awareness Month**~~

~~The [Police Department is running the Pink Car initiative](#) once more from September 25 to October 31 in support of the Believe in Miracles fund at Ascension Providence Hospital Novi. For a donation of \$5 or more, individuals can write a message of hope or sign a loved one's name on the car. The eye-catching car will be around town, including the following places and events:~~

~~October 26th (10am – 2pm) "Streets of Treats" in Downtown Northville~~

~~Since 2016, the Police Department has raised nearly \$75,000 through this initiative! This year, they've set the goal high, hoping for \$15,000. Donations can also be made [online](#).~~

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What is happening with the former nursing home at 10/Novi?

A: The former Whitehall nursing home has been demolished. Primrose School, a private preschool and daycare center, is currently in the pre-construction process for the former site. The proposed building is 13,586 square feet and is estimated to have 202 children during its peak hours.

Next Steps: Final Stamping Set approved, pre-con held, foundation permit issued. Hydrant installation required prior to building permit issuance.

Q: What are the high-level road updates (end dates/major changes to closures) for the year?

A: I-96 Freeway Flex Route (Kent Lake Road to I-275/696/M5 Interchange), slated for completion in November

Q: Why have passport services stopped/When will they resume?

A: Passport services are paused for election services and are expected to resume in early December.

Q: When does voting begin?

A: Ballots were first mailed on September 26. Early voting will run from Saturday, October 26 through Sunday, November 3. On November 4 absent voter ballots may be voted in-person at the City Clerk's Office. November 5 is the official date of the Presidential Election.

MEMORANDUM



TO: VICTOR CARDENAS, CITY MANAGER
CC: JEFF MUCK, PRCS DIRECTOR
FROM: KIT KIESER, OAS MANAGER
SUBJECT: 2024 OLDER ADULT SERVICES OFFICE UPDATES
DATE: OCTOBER 23, 2024

Mayor and Council –
Please see the summary below of some minor improvements we are making to the OAS space here in the Civic Center. These improvements will come out of the PRCS fund.
- Victor

In FY22-23, \$34,330 from the facilities maintenance budget was allocated to update the carpet, paint, and ceiling tiles for the Older Adult Services (OAS) office as part of standard facility improvements across the Civic Center. However, the project was postponed due to the formation of the Older Adult Needs (OAN) Committee, which concluded in July 2024.

The OAS office, a public-facing space used daily by residents, volunteers, and staff, will receive updates with a lower projected cost of \$25,936 from the PRCS budget. This update is necessary to address workspace inefficiencies, safety concerns, and outdated aesthetics that affect our ability to effectively serve Novi's growing older adult population.

Scope of Updates

- New Paint and Carpet: Refreshing the space to bring it in line with the updated standards of other Civic Center offices.
- Enclosing the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Loan Closet: Relocating the loan closet from the outdoor storage pod to improve accessibility and safety.
- Upgrading Workstations and Storage Areas: Enhancing workspaces for standard office functions (e.g., printing) and providing a storage area to support volunteers as they prepare and stage programs.
- Creating an Updated Workspace for the Older Adult Recreation Supervisor: Installing new furniture for Recreation Supervisor Madison Lachance, with existing furniture being used for other offices.

We anticipate completing the update by Q3 of FY24-25.

Why update?

Public-Facing Nature of the Office:

The OAS office is a key public-facing space, making it essential for the environment to be welcoming and professional. Currently, worn carpet and outdated paint do not meet the standards of other city offices. The planned updates will bring the OAS office up to the same modern standard as Civic Center spaces like the Community Development office.

Inefficient Workspace and Inadequate Storage:

The current office setup includes outdated furniture and a cramped layout, reducing staff and volunteer efficiency. Recreation Supervisor Madison Lachance works in a cubicle that

lacks the necessary space for meetings and virtual calls, hindering her ability to serve residents effectively. In addition, the DME Loan Closet, which served 1,705 people in FY23-24, is stored in an outdoor pod, forcing staff to make multiple trips daily. This disrupts workflow and poses safety risks. The update will improve workspace functionality and bring the loan closet indoors, enhancing both safety and operational efficiency.

Growing Population and Increased Demand:

Adults aged 55 and older now make up 27% of Novi's population (18,024 people, according to the 2020 census). As demand for services continues to rise, the OAS office must be equipped to accommodate the growing needs of staff, volunteers, and residents. The update is critical for ensuring the office can efficiently support this expanding demographic.

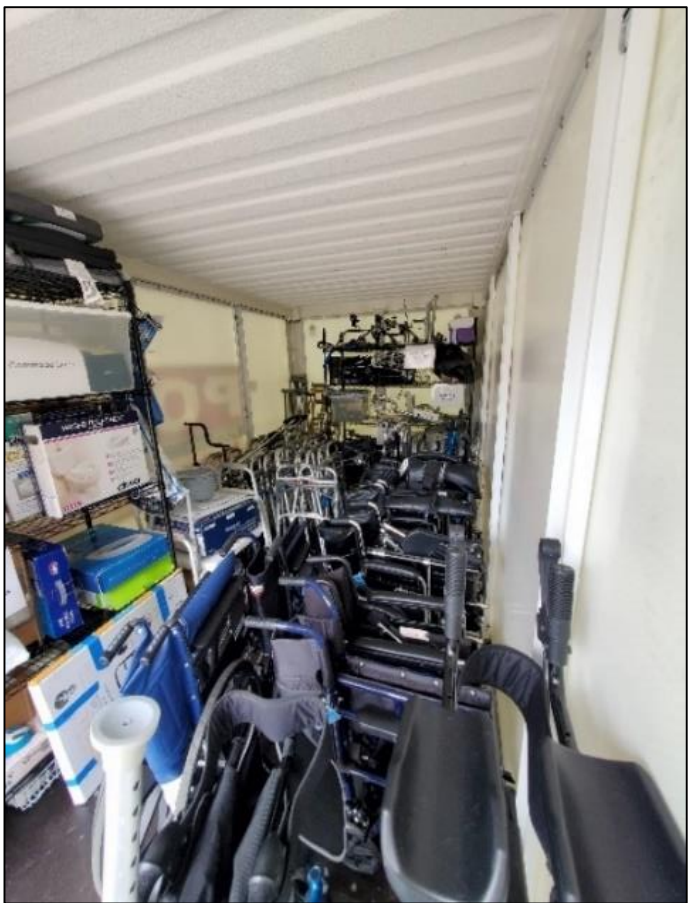
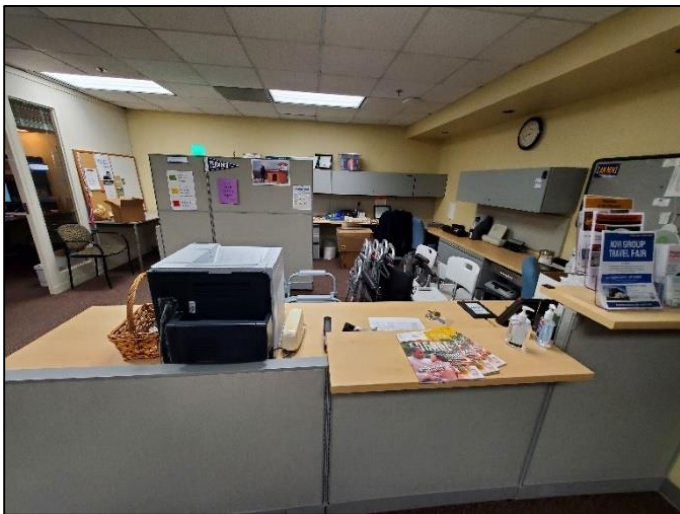
Why now?

The update is overdue, having been postponed to accommodate recommendations from the OAN Committee, which concluded in July 2024. Around the same time, the DME Loan Closet was displaced when the office was repurposed as a Novi satellite office for People's Express, forcing the loan closet into an outdoor storage pod next to the Civic Center's loading dock.

With winter rapidly approaching, safety concerns for staff—particularly Social Services Coordinator Sandy Fisher—are increasing as she makes multiple daily trips outdoors to retrieve medical equipment. This temporary outdoor storage solution is no longer viable and continuing its use through winter poses risks. The update is critical to ensuring staff safety and improving working conditions before the worst winter weather.

Additionally, Older Adult Recreation Supervisor Madison Lachance is working in a very small cubicle that is not conducive to effectively executing the essential functions of her role or fostering a sense of place and ownership that supports the excellent customer service Novi is known for. As someone in a public-facing position, she frequently meets with residents, sponsors, volunteers, and colleagues. Her workspace not only lacks the necessary conditions for virtual meetings, phone calls, and focused work but also hinders her ability to fully engage with residents and community stakeholders—critical aspects of her job.

This update is essential for addressing workspace inefficiencies, safety concerns, and outdated conditions in the OAS office. By completing these improvements, we can better serve Novi's older adult population, ensuring that the office is functional, safe, and welcoming for staff, volunteers, and residents. We aim to complete the update by Q3 of FY24-25, making it important to move forward promptly.



MEMORANDUM



TO: SCOTT R. BAETENS
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE

FROM: KEVIN GILMORE, LIEUTENANT – SUPPORT SERVICES *KG*

SUBJECT: DEA DRUG TAKE BACK

DATE: October 30, 2024

On Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 10:00am to 2:00pm, the Novi Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) partnered with Catholic Central High School, Sam's Club (Novi) and Walmart (Novi) to provide citizens another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Anyone with such medications was able to take them to any of the four partnering locations, which was free and anonymous, with no questions asked.

This was made possible through strong community partnering among local law enforcement, educational institutions, and retail organizations, all working together to ensure safe disposal and promote public health. These partnerships reflect a collective commitment to reducing prescription drug misuse and enhancing community well-being.

During this year's program, the Novi Police Department collected 153.9 pounds of expired, unused, and unwanted medication. Since the Novi Police Department began partnering with the DEA in 2010 for this initiative, over 3,700 pounds of medication has been properly disposed of.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.



Road Report

A publication of the Road Commission for Oakland County for public officials serving Oakland County

www.rcocweb.org

Oakland County roads remain safest in Southeast Michigan

Once again in 2023, Oakland County saw a substantially lower traffic-fatality rate on its roads than either the state or nation as a whole or than any surrounding county.

The county, state and national fatality rates were recently released for 2023. For the year, Oakland County's fatality rate was less than half of either the state or national rate.

In fact, Oakland County has had the lowest, or among the lowest, traffic-fatality rate in the state nearly every year for decades. In part that is the result of RCOC making safety its top priority since the 1970s. Since that time, the agency has been a national leader in traffic safety and one of the first and most aggressive users of traffic-crash data to drive road-improvement and maintenance decisions.

For 2023, Oakland County's traffic-fatality rate was 0.46 deaths per 100 million miles of vehicle travel. For the year, the statewide rate was 1.15 fatalities per

100 million miles of vehicle travel and the national rate was 1.35.

"Safety is our number-one priority," stated RCOC Managing Director Dennis Kolar. "While we are always striving to reduce the number of crashes on our roads, and even one fatality is too many, it is still encouraging to see that our roads remain very safe compared to others across the state and nation. That is the result of more than 40 years of using crash data as the number-one factor driving road-project selection and design decisions. This has involved a lot of hard work and commitment to safety by everyone at RCOC, but that work has clearly paid off."

Not only is Oakland County's traffic-fatality rate lower than the state and national rates, it is also lower than other counties in Southeast Michigan, including Wayne, Macomb, Washtenaw, Livingston and Genesee counties.

"Most people don't realize it," Kolar

Year	United States	Michigan	Oakland County
2014	1.08	1.04	0.58
2015	1.11	0.98	0.53
2016	1.18	1.03	0.62
2017	1.17	0.98	0.53
2018	1.14	0.95	0.41
2019	1.10	0.96	0.52
2020	1.34	1.26	0.58
2021	1.37	1.17	0.55
2022	1.33	1.17	0.67
2023	1.35	1.15	0.46

Fatality rates for the United States, Michigan and Oakland County from 2014 through 2023.

noted, "but when they are driving in Oakland County, they are driving on some of the safest roads in the nation."

Kolar added that RCOC's data-driven safety efforts have been successful in part because they remove political considerations from road-improvement decisions.

"Virtually everything we do is driven by
CONT'D ON PAGE 4 — SEE **RATES**

Looming road-funding challenge is topic of RCOC meeting with state legislators

In an effort to tackle Michigan's perpetual road funding crisis, RCOC's Board of Road Commissioners took the proactive step of taking its case directly to state legislators representing Oakland County, inviting the legislators to learn about the situation first hand at RCOC offices on June 24.

At the meeting, RCOC Chair Andrea LaLonde welcomed the legislators and legislative staffers before Managing Director Dennis Kolar and Deputy Managing Director/County Highway Engineer Gary Piotrowicz reviewed road funding, RCOC's safety success story and other topics.

The meeting allowed Kolar and



RCOC Managing Director Dennis Kolar, center; Chair Andrea LaLonde, second from left, and Deputy Managing Director Gary Piotrowicz, left, meet with legislators and legislator staffers at the RCOC offices.

Piotrowicz to articulate the pressing needs and challenges of maintaining the county's roads, highlight the critical issues surrounding Michigan road funding and seek

CONT'D ON PAGE 2 — SEE **MEETING**

What's Inside

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Road Commission thanks employees for winter overtime

Being a snowplow driver for the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) means more than knowing how to maneuver the massive orange plow/salt trucks. It also often means spending many evenings and weekends on the road away from your family, making sure the roads are safe for Oakland County motorists.

In July, the RCOC administration hosted a breakfast to thank those drivers who worked the most overtime last winter for their dedication and commitment.

A total of 70 RCOC employees were recognized July 17 for coming into work on overtime between 85 and 100 percent of the time they were asked last winter. The employees, most of whom work in RCOC's Highway Maintenance Department, were treated to the annual



The RCOC workers who worked 100 percent of the overtime requested last winter.

overtime recognition breakfast at Look Out Lodge at Waterford Oaks County Park.

"The hard work of these women and men ensures that we are able to keep the roads safe for the motorists during the winter," stated RCOC Managing Director Dennis Kolar. "We appreciate their efforts and the time they spend away from their families keeping the

roads safe," he added.

Those who worked 100 percent of the overtime requested also received RCOC jackets. Those who worked between 95 and 99 percent of the overtime requested received RCOC hoodies, while those who worked 90 to 94 percent received T-shirts. Those who worked 85 to 89 percent were recognized at the breakfast.

RCOC bids farewell to another great group of interns

After a whirlwind summer, the Road Commission for Oakland County's (RCOC) 2024 interns bid farewell on Aug. 2.

In all, the 12 interns were here for 12 weeks, starting in May. They served in eight RCOC departments: Engineering, Planning and Environmental Concerns, Customer Services, Traffic-Safety, Highway Maintenance, Finance, Legal and in the public relations office of the Managing Director's Office.

"As is the case each year, this was a valuable experience for both the interns and the agency," Managing Director Dennis Kolar stated. "It is really great to hear what



the interns learned while here, but also to hear from our staff how they brought enthusiasm and new ideas to the agency."

At least one of the interns, while finished with his RCOC internship, is just getting started at RCOC. Ali Mansour, a

civil engineering student at Wayne State, finished his second internship at RCOC – but he will start as a full-time employee after he finishes his fall semester at Wayne State and graduates with his engineering degree.

MEETING — CONT'D FROM FRONT

collaborative solutions.

With RCOC facing aging infrastructure and increasing traffic demands from growing communities, the discussion emphasized the urgency of a state road-funding solution. "There's no question that the state needs a larger road-funding package," Kolar said. "Without new funding, we risk roads getting far worse again."

Kolar explained that the state road-funding increase passed by the Legislature in 2015, and which was phased in between 2017 and 2022, was helpful, but not large enough to solve Michigan's road-funding crisis. He added that the benefits of that package will be fully eaten up by inflation starting in 2025.

"That is when we will see a 'fiscal cliff' unless additional road funding is identified," he said. "We are already planning for the belt tightening we will face starting next year. Without additional funding, there is no question that Michigan's roads will again begin to deteriorate, and we'll see a reversal of the benefits we've seen since the last funding increase started in 2017."

Another key topic during the meeting was the ongoing loss of road funding as a result of the rise of electric vehicles (EVs), coupled with increasing fuel efficiency of new, internal-combustion-engine vehicles. Both are resulting in reduced fuel-tax income in the state, and these losses are projected to grow.

In addition to outlining challenges, the

meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss potential solutions. Ideas ranged from exploring innovative funding to advocating for sustained state and federal support for infrastructure projects.

Kolar noted several states are studying road-usage charges. He pointed out that replacing the gas tax with a charge of 3.2 cents per mile for cars and 11.6 cents for trucks would generate \$3.9 billion per year.

An additional option is a retail-delivery fee. Charging a 25-cent fee per retail parcel delivery could produce \$195 million per year in revenue for transportation in the state.

Kolar said he hopes this meeting with legislators sparks more discussions that ultimately lead to securing the necessary funding for Michigan's roads.

RCOC Board adopts reduced 2025 budget of \$177.7 million

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) Board of Road Commissioners, on Sept. 19, adopted its fiscal year 2025 budget which, at \$177.7 million, represents a \$16.2 million decrease from the current year's budget of \$193.9 million adopted in September of last year.

The 2025 budget decreased primarily due to decreases in federal road funds, interest earned on investments and contributions from local governments.

Both the federal funding level and the number and size of contributions from local governments fluctuate from year to year depending on the type and number of road projects conducted. The interest revenue fluctuates based on the amount of money held by the agency at any time and the interest rates available.

RCOC anticipates receiving \$28.2 million in federal funding in FY 2025 (compared to \$42.3 million for the current year), \$800,000 in interest revenue (compared to \$1.9 million for the current year) and \$10.1 million in local government contributions (compared to \$10.8 million for the current year).

RCOC anticipates no increase for the coming year in its largest source of revenue – state road funds generated by the state fuel taxes, vehicle-registration fees and the state income tax. The agency expects to receive about \$122.3 million in state road funding in fiscal year 2025, the same amount it budgeted for the last two years and less than it received in 2022.

The state dollars are RCOC's main funding source for operations.

The remaining revenue making up the budget comes from RCOC's contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to maintain state

highways in the county (\$14 million, up slightly from the current year) and fees and other revenues (\$2.7 million, about the same as received for the current year).

The proposed 2025 budget includes nearly \$56 million in annual contributions toward safety-focused road-improvement projects planned to be under construction in 2025 and future years (this is not the total cost for these projects -- some costs were included in the current year's budget or will be included in the 2026 budget where projects are expected to be carried over into 2026); \$30.2 million for road maintenance efforts such as pothole patching, gravel road grading and salting and plowing in the winter; and \$16.5 million for maintaining traffic signs, signals, pavement markings and guardrails among other activities.

The remainder of the budget is dedicated to operating expenses including customer services, vehicle maintenance, staff wages, buildings and grounds and administration.

"The 2025 budget reflects our commitment to not only maintaining but enhancing the quality of our roadways," noted RCOC Board Chair Andrea LaLonde. "We're investing in infrastructure that will support economic growth and improve safety for all residents," LaLonde added.

RCOC Vice Chair Eric McPherson concurred. "Our proposed budget is designed to address the immediate needs of our roadways while also preparing for future challenges," McPherson said. "It's about balancing short-term improvements with long-term vision, while ensuring that we operate in a fiscally responsible manner."

Board Member Nancy Quarles added the Board is very deliberate in how it

spends the money it receives. "Investing in our roads is an investment in our community's future," she explained. "The 2025 budget demonstrates our commitment to providing high-quality infrastructure that will benefit generations to come," she said.

Managing Director Dennis Kolar agreed. "Safety is always our top priority," he said. "And this budget reflects that."

Among the road-improvements planned for 2025 and identified in the budget are:

- Major resurfacing of Greenfield Road, 12 Mile to 13 Mile in Southfield, Berkley and Royal Oak
- Major resurfacing of Orchard Lake Road, Will-O-Way to Long Lake in West Bloomfield Twp.
- Replacement of the Martindale bridge over the Novi-Lyon Drain in Lyon Twp.
- Resurfacing of Oakwood Road, Hadley Road to M-24 in Oxford and Brandon townships

Projects are typically selected based on a review of safety data; a detailed, computerized road-assessment program; and engineers' analysis. The decisions are often made years before construction begins because of funding requirements.

"RCOC continues to improve the safety and condition of our roads throughout Oakland County," Managing Director Kolar said. "We know that many roads still need improvement and appreciate the patience of our citizens and businesses as we continue to work through a long needs list with the available funding."

The proposed budget is posted on the RCOC Website, www.rcocweb.org (click on the "Financials" button on the home page, select "Budget Summary" and click on "2024-25 Budget").

RCOC seeking public input about safety concerns on roads across the county

Do you have a safety concern related to roads in Oakland County? If so, the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) wants to hear from you.

The effort is part of RCOC's implementation of a US Department of Transportation (US DOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program planning grant. The SS4A program supports the US DOT's National Roadway Safety Strategy and its goal of zero roadway deaths.

RCOC received an SS4A planning grant for \$470,000 in 2023 to establish a comprehensive safety action plan. Public

input will help establish the plan. The SS4A program provides funds for projects that significantly reduce or eliminate roadway fatalities and serious injuries.

The funds are intended to promote safety for everyone who uses roads: motorists, bicyclists, transit users, pedestrians and others. RCOC has created a Safety Action Plan Committee (SAPC) to assist with the review of crash data and identify high-risk locations.

The SAPC consists of RCOC staff members as well as representatives of Oakland County municipalities, safety

organizations, law enforcement and SEM-COG. It will provide oversight for the development of the Safety Action Plan.

A website has been set up that provides more information about RCOC's SS4A process and public input options including an interactive map where anyone can post safety concerns. The website address is www.bit.ly/RCOC-SS4A.

Comments must be posted to RCOC's SS4A website by Sept. 30, 2024.

For more information on the US DOT's SS4A grant program, visit www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A.

31001 Lahser Road
Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Young engineers JOIN RCOC Adopt-A-Road program

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Michigan Young Professionals Committee has joined the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) Adopt-A-Road program.

The group of young engineers supports ITE's goal of improving the communities its members serve, and participants opted to express their support through the Adopt-A-Road program.

The program allows groups to adopt segments of RCOC roads for the purpose of cleaning up litter along the roads. Groups are expected to clean up along the road segment at least two of the three designated cleanup periods during the year (spring, summer and fall).

The Road Commission then places signs at each end of the adopted segment

noting who has adopted that segment.

The ITE group joins the approximately 370 other groups that have adopted some 586 miles of roads across Oakland County, helping to beautify the county.

RCOC named IRWA employer of the year

The International Right of Way Association (IRWA) in June named the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) Employer of the Year. The award is based on IRWA's assessment of employees' engagement in company values and purpose, how supporting resources have been optimized and whether a company is an employer of choice in its industry.

RCOC employees – and the retirees before them, that resulted in this situation. “No matter what department you work in, you have contributed to this accomplishment,” he said. “All of our departments support our data-driven approach in one way or another.”

Kolar also thanked the Transportation Improvement Association (TIA), an Oakland County-based non-profit dedicated to promoting data-based traffic safety. “TIA was established to reduce traffic-fatality rates, and they have been our partner in making roads safer for more than three decades,” he observed. “They are at the forefront, nationally, of traffic-data management.”

RATES -- CONT'D FROM FRONT
an interest in safety,” he said. “Whether it is how we select the projects we do each year, how we design those projects, how we prioritize our road maintenance activities, etc. It is all based on crash data and safety analyses and not on political considerations or political influence.”

In fact, if Oakland roads experienced the same fatality rate as the national rate, approximately 60 more people would die on Oakland roads every year. “That’s a huge deal,” Kolar said. “That’s 60 families every year that do not have to suffer the loss of a loved one.”

He also noted that it is the hard work of

Contacting RCOC

If your constituents need information about a road project or want to report a pothole, traffic-signal concern or other road issue, they should call RCOC's Department of Customer Services toll free at:

(877) 858-4804

OR

**Fill out a report via the
RCOC Web site:**

www.rcocweb.org

ROAD REPORT

Road Report is published quarterly by the Road Commission for Oakland County. Have a question or comment about **Road Report**? Call Senior Communications Manager Craig Bryson at (248) 645-2000, ext. 2202.

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