

After a funding package opens new opportunities for the area, the Kent County Road Commission commits to using the resources to their fullest potential.

BACKSTORY:

The Kent County Road Commission (KCRC) maintains a network of nearly 2,000 road miles and 170 bridges within 21 townships throughout the greater region surrounding Grand Rapids, Michigan. The network includes nearly 660 primary road miles (typically longer distance, higher volume corridors that connect centers of population and employment and provide access to the state’s highway network).

PROBLEM:

In 2015, Michigan announced a comprehensive funding package that would boost the state’s investment in transportation. Leaders at the Kent County Road Commission recognized the opportunity that comes with increased budgets. They expanded the existing pavement preservation program on their primary network, starting with a commitment to spend 100% of the additional funds on roads.

Back then, just 65% of KCRC’s primary road network was rated in good or fair condition. The road commission examined network data, along with the future increase in spending levels, and set an ambitious goal to benefit their community: The primary road network would have 90% of roads in good or fair condition by 2025 (as defined by PASER). Then they set to work identifying annual improvement targets to measure yearly progress towards achieving the goal.

“ We’re on track to meet our goal in 2025. ”

— Steve Warren, Managing Director, Kent County Road Commission

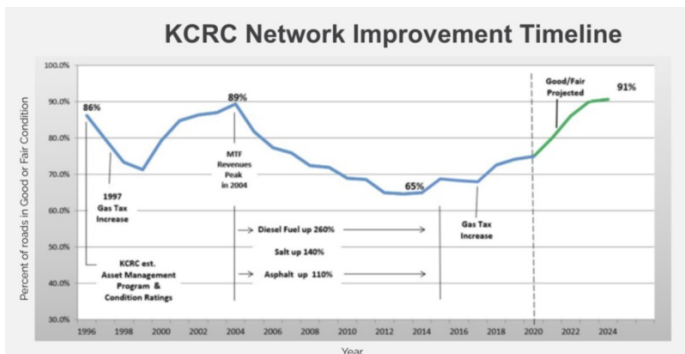
SOLUTION:

To help prioritize maintenance schedules and monitor progress, the commission increased the frequency of their PASER assessments from measuring 100% of the network in three-year intervals to more frequent, annual evaluations.

“Some years we’re ahead of schedule and some years we’re a little under, based on resources. But we’re making progress and hitting the mark overall,” says Steve Warren, KCRC’s Managing Director. “We’re on track to meet our goal in 2025.”

* An expanded version of this story was published in the 2021 Spring Issue of the Journal of Pavement Preservation

PHOTOS:



KCRC Network Conditions Timeline

KCRC Primary Roads										
Surface Treatment Targets	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Reconstruction Target	14	18	19	20	22	24	25	27	26	25
Resurfacing Target	4	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	0
Preventive Maintenance Target	111	144	154	163	175	193	149	92	89	130
Total Targets	129	167	178	188	203	223	180	125	121	155
Improvement Completed	169	183	199	247	183*	249**				

*Aligned with KCRC’s Covid-19 Preparedness & Response Plan, preventative maintenance work that required close contact was substituted with an increased number of reconstruction and resurfacing projects. Therefore, total lane miles of improvements were less than originally targeted.
**Projected number of improvements to be completed in 2021.

Annual Miles Treated

What's in your Treatment Toolbox?

- Hot rubber crack seal
- Hot mastic
- New paving joint seal
- Chip seal with fog seal
- Chip seal rutfill/with full width chipseal
- Single course micro-surface
- Double course micro-surface
- Single course micro-surface with rutfill
- Cape seal
- Chip seal overlaid with HMA (90-165#s)
- Ultra thin HMA
- Partial depth mill/ chip seal interlayer/HMA (330#s)
- Crush/shape/ repave full depth with soil stabilization
- Hot in place recycling

KCRC’s Treatment Toolbox