



Michigan Department of Transportation
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ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY NEWS

WINTER/SPRING 2006

Drive To Survive

Not only is it paramount for commuters to watch out for construction workers, but for themselves and each other. As the sometimes rainy spring season gets under way, drivers should be aware of slick conditions and occasional street flooding or rain accumulation that can cause vehicles to hydroplane. Besides causing personal damage, reckless driving can cause auto insurance costs to skyrocket and make Michigan a less appealing place to potential new residents. A few tips to maintain safety in your vehicle operating experiences include:

- Make sure your vehicle, including tires, are in good condition.
- Avoid abrupt steering maneuvers.
- Let others know where you're going if you must travel in severe weather, including your travel route, and when you plan to reach your destination.

2006
Pick-up
Dates!



Spring April 22-30
Summer July 8-16
Fall Sept. 9-17

For current Adopt-A-Highway information, check out the program Web site at www.michigan.gov/Adoptahighway.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY REGIONAL COORDINATORS BY COUNTY

SUPERIOR REGION

- Marion Johnson 906-485-4270:**
Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw and Marquette Counties
- Doug Noble 906-786-1800:**
Alger, Delta, Menominee and Schoolcraft Counties
- Dale Sauvola 906-875-6644:**
Dickinson, Gogebic, Iron and Ontonagon Counties
- Ron Rushton 906-293-5168:**
Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac Counties

NORTH REGION

- Mike Rogers 888-304-6368:**
Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Missaukee, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon and Wexford Counties

GRAND REGION

- Ken Holifield 616-451-3091:**
Kent and Ottawa Counties
- Alan Ferrier 231-777-3451:**
Muskegon, Newaygo and Oceana Counties:
- Jeremy Ball 231-937-7780:**
Ionia, Mecosta and Montcalm Counties:

BAY REGION

- Ponce Esparza 989-754-0784 ext. 223:**
Arenac, Bay, Clare, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Lapeer, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties

SOUTHWEST REGION

- Anna Roberts 269-337-3900:**
Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren Counties

UNIVERSITY REGION

- Jeremiah Rivette 517-324-2298:**
Eaton, Clinton, Ingham and Shiawassee Counties
- Doug Jordan 517-780-5103:**
Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee Counties
- Marie Wilson 810-227-4681:**
Livingston, Monroe and Washtenaw Counties

METRO REGION

- Diane Crumb 586-978-1935:** Macomb County
- Darlene Staercke 248-451-0001:** Oakland County
- Mary Riley 810-984-3131:** St. Clair County
- Karen Patrick-Newton 313-375-2405:** Wayne County
- Twyla Chinn-Lee 313-965-6350:** City of Detroit
- Marilyn Montgomery 248-483-5100:** Region Office

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ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY NEWS EDITOR

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Websightings

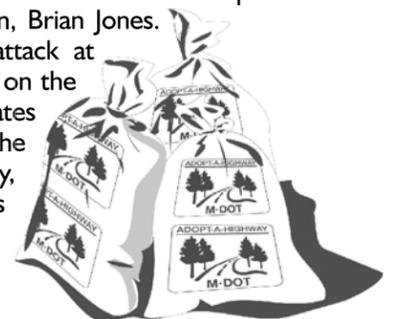
We know how much you love to travel the safe and convenient roads and freeways throughout our beautiful state, but, hey, you gotta go home sometimes. Here are Web sites that can help you find ways to save money on your energy and heating bills:



- www.ase.org
- www.urbanoptions.org
- www.warmstraining.org
- www.miseniors.net
- www.energyhog.org
- www.thawfund.org
- www.energysavers.gov
- www.michigan.gov/heatingassistance

Pickup with a Greater Purpose

Among the 33,000 Adopt-A-Highway volunteers who help keep our roads, bridges, and freeways clean and safe are many selfless individuals. This includes approximately 100 volunteer groups who serve their communities in memory of a loved one. One such crew is in the Jackson area, and led by Kathy Hay, who lives in nearby Parma. Hay and several friends and relatives work the stretch of I-94 between Dancer and Fletcher roads in Lima Township because it's dedicated to Hay's son, Brian Jones. He died of a heart attack at age 32 in 2001. A sign on the freeway that motivates Hay, who drives the route nearly every day, reads "Next 2 miles in loving memory of Brian S. Jones."





Directly Speaking

(from MDOT Director Gloria J. Jeff)

What a remarkable year 2005 was for MDOT! We kicked off our Centennial year in January – with a parade in a Lansing snowstorm, and an announcement about MDOT's 100th year at the North American Auto Show in Detroit. Since that time, we've accomplished much:

- The governor honored MDOT's Centennial with a proclamation.
- The U.S. Congress presented us with a congressional tribute.
- The department sponsored Transportation Day at the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing. (More than 800 people took part in the museum tours and the MDOT equipment displays in the parking lot.)
- During the summer months, Team MDOT walked the Mackinac Bridge Walk and the International Bridge Walk.

We also witnessed the unveiling of a new state historic marker in the Van Wagoner Building courtyard. The marker pays tribute to both the department and its founder, Horatio S. Earle. And, let's not forget all of our novice quilters throughout MDOT, who helped create the one-of-a-kind Centennial quilt. The finished quilt was unveiled in November at the Centennial closing ceremony. Throughout 2006, the quilt will travel and be on display in each of MDOT's seven regions.

From our MDOT family to the contractors, volunteers and Michigan residents, we wish you a prosperous New Year!

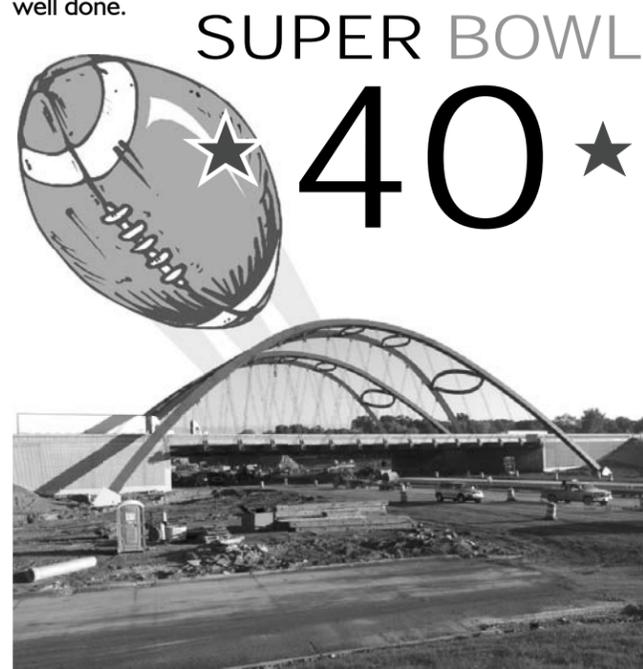
2006 Pickup & Safety Form Reminder

Fill out your safety and pickup forms completely – be sure to include dates for pickups and safety meetings.

The ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY NEWS is authorized by the transportation director to provide adopting group coordinators with timely, brief and accurate accounts of safety issues and other program polices of the department that impact the Adopt-A-Highway program. It is published by the Michigan Department of Transportation Office of Communications in accordance with Executive Directive 1991-6. Comments, questions and news ideas are welcomed. Contact Brenda V. Peek, editor, at 248-483-5109; E-mail: peekb@michigan.gov; or write to: MDOT Office of Communications, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, MI 48909. Requests for this information in an alternative format may be made through the Office of Communications or by TDD/TTY through the Michigan Relay Center at 800-649-3777.

Interchange Opens in Time for Super Bowl

MDOT has completed construction on its \$58 million project to realign four miles of the east- and westbound I-94/US-24 interchange. Following a year-and-a-half of work to prepare the eastbound I-94 tied-arch bridge in Taylor, the opening was celebrated as Detroit, southeast Michigan and partners prepared to welcome both national and international visitors who would soon be attending Super Bowl XL. Thousands of visitors use the I-94/US-24 interchange to travel across the state, and will be aided by the convenience of the newly available stretch. The Detroit Regional Gateways Advisory Council, a public/private partnership, raised funds to add the blue steel arches – a work of art – to the newly reconstructed I-94 roadway. MDOT salutes Detroit Regional Gateways and, as always, our Team MDOT and the many contractors for a job well done.



Share and Share Alike – Pass it on!

Leaders help leaders! Outgoing Adopt-A-Highway volunteer coordinators can help keep incoming coordinators prepared by passing along the proper equipment and supplies in a timely manner. Safety vests, garbage bags, safety brochures, report forms, and the safety video should be provided for distribution and use by each new volunteer coordinator. Also, previous coordinators are kindly requested to send MDOT a new contact's name, telephone number, and address. Space is provided near the bottom of the Litter Pickup Report form to indicate any changes in the contact data.



Protect Your Identity

As you travel throughout our great state, be aware that predators are always on the lookout. Identity theft can occur when you least expect it – at a gas station, hotel, convenience store, and anywhere else where you typically present ID and personal information. Experts recommend the following to help prevent identity theft: 1) Keep your wallet in a safe place at all times; 2) Shred charge receipts, bank statements and any other documents that contain financial information before discarding them; 3) Carry only the identification that you will be needing at that time; 4) List only the last four digits of your credit card number on your checks when paying bills, but never your Social Security number; 5) Be aware of Internet scams that ask you to send personal information via the Web.

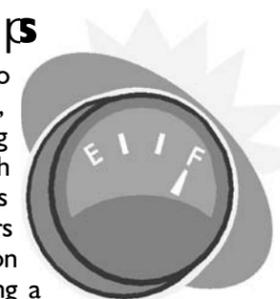
Respect the Workers

As construction season winds up, the "Give 'em a Brake" safety coalition urges motorists to be alert. In 2003, there were 5,800 crashes in Michigan work zones, 1,636 injuries and 11 deaths. The safety coalition asks drivers to expect the unexpected, avoid tailgating, obey road crew flaggers and avoid distractions while driving, such as tuning the radio, changing tapes or CDs and talking on cell phones. Injury or death to a construction zone worker, if caused by reckless driving, is punishable by up to 15 years of imprisonment.



Gas-saving Tips

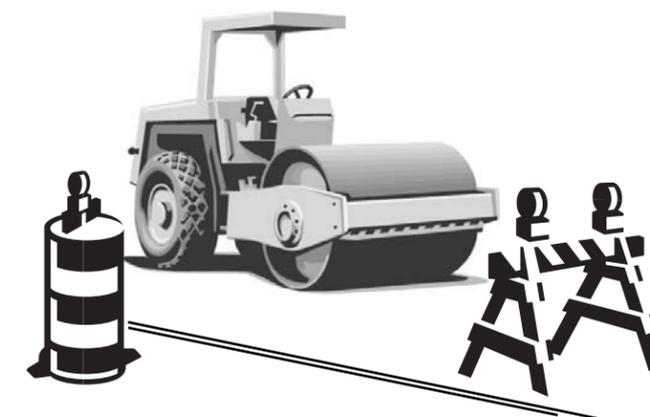
High fuel costs may lead to a few less pleasure trips, but for necessary driving it's important to stretch those gasoline dollars. It's recommended that drivers avoid filling their tanks on very hot days. Also, lightening a vehicle's load or driving a smaller one can help. Since heavier cars and trucks use more fuel, they may require more fill-ups. Lastly, driving slower results in slower burning of gas.



Yours for the Taking

Our words are your words. Volunteers who work with community newsletters or similar neighborhood publications are free to borrow items printed in the Adopt-A-Highway news. To make it easier, visit our Web site at www.michigan.gov/adoptahighway to access the current issue of the newsletter. You can copy the item or items you want to use for your publication. We just ask that you return the favor by continuing to share encouraging stories with us about your Adopt-A-Highway experiences. Fax them to 248-569-7718, or mail them to:

Brenda V. Peek, Communications
Metro Region, 18101 W. Nine Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48075



2006 Road Construction

Once winter has come and gone, construction season is right around the corner. It's never too early to familiarize yourself with pickup procedures if your adopted area will be undergoing road construction this year. If barricades and cones are set up in your area, please do not conduct a pickup until the construction has been completed, and please send in your litter report, indicating that the area is under construction. Regular road project updates are posted on the MDOT Web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/MDOT>.

For current Adopt-A-Highway information, check out the program Web site at www.michigan.gov/Adoptahighway.