

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



NEWS

WINTER 2013

Gov. Snyder proposes \$1.2 billion more a year to repair highways

As part of his budget recommendation for the 2014 fiscal year, Gov. Snyder proposed increasing user fees by \$1.2 billion annually to fix the state's roads and bridges. The governor said investing in infrastructure now will save billions of dollars in the long run, cut vehicle repair costs, grow the state's economy by creating an estimated 12,000 jobs, and save nearly 100 lives each year.

Specifically, the governor recommended:

- Raising both the gasoline and diesel fuel taxes to 33 cents per gallon, effective Oct. 1.
- Increasing the motor vehicle registration tax on light vehicles by 60 percent, effective Oct. 1. Light vehicles include passenger vehicles, light trucks, motorcycles and other vehicles not taxed on a weight basis.
- Raising the registration tax on heavy vehicles – those that are taxed on their weight – and on trailers by 25 percent, effective Oct. 1.

A typical motorist driving a passenger vehicle would pay \$120 more annually. However, the governor pointed out that every year, Michigan residents spend an average of \$81 more per vehicle on car repairs from road damage than do motorists in surrounding states. Better roads would mitigate these additional repair costs and reduce the \$120 increase to about \$40 a year.

Still volunteering at 88

Gene Taylor is 88 years old, but he still cleans up MDOT's Alamo/Cooper Center carpool lot whenever he can hitch a ride there. The lot, just north of Kalamazoo near US-131, also is known as the "D Avenue" lot. His daughter, Carol Dennis, reports that Gene "considers it his job and takes it very seriously," and has been doing it for about 20 years.



2013 Pickup Dates!



Spring Pickup

Bay, Grand, Metro, Southwest and University regions

April 13 - 21

North and Superior regions

April 27 - May 5

Summer Pickup

July 13 - 21

Fall Pickup

Sept. 21 - 29



Safety messages for 2013 pickups

– Prior to your pickups, please remember to conduct a safety meeting and have all volunteers sign the safety meeting attendance form.

– Also review the safety rules brochure and video before going out on the roadside. This is necessary even for groups that have been in the Adopt-A-Highway program for several years. The safety video is available online at www.michigan.gov/adoptahighway and DVDs are available from your Adopt-A-Highway region coordinator.

– Hot weather was an issue during last summer's pickups. On several days, the temperature was in the high 90s. Please check the weather before doing your pickups. If weather conditions are unsafe, postpone or cancel the pickup.

– The 2013 safety meeting attendance forms, safety rules brochures, pickup report forms, certificates and vehicle placards will be mailed in early March.

– Make sure you return your safety meeting attendance forms. This is how MDOT determines what groups are active.

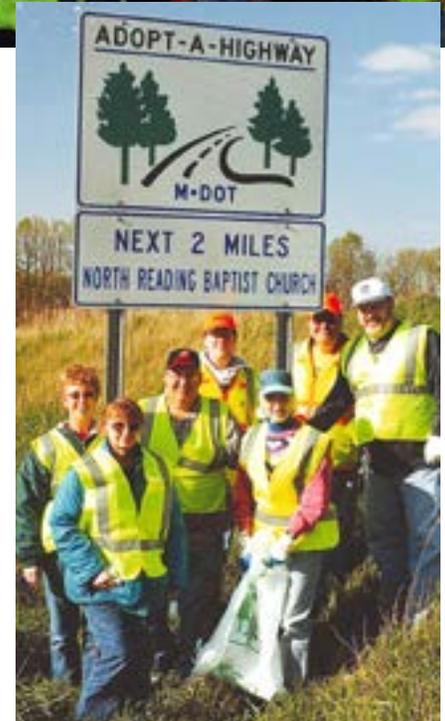
News from the roadside

Thank you for sending in your photos and news. If you want your group's photo to appear in a newsletter or our online photo album, e-mail it as a JPG (no larger than 640x480 pixels) to MDOT-adoptahighway@michigan.gov. In your e-mail, please include your group's name, the name of the highway you clean up, the county the highway is located in, and the number of years your group has been in the Adopt-A-Highway program. To see the online photo albums along with this newsletter, go to www.michigan.gov/adoptahighway.



The Ubyly FFA chapter keeps M-19 clean in Sanilac County.

This group from St. Agnes Catholic Church cleans up M-66 in Osceola County. "It's great that groups can take 'ownership' of the roadways in their areas, save the state big money, and beautify our wonderful surroundings all at the same time," Will Gasper wrote.



Members of North Reading Baptist Church have been cleaning up M-49 in Hillsdale County since 2009.

To make picking up garbage fun, the Blue Water Parrot Head Club in Port Huron has a scavenger hunt with the person finding the most items winning a small prize. The club picks up along I-94 between Range and Lapeer roads.



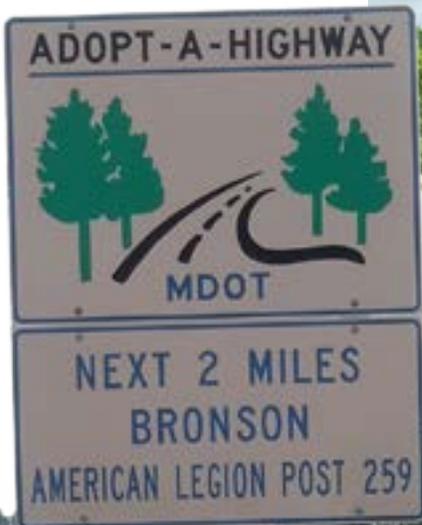
2012 was the second year for picking up litter along Old US-131, just north of Cadillac, for members of STAR Touring and Riding Association Chapter 249.



The St. Paul's Men's Club cleans up a section of M-65, 7 miles north of Hale in Iosco County.



Before heading out to clean up Telegraph Road between 8 and 9 Mile roads in Oakland County, members of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Tau Kappa Kappa Chapter, first have a fellowship breakfast.



This group from CDM Smith keeps I-69/I-96 clean between I-496 and West Saginaw in Eaton County.

A new Adopt-A-Highway group is this one from American Legion Post 259 in Bronson that cleans up US-12 between Cavanaugh and Batavia roads in Branch County.



Active and retired members of UAW Local 5960 remove litter from M-24 in Lake Orion.



In southwest Michigan, members of the GFWC - Gun Lake Chapter help beautify M-179, commonly known as Chief Noonday Road.



Family and friends of Brandon Whitby honor his memory by keeping clean a section of US-131 in Grand Rapids. Brandon's mother and two younger brothers travel the route daily.



**Michigan Department
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Pick of the litter

During the September pickup, a volunteer with the St. Mary Catholic Church Adopt-A-Highway group in Bay City found an 8-week-old kitten meowing and shivering in the tall grass along M-13. The volunteer brought the kitten back to the group's rendezvous point. There, another volunteer who had recently lost her calico cat adopted the kitten and promptly named it "Highway."

REGION COORDINATORS BY COUNTIES

SUPERIOR REGION

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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 policies of the department that impact the Adopt-A-Highway program. It is published by the Michigan Department of Transportation Office of Communications. Comments, questions and news ideas are welcome. Contact Jon Ogar, editor, at 517-373-2752; e-mail: ogarj1@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.



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