

# VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

# NEWS RELEASE

BETTER HIGHWAYS: SAVE LIVES, SAVE TIME, SAVE MONEY

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Lawrence, Michigan	2024-05
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## **STAY BACK FROM THE SNOWPLOW - IT'S NOW THE LAW!**

### ***The County Road Commission Wants You to Know . . .***

Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently signed Senate Bill 465 making it illegal to drive closer than 200' from an active snowplow. And while the flakes are still months away from falling, this Bill was granted immediate effect.

“This law is about changing drivers’ habits”, said Bret Witkowski, Managing Director for the Van Buren County Road Commission. “200 feet sounds like a lot of distance until you find yourself coming up on a snowplow that’s traveling at only about 20-30 mph. Then that distance will close in real quick. For a point of reference, 200' is roughly comparable to 13 car lengths.”

In addition, the law requires motorists to stay at least 20' away from a snowplow stopped at an intersection. This allows space for the snowplow driver to back up when maneuvering to clean intersections. Motorists stopped too close to a snowplow end up in the drivers’ blind spot and can easily be backed into during intersection clean-up.

“Road Commission drivers have a tough job to accomplish, very often under stressful conditions. Allowing them space to do their job not only helps to keep them safe, but also other motorists safe, as well”, said Witkowski.

The penalty for violating the law would be a civil infraction.

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