

# VAN BUREN COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

## NEWS RELEASE

BETTER HIGHWAYS: SAVE LIVES, SAVE TIME, SAVE MONEY

Lawrence, Michigan		2025-15	
DATE:	August 11, 2025	CONTACT:	Bret Witkowski, Managing Director Van Buren County Road Commission 325 W. James Street, Post Office Box 156 Lawrence, Michigan 49064 PHONE: (269) 674-8011, Extension 222
RELEASE:	Immediately		

### **Walnut Street Road Improvement Project Underway in Bangor Township**

The Van Buren County Road Commission, in partnership with Bangor Township and Bangor Public Schools, is undertaking improvements to Walnut Street from CR681 west to the curve northward—a stretch of approximately 0.16 miles.

This project involves applying a double chip seal with a fog seal over the existing gravel surface. This cost-effective treatment is designed for low-traffic gravel roads and aims to:

- Eliminate the need for regular grading
- Reduce mud and dust
- Replace the use of chloride solutions for stabilization and dust control

The double chip seal creates a flexible “mat” surface that requires minimal maintenance, with repairs easily made using hot mix asphalt—similar to standard pothole patching. The expected lifespan of the improved surface is 5 to 7 years, with an estimated cost of \$25,000.

Bangor Township Supervisor Mike Sullins explained the collaborative effort behind the project, “Working with Bangor Public Schools to establish a special assessment district allowed us to raise the necessary funds. Because Walnut Street is not under the Road Commission’s jurisdiction, the project required coordination between Bangor Schools, Bangor Township, and the Road Commission. Navigating state laws can be complex, but thanks to the Road Commission’s expertise, we were able to make this improvement a reality.”

Road Commission Managing Director Bret Witkowski noted that the same surface treatment was successfully applied to a more heavily traveled road in Decatur Township (CR352) in 2021. “We’re pleased to offer this solution for Bangor Schools. The Decatur project has performed well during its evaluation phase, and we’ll continue monitoring Walnut Street to make informed decisions in the future for roads under our jurisdiction.”

For questions about the Walnut Street project, please contact the Van Buren County Road Commission at (269) 674-8011 or email [vbcrc@vbcrc.org](mailto:vbcrc@vbcrc.org).

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