

## BACKGROUND

Maintaining critical infrastructure, including safe roadways and bridges, is a critical essential industry in the United States.

Michigan has the 4th largest road system in the United States with over 11,000 bridges. These roads and bridges are maintained by the Michigan Department of Transportation, 78 different County Road Commissions and local Public Works employees. And there's more:

- County road commissions in Michigan maintain 75% of this vast system, including 90,000 miles of roadway and 5,700 bridges.
- These facts are presented to students in the Talent Tour video. It is easy, with so much money and the large number of companies involved, to understand why our state needs so many skilled and committed individuals working in the road and bridge construction and maintenance industry.
- *Students will have a very limited concept of career opportunity and demand in the road construction and maintenance industry. The goal of the lesson is to:*
  - *expand their knowledge of career opportunities.*
  - *develop their own metacognition regarding personal strengths, aptitudes, and desires in relation to their career choices.*
  - *learn about a variety of resources to explore more about local demand, employers and opportunities.*

## Lesson: Roscommon County Road Commission Talent Tour Video

### The lesson has three parts:

1. **Setting the stage** is accessing pre-knowledge and their current brainpower on the subject of careers with the Road Commission and what the Road Commission does.
2. At the heart of the lesson is a **Talent Tour video** featuring the Roscommon County Road Commission to build their knowledge.
3. **Then an activity (1 Truth and a Lie)** for students to learn more about resources available to them and check their knowledge about road commission careers and local educational opportunities.

### Length and extensions of activity:

Using all three provides a thorough presentation for students to say, "eh this is probably not for me," or "wow, this is calling me to want more!" The Setting the Stage and Talent Tour Video is expected to take 20 minutes of class time. The student activity should not take more than 20 minutes of in class time with a partner or independently, in or out of class.

There is an extension activity on Efficiency/Time Management that could be done immediately after the video and lesson or as a stand-alone lesson at a later time. It connects well with soft skills desired by many employers.

### Notes about One Truth and a Lie activity:

Students might be familiar with a fun "car" game called 2 truths and a Lie. The activity is adapted to 1 truth and a Lie in the interest of time and attention span.

No matter what choices students make in the activity they will be faced with a minimum of five facts to learn about the industry (careers, responsibilities, education) presented. Students are asked to copy the true statements onto a new Word or Google Doc to submit for a "medal." These documents can be added to a student Career Portfolio or use in other career exploration activities. A sample of the Gold Medal document accompanies this lesson.

They cannot finish without going through the flow chart with a maximum of 1 error. Two errors sends them back to "reread the directions and review your sources, then start again!"

No errors earned a Gold Badge and 1 error earns a Silver Badge. Both badges encourage students to further research and explore career information and opportunities on their own. You might print the badges or send them out to students digitally.



Display and discuss for a bit of fun:



Larger image available [here](#)

## 1. Set the stage with students:

**Did you know that Michigan has the 4th largest road system in the United States?**

**Why do you think Michiganders want these roads kept in good shape?** Draw out thoughts such as "Cars and trucks are expensive so we want to make our investments last." "Moving products such as medical supplies, food, and raw materials to factories safely and quickly is important to our economy." "Tourism is a major money maker for the state of Michigan and people won't come to the state or move within the state as much if they have to subject their expensive RVs, SUVs, ATVs, and vehicles to poorly maintained roads." "Spending money on the roads makes money for the economy."

**What is a County Road Commission and what do they do?** (Don't expect much in response)

**What kind of careers are available?** (Don't expect much. These answers will be provided in the video and follow-up activity.)

## 2. You are now ready to take a Talent Tour!

Share the Roscommon County Road Commission Talent Tour Video

[Watch the video](#)

## Learn More:

As a large group, share and spend a little time at each of the following websites to learn about road construction careers.

### [Construction Careers: Heavy Equipment Operator](#)

look at the career path with clickable links. Look also at the career opportunities with not only MDOT and County Road Commissions but other Great Lakes Bay Region companies such as Fisher and Elmer's.

### [What Does a Heavy Equipment Operator Do?](#)

nice list of duties and responsibilities for heavy equipment operators

### [A Day in the Life of a Bus and Truck Mechanic](#)

good all round source for job description, salary, Michigan opportunities and education, includes "A Day in the Life" video

**High School CTE programs for the automotive industry** (choose locally relevant for classroom discussion):

- [Clare/Gladwin CTE](#) program offers automotive and diesel service program to high school students.
- [Bay Arenac ISD](#)
- [Gratiot/Isabella CTE](#)
- [Midland CTE Automotive program](#) (video)
- [C.O.O.R. CTE](#) Automotive Technology program
- [Iosco CTE](#)
- [Saginaw County CTE](#) (pg 3) Saginaw County's program is collision and repair which would make a great stepping stone on a career pathway for students interested in diverse work in the automotive field. It would ladder well to a mechanic program at Delta College.

**Automotive Fast track Certification and/or Associate post- high school programs** (choose locally relevant for classroom discussion):

- [Mid Michigan College Automotive & Diesel Service Program](#)
- [Delta Automotive Service Technology Program](#)
- [Alpena Community College Automotive Service Program](#)
- [Kirtland Automotive Technology Program](#)

### 3. Activity:

**To check for understanding, acquire new knowledge and learn additional resources for further exploration:**

Provide student access to the [One Truth and a Lie activity](#). Explain that it is a flow chart activity and they need to find and follow the truths for successful completion. The true statements are from the video and resources presented in class. Students are asked in the activity to produce a page of just the truths to submit for their medal. Copies of each medal are at the end of this lesson.

A list of clickable resources is provided for students at the bottom of the flow chart. But students will find that with critical thinking they probably won't need to access the resources.

More in-depth use of the various resources might be an extension activity.

#### More Extension Activities:

As with all careers, school is about preparing students for future employment. Let's look closer at a skill valued by employers such as the Road Commission.

Truck drivers are part of big projects. They need to get materials safely and efficiently to and from job sites. EFFICIENCY is highly valued. If materials are late, a lot of people are being paid to stand around waiting which equals lost money. Weather can really impact a job site so keeping things moving while the weather is good is very important. EFFICIENCY means, "achieving maximum productivity with minimum wasted effort or expense." Efficiency is highly valued in all industries and professions.

Time Management is an important part of being efficient. Xello has a lesson for middle and high school students on time management.

- [Xello – Time Management](#)



<p><b>Time Management</b></p> <p>Recommended Grade: 6</p> <p>Estimated Time: 20 to 30 mins</p>	<p>Students explain why time management is important in school and on the job, create a time budget to assess how they currently manage their time, and explore ways to improve their time management skills.</p>	<p>Save at least 3 Careers</p>	<p>Check it out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">USA</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Canadian</a></li> </ul>
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## Silver Medal Winner



**Good work.** Because of your persistence and willingness to go back and correct a mistake you will be valued by a great company.

Keep looking at resources and talking with people about their careers and pathways to find what will be your future.

**Good luck!**

## Gold Medal Winner



Your attention to detail and directions will make you a great employee someday on your path to a rewarding career.

Keep up the great work, go forth and research with a variety of resources. Talk to people in the know about careers and the pros and cons of each. But most importantly, look inside yourself find who you are and what you want out of life.

**Good luck!**