



MIDLAND  
COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**December 28, 2016**

**Terry Palmer, Managing Director**  
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### **Road Commission Sees Benefits of Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) Devices**

In 2015 Midland County Road Commission starting installing automatic vehicle location (AVL) devices on their new winter road maintenance equipment. These systems report where each truck is and they gather data from other sensors.

Terry Palmer, MCRC Managing Director, feels it is a powerful tool for managing plowing and salting operations. We currently have three trucks equipped with AVL devices and will continue with each new truck entering the fleet. Our system can show us where the trucks have been and at what time they were there. It will tell us if the truck was blading or salting or both and also the rate of speed it was traveling. MCRC spends approximately \$250,000 on salt in an average year.

With cost-savings and safety in mind, MCRC promotes a number of best practices to boost salt use efficiency during winter maintenance. The Road Commission is encouraging its drivers to drive slower when possible while applying salt so more stays on the road. The Road Commission is pre-wetting the salt so it sticks to the road and starts working faster. The Road Commission is also trying some pre-wetting of roads with brine to aid in the prevention of ice build-up.

In the interest of safety, there are some times when MCRC will hold off on the salt. During normal winter conditions, when temperatures are between 20 and 30 degrees, salt works great for melting snow and ice so plows can more easily blade it from the roadway. Below 20 degrees, however, the salt takes longer to work, and may increase the speed at which roads refreeze. Below 10 degrees, the roads refreeze even faster, making them icier and slipperier than if salt hadn't been applied in the first place. In those conditions, it's safest to use sand instead.

The MCRC will continue to improve the way it responds to the snowy, icy conditions on our roadways. The goal is safer driving conditions for motorists and cost-savings for taxpayers.

**Assets**

Map

All

Midland County Road Comm

630

632

**History Report: 632**

#	Date (yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	Processed (yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss)	Message	Location (* Invalid GPS Fix)	Network	Speed (mi/h)	Heading	Info
1	2016-12-24 11:52:02 am EST	2016-12-27 07:38:03 am EST	Position	632/m-30	CELL	1.2	NE (78°)	
2	2016-12-24 11:51:18 am EST	2016-12-27 07:38:03 am EST	Position	632/m-30	CELL	1.2	NE (66°)	
3	2016-12-24 11:50:28 am EST	2016-12-24 11:50:31 am EST	Position	632/m-30	CELL	2.3	ENE (88°)	

All Data Loaded (5431 Data Points)

**Map**

Map Satellite

Asset: 632

Message: Position

Date: 2016-12-24 11:28:14 am EST

Speed: 1.2 mi/h

Heading: WSW (268°)

Wing Plow Up

Under Body Plow Down

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**Report Parameters**

Report Format:

From: 2016-12-23 00:01

To: 2016-12-25 00:01

Or: Select Range

**Generate Report**

Grind Stone City  
Port Austin  
Caseville  
Kinde  
Filion  
Rapson  
Pigeon  
Elkton  
Bad Axe  
Owendale  
Uby  
Gagetown  
Austin Center  
Cass City  
Argyle  
Kington  
Deford  
Dayton  
Snover  
Vassar  
Kingston

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