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## PRESS RELEASE

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### - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

**DATE:** December 21, 2017

**FROM:** Terry Palmer, Managing Director

**SUBJECT:** MCRC Receives Grant from Midland Area Community Foundation

The Midland County Road Commission recently received a grant for \$40,000 from the Midland Area Community Foundation for the purchase of a Horizon Signal SQ2 Portable Traffic Signal System. With this grant we look forward to being able to provide a portable traffic signal system to the citizens of Midland County to handle unexpected traffic issues and emergencies. These are a concern for not only the Road Commission but also Central Dispatch and the Sheriff's Dept., Michigan State Police and residents of the county. The objective of purchasing the Horizon Signal SQ2 Portable Traffic Signal System is to provide a safe, cost effective, versatile traffic control method that can be employed quickly, operated remotely and provide dependable traffic control while reducing risk for road workers.

We have had several traffic diversions occur in Midland County in past years in which temporary signage and manpower alone was not enough to control traffic safely and efficiently and in a cost-effective way. In addition to temporary signs we utilized manpower and message boards to manage traffic flow. The addition of a road ready temporary traffic signal system would shorten wait time and reduce risk to road workers and the traveling public.

This shared temporary traffic signal system will be available for use by other county departments and organizations; the Sheriff's Dept., Central Dispatch and the City of Midland will all benefit from the availability of a portable traffic signal. Sharing the use of the signal system will impact the community in a positive way.

The Midland Area Community Foundation's mission is to provide philanthropic leadership to strengthen our community by fostering collaboration and giving today and in the future. We are very appreciative to the Midland Area Community Foundation for funding a large portion of the cost of the portable traffic signal and their continued support for the community and its organizations.

Yesterday we had our first opportunity to use the new Temporary Traffic Control Signal System. The expansion joint in the bridge over the Tittabawassee River in Sanford was damaged by a plow truck and needed partial removal. Our normal procedure would be to have two flaggers route traffic around the work zone requiring extra trucks to bring out arrow boards and signs.

With the signal system, the crew doing the work is able to handle the entire project which requires less staff. It is also safer for the workers as it eliminates the need to stand in traffic flagging vehicles.

The project also seemed to go faster with fewer things to coordinate. We look forward to utilizing the Traffic Control Signal frequently in the future.

The Midland County Road Commission is setting up training for fire, police and other public agencies in January/February at our facility. The equipment is available for use to trained agencies for construction and emergency purposes. It allows maintaining one lane of traffic verses always closing or flagging traffic work zones. This makes these areas safer with fewer people.



Terry Palmer

Midland County Road Commission

Managing Director