

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 20, 2012

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Road Commission adopts new 'dark signals' policy

Flint, Michigan. ---

The Genesee County Board of Road Commissioners has adopted a change in its policy regarding the action that the Road Commission will take in the event of a “dark signals” situation. A “dark signal” is a traffic signal that is not lit because of an area-wide power outage.

In order to create uniformity between the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) road system and the Genesee County Road Commission, and to minimize driver confusion, **the new policy adopted by the Board of Road Commissioners requires that upon determination that the dark signal is caused by an area-wide power failure, no further action will be taken by the Road Commission.** The Road Commission has historically handled “dark signals” by placing temporary stop signs at dark signal intersections until power is restored. It will no longer do so.

In explaining the change, Manager-Director John Daly pointed out that placing STOP signs at any leg of an intersection in this situation could cause driver confusion when the power to the signal comes back on if some signals come back on in the STOP and GO mode. The driver might then be faced with a green signal indication and a STOP sign, and not know which to follow.

This would be confusing and might also present a liability.

Placing portable generators at intersections could possibly cause damage to the signal equipment, and might also create a liability if they were placed at one intersection and not another.

For more information about the Road Commission’s revised “dark signals” policy contact Road Commission Manager-Director John Daly at 810.767.4920.

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