



**Public Works  
Department**

## Memo

To: Brian Murphy, Assistant City Manager/Services  
From: Timothy Richnak, Public Works Director  
Date: Aug 1, 2006  
Re: Mowing of Ditches on County Roads

---

In review of the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) mowing operation in ditches along county roads in the City of Troy we have the following.

RCOC provides only mowing for sight distance issues. Until they receive a call for a sight distance issue no mowing is scheduled. The City of Troy DPW has been mowing the right of way on county roads on a 4 to 5 week schedule for many years. Neither the City of Troy nor our mowing contractors, own equipment that is equipped to mow the deeper drainage ditches.

The county roads in the City of Troy have approximately 3.5 miles of ditches on Dequindre and Livernois that vegetation grows tall enough to become a sight distance issue. The county will cut these but must schedule the equipment in from their Lake Orion facility.

The cost to purchase this articulating boom mowing equipment is very expensive. The unit itself is approximately \$25,000 and the tractor unit that it is mounted on would cost additional \$40,000. Being this equipment is a specialize use it is not available at local rental businesses. Labor per mowing would include approximately 16 man-hours (\$560).

Additionally the two miles of ditch on Dequindre will be enclosed in the future. Currently funding has been approved for the engineering phase of the road project but construction funding is not expected until 2010 or beyond.