

GRAVEL ROAD GRADING FAST FACTS:

- CCRC has jurisdiction over approximately **716** miles of gravel roads in Clare County
- CCRC operates independently from **Clare County general government and does not receive any property taxes for its operations**. Money for road maintenance comes from state fuel taxes, vehicle registration fees and income tax. The state, through a formula established by the Legislature, sends road funding to the CCRC.
- CCRC has only 4 motor graders in the county (graders do need routine maintenance and occasionally have mechanical breakdowns)
- Each grader can reshape/grade 5 to 6 miles in a day. At this pace, it takes four to six weeks, for crews to get around to all the gravel roads. So, if you have been waiting three weeks since the last grading, you may still have to wait for a bit.
- Speed at which graders move: 3 miles per hour.
- A grader must make multiple passes to grade the road -- the grading is not completed in one pass.
- Graders are very expensive pieces of equipment. Additionally, the operator must be properly trained; grading is an art as well as a science.
- When grader operators feel pressured to cover more miles and try to rush the work, it can also create "washboarding" problems. Grading needs to be done slowly and steadily. It can't be rushed.
- Weather can affect the schedule. Roads can't be graded if it is too wet or in driving rain.
- Chloride applications must be coordinated with grading to avoid dust problems.
- There are many moving parts to the grading schedule, and operators like to adhere to the schedule to avoid missing a road.
- **SLOW DOWN!** Once the road is graded, slow down! The smoother surface will last longer.
- Following a major storm event, staff will address primary (heavier-traveled) gravel roads first and work their way toward roads that carry less traffic, such as subdivision roads.