

ROAD COMMISSIONS IN OTHER STATES (LOUIE CSOKASY 7/26/17)

As part of the feasibility study of Berrien County transferring responsibilities from the road commission, the question was asked what is done in other states. In comments from the County Road Association, it has been said that *the governance structure of a road commission reporting to an independent board is unique in the United States*. To verify this I have looked at the surrounding states to Michigan and found not only that this is true but that there is not one majority model shared by the states. **What I did find was that Michigan was the only state where a road Commission, Department or agency is an independent body.** Below please find some of the research from the study, selected Counties was the approximate size of Berrien:

State	Counties	Governance
Indiana	St. Joseph, Porter & Hendricks	St. Joseph has a public works and inside of that a Highway Dept. Porter has a Highway Dept. and Hendricks has a Highway Dept. and a Highway Engr Dept. In all cases these Departments report to County Commission.
Ohio	Fairfield, Clark & Porter	By statute each County in Ohio has an elected Engineer who has responsibility for all County Bridges (over 10 feet), County Roads and advisor to Townships who have Road Supervisors.
Pennsylvania	all	No county road departments. Road responsibility split between State (41,000 miles), Townships (51,376 miles), Boroughs (9,460 miles) and Cities (6,779 miles). The state highway dept. is split into 12 districts with County borders
Illinois	Peoria, McLean & Rock Island	The counties show a highway department with responsibility for County Roads reporting into the county. In addition, they show a road commission composed of an individual from each township. County boards have 15 to 18 elected commissioners.
Wisconsin	Kenosha, Rock & Marathon	Each County has a Highway or Public Works Department managed by a non-elected manager. They report to the county Boards thru a committee structure. These Committees (infrastructure or public works) are filled by County Commissioners. Have responsibility for County roads and in some cases state contracts.

As can be seen above in almost all cases the road responsibilities report directly into the county commissioners. I did not find one organizational chart on any of the web sites so some of this is my speculation on structure and terminology. Again, all of these counties had administrative staff and or an administrator so I am assuming that departments took day to day direction from the administrator, but without an organizational chart I cannot be absolutely certain.