**Gravel Road Maintenance**

**Impacts on Gravel Roads**
- Moisture enters the road from potholes or because of shallow or nonexistent ditches
- Quantity, weight and speed of vehicles
- Strength of subgrade and thickness of base
- Construction quality including moisture content, proper compaction and material quality
- Regular and proper maintenance

**Routine Maintenance Operations**
- Reshaping of channels and side slopes
- Restoring erosion controls
- Cleaning and repairing culverts
- Removing slides
- Mowing and trimming trees
- Replacing topsoil, sod, shrubs, etc.

**Road Aspects & Shape**
- Center should be higher than the outside edges (called crown) to provide the best drainage
- Subgrade can be fill material or existing natural soil
- Base adds strength to subgrade and provides support for the surface
- Surface material is driven on and must provide a good riding surface, wear resistance, skid resistance and waterproofing

**Grader Operation**
- Correct angle and pitch are important
- Improper angle can cause excessive aggregate loss
- Three operating modes: straight mode - for long pass blading, dry-ditch cleaning, blading shoulders or scarifying; articulated mode - for short turns, spreading material and cutting a high bank; crab mode - for heavy windrowing, wet ditch cleaning or cutting a bank on a gentle slope

For more information on the Gravel Roads Maintenance course or other MO-LTAP courses, please contact:

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