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## PRESS RELEASE

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### - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

**DATE:** March 19, 2018

**FROM:** Terry Palmer, Managing Director

**SUBJECT:** Midland County Road Commission and OHM Advisors Receive the 2018 Surveying Eminent Conceptor Award – Highest Honor from ACEC Michigan

On March 10, 2018, at the 53rd Annual ACEC Michigan Engineering & Surveying Awards Gala in Grand Rapids, OHM Advisors and Midland County Road Commission received the highest honor for surveying of the evening, the 2018 Surveying Eminent Conceptor Award, for the Midland County Emergency UAS/GIS Assessment.

The statewide competition, hosted annually by the Michigan Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), identifies engineering and surveying achievements that demonstrate the highest degree of client satisfaction through innovative, cost-effective solutions.

As the consultant for the Midland County Road Commission (MCRC), OHM Advisors provided an emergency infrastructure assessment after historic flooding caused over \$7 million damage to the county's roads and bridges in June 2017. OHM Advisors' method of gathering and presenting the collected data utilized two technologies not commonly used together – unmanned aircraft system (UAS) technology (commonly known as drone technology) and GIS software.

The approach proved to be quicker and more comprehensive than traditional survey methods, cutting completion time nearly in half and allowing for the passage of critical, highly detailed information to the design team assigned to make repairs three weeks earlier than expected. The extra time and enhanced detail provided by this approach allowed the design team to make more informed, more efficient decisions about infrastructure restoration, while also being able to inform the public about road conditions and the status of repairs.

ACEC Michigan also recognized the OHM Advisors/MCRC Team with a 2018 Engineering Honorable Conceptor Award for the Midland County GRS-IBS Bridge Program. The implementation of this flexible, cost-effective solution to replace aging single-span bridges throughout Midland County provided significant benefit in just two years – saving more than a million dollars in construction costs and outperforming similar-sized bridges during 2017 flooding. The Honorable Conceptor Award is the second highest accolade given by ACEC.

The OHM Advisors/MCRC Team presented their experience at the County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan Highway Conference & Road Show in Lansing on March 14th and will also present at the Michigan Bridge Conference in Ann Arbor on March 20th.