

Starke County Highway Department Monthly Report – August 6th, 2018

During July most of our Department's focus was on roadway paving, bridge construction, and routine roadway and bridge maintenance. We are currently in the middle of our second round of paving for the summer. Construction of bridge #36 on 25N, just west of 600E, was completed last Wednesday. Our mowers are mowing continually throughout the County, and our part time "weed whacking" crew is working on all our bridges and road signs. We are still working with FEMA on flood damage reimbursement. We are also preparing for winter operations.

ROADWAY MANAGEMENT

COMMUNITY CROSSINGS – As of today the 2018 round of Community Crossings applications has opened. The applications are required to be submitted by Friday, September 28th. This is the last time that previously completed projects are eligible for Community Crossings funds. In the future only projects that have not been started will be eligible. Here are the projects we are submitting for this year:

- 1) Bridge 154 on 100E, north of 500N (bid awarded, construction to begin in the next month)
- 2) Bridge 36 on CR25N, west of 600E (already complete)
- 3) Intersection improvement/realignment at CR210 and old CR600S at Bass Lake
- 4) Hot Mix asphalt projects at six locations (CR400S from CR650W to US421; CR50S from SR39 to the Knox city limits; CR250N from US35 to Range Road; Range Road from SR10 to Toto Road; CR25N from US35 to SR23 (excluding the new pavement at the new bridge); and CR1100E from US30 to Circle Ave.)

PAVING PROGRAM –

- 1) During the first round of paving this year we paved just under 13 miles of County roadway, most of it roads that were damaged by flooding or utility line installation
- 2) Round two is under way. We have paved about 6 miles so far in this round. All of the paving in round one and most of round two have been west of US35. We will now be moving to Koontz Lake for paving there and then will work our way south during the rest of round two and round three.
- 3) Round three will include some paving but will mostly be chip sealing

FLOOD RECOVERY

- 1) FEMA reimbursements _ We are working with them to finalize our reimbursement application.

BRIDGE MANAGEMENT

Current Bridge Replacement Projects

Priority	Bridge Number	Location	Sufficiency Rating	Status	Completion year
1	154	CR100E over Robbins Ditch, .4m N of CR400N	47.1	Construction to begin within a month	2018
2	7	CR1200E over the Yellow River, .5M N of CR250S	35.2	JPR is 95% done with the design, we are looking at an October 2018 bid opening	2019

BRIDGE MAINTENANCE

- 1) A guardrail replacement at the bridge on 500S, just west of SR39 was completed last week. A citizen had driven their vehicle into the guardrail and completely knocked it off the bridge. For liability reasons we hire contractors to replace guardrail on bridges instead of doing it "in-house".
- 2) This week are also replacing the old guardrail on bridge #35, just west of the new bridge #36. The guardrail on 35 was obsolete and did not meet state requirements. As with all bridge maintenance, we use Cumulative bridge funds to pay for these repairs. The fund allows us to quickly repair bridges when unforeseen events damage our bridges (A car hitting the guardrail, a log damaging a pier/pile, etc...)
- 3) In late August/early September we will be sending out a crew to clean and clear all of our County bridges. We do this twice a year. By performing regular, routine maintenance on our bridges we significantly reduce repair costs in the future. Earlier this month we sent three of our employees to a bridge cleaning/maintenance class sponsored by Purdue/LTAP. These three employees will be supplemented on the crew by a few of our part time workers

BRIDGE INSPECTIONS

We are still working on the bridge inspection contract for our upcoming bridge inspections. We are discussing the final details with INDOT and United Consulting. We hope to have a final draft ready this week for Attorney Lucas to review. If all goes well we hope to present it to the Board for signing at the August 20th meeting.

WINTER OPERATIONS

- 1) We have finalized our salt contracts for both treated and untreated salt.
- 2) We have all of the necessary supplies ordered and/or on hand at the garage ready to go (blades, wipers, fuel additives, etc..)
- 3) We hope to set up three locations throughout the County as salt/sand "depots". One at North Judson, one at Hamlet, and one near Bass Lake. This will allow our drivers in the areas not near the garage to be able to re load their salt sand without being required to drive all the way back to the garage. We will also be refueling their trucks with one of our pickups. This will save on fuel but more importantly will save a great deal of time. For the drivers in the outer areas it can take well over an hour to drive back to the garage, refuel and reload, and then drive back to their area. We will be talking to the street superintendents of North Judson and Hamlet to help facilitate this change. We may need to come up with short, interlocal agreements.