

# Starke County Highway Department

## Monthly Report

### December 2, 2013

#### Summary

**WINTER OPERATIONS** – Winter operations are progressing as planned

#### **ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM** –

The Highway Department has completed its preliminary road list for the 2014 road improvements. It will be given to the commissioners for their review and comment. After they have responded the Superintendent will complete the final road list with the understanding that the list could change at any time due to many factors (some roads deteriorate faster than others, traffic patterns change, financial issues, etc..)

#### **BRIDGE REPLACEMENT/REPAIR PROGRAM** –

The RFP submittal deadlines for consultants has expired for the two INDOT funded projects (DES# 1297421 Bridge Replacement for County bridge # 154 and DES# 1382091 Countywide bridge inspections) . The Superintendent is now reviewing these submittals and will make recommendations for consultant selection at the DEC 16, 2013 commissioner's meeting. The list of consultants who submitted proposals will be given to the Commissioners.

The RFP for bridge design for four County bridges (Bridges#31, 86,79, and 79) has been sent out to area consultants. The submittal deadline is January 10, 2014. These projects will be locally funded. The type of project (bridge replacement, rehab, or downgrade to a culvert) will be determined after the engineer's assessment is completed.

**Bridge 43 construction update:** Construction is complete.

**2017 AND 2018 INDOT CALL FOR PROJECTS** INDOT has recently sent out a Call for 2017 project funding. The deadline to submit an application is 12/13/2013. The Superintendent is working with County officials to create the list of projects we will submit. The 2018 Call for Projects will be sent out in the Spring. The Superintendent will recommended that two bridges over the Yellow River be submitted for these calls. The other projects submitted for the call will be creation of a new road to connect 600E to SR8, a road widening on portions of 500N, and the creation of a shared use golf cart path on SR10 around Bass Lake..

**SIGN TRUCK** - The department has completed the retrofit of an old ambulance into the new sign truck. This new truck will be a mobile sign shop that will enable the sign man to make signs in the field without the need to return to the garage. This will save time and money.

**CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION POSITION-** The Superintendent is working to create a new position that would be responsible for all construction inspection for County Highway projects. These projects are currently inspected by consultants at great expense to the County. The Superintendent believes that by hiring our own inspector the County will save a great deal of money and maintain better control over our projects. The final proposal should be done either before the DEC16th meeting or the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.