

Starke County Highway Department Monthly Report – July 2016

INDUSTRIAL PARK TRAFFIC

300E/200S – Truck Traffic problem

We have installed "no trucks" signs at the intersections of Toto Rd./US35 (westbound), Toto Rd. and 300E (northbound), Culver Rd/300E (southbound), and US35/200S (westbound). It appears that this has lessened some of truck traffic on these routes. There are a few truck drivers who live on these routes. We have been issuing permits for them to use these roads to get home with the understanding that they do so unloaded.

CURRENT BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS

County Bridge #78 (250W, .5 miles S of Toto Rd.) Two weeks ago the plans and specifications were approved and signed by the Commissioners. The project has been advertised and the bid opening will be Monday, July 18th, 2016. Construction should begin in early August and be complete by late September/early October.

County Bridge #96 (900S, .5 miles w of US421) We are replacing this bridge with a culvert. We have plans for three 36" concrete pipes to be installed. We are looking at using our 96" squash pipe that we have in stock. If this works hydraulically we will use it instead of the concrete pipes. We should begin this work sometime in August. By downsizing this structure we will be saving at least \$200,000, possibly more.

CURRENT ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

In June we wedged a total of five miles of asphalt throughout the County. We plan on wedging about 5 more miles in July.

Today we began our full asphalt paving operations. We paved 150N between 1100E and 1200E. We plan on paving at least 5 more miles in July.

We will continue paving throughout the summer. We plan on paving as long as the weather is good and the funding holds out.

HIGHWAY FUNDING UPDATE

HB1001 and SB57

2016 matching fund applications:

The required Road and Bridge asset management have been submitted and approved. We are now applying for 50/50 matching funds for the following projects in 2016:

BRIDGES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Replacement of County Bridge #46 (900E, .9 miles S of SR10) | \$320,000 total cost |
| 2) Replacement of County Bridge #47(CR625S, just W of 875E) | \$315,000 total cost |
| 3) Replacement of County Bridge #50(CR1150E, .9 miles S of SR10). | <u>\$307,500 total cost</u> |
| | \$942,500 total cost (\$471,250 State/\$471,250 County) |

ROADS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Cold Mix Asphalt Paving ten miles of County Roads | \$250,000 total (\$125,000 State/\$125,000 County) |
| 2) Chip Sealing twenty-one miles of County Roads | \$200,000 total (\$100,000 State/\$100,000 County) |

2017 matching fund applications:

BRIDGES

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Replacement of County Bridge #36 (CR25N,.1 MILES W OF 600E) | \$315,000 total cost |
| 2) Replacement of County Bridge #58 (CR800S, 0.02 MILES E OF 200W) | \$345,000 total cost |
| 3) Replacement of County Bridge #154(CR100E, .4 MILES N of CR400N). | <u>\$208,000 total cost</u> |
| | \$868,000 total cost (\$471,250 State/\$471,250 County) |

ROADS

- 1) Cold Mix Asphalt Paving ten miles of County Roads \$250,000 total (\$125,000 State/\$125,000 County)
- 2) Chip Sealing of 21 miles of County Roads \$200,000 total (\$100,000 State/\$100,000 County)

INDOT 2021 CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Superintendent presented the County's application for Yellow River bridge replacement funding to INDOT on June 27th at the Laporte District. The grants will be awarded in the next few weeks. This could mean an additional \$1.2 M in funding for our river bridges.

2017 RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING SAFETY GRANT

INDOT has announced the availability of up to \$40,000 for advanced warning signs and pavement markings at our County RR crossings. The County is responsible for pavement markings and warning signs that alert drivers of upcoming railroad crossings. The actual at-crossing warning signs such as crossbucks, flashing lights, and gates are the responsibility of the railroad. We received such a grant a few years ago and are now eligible again. This we be particularly helpful where we are paving near the crossings this year. The application for this grant is due July, 29th, 2016.

INTERN/WORK ONE OJT PROGRAM

Two of our employees are still in the OJT phase where we are receiving salary reimbursement from Work One (Nevin miller and Brandon Bradley) . One driver, Clinton Collins, has graduated from the program. We believe that not only did the program aid the County financially but improved and accelerated Clinton's learning curve. We are hoping to fill our open truck driver position with someone who is eligible for this program.

Another of our employees has completed the "work experience" program where Work One pays his hourly rate for a period of time (in this case about three months). He worked well for us and we moved him into one of our open part time positions.



SAFETY

There were no days lost to injuries last month. We did have one case of poison ivy but the driver did not miss any work time. He used all the required safety precautions (goggles, gloves, poison ivy pre-treatment) The good news is that our workman's comp premium will be lower for the next three years based on the reduced number of injuries in the previous three years. We hope to continue the trend of fewer and less expensive accidents and injuries with a continued emphasis on safety training and involvement in the County safety committee program.