

Starke County Highway Department

Monthly Report – November 21, 2016

CURRENT BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS

County Bridge #78 (250W, .5 miles S of Toto Rd.) Construction is underway. The .

County Bridge #96 (900S, .5 miles w of US421) This bridge was replaced with three CMP IN September.

County Bridge #50 (CR1150E, .9 miles SR10.) This bridge was awarded to Norther Indiana Construction in September. The selected bid was \$270,531.00. This was almost \$46,000 less than the engineer's estimate.

County Bridge #46 (CR900E, .8 miles SR10) The design for this bridge is complete. The bid opening is tonight. The bid will be for the replacement of both bridge 46 and 47. They will be closed simultaneously to allow the contractor to minimize mobilization costs. We believe this will result in significant savings for the County. Construction is slated to begin on April 1, 2017

County Bridge #47 (CR625S, just west of 875E) The design for this bridge is complete. The bid opening is tonight. The bid will be for the replacement of both bridge 46 and 47. They will be closed simultaneously to allow the contractor to minimize mobilization costs. We believe this will result in significant savings for the County. Construction is slated to begin on April 1, 2017

County Bridge #7 (1200E, 1.1 miles S of SR8) Starke County was awarded \$1,080,000.00 in matching funds for this bridge replacement in 2019. The RFP for design has been advertised by INDOT. The due date for proposals for the design of the bridge is January 16, 2017. All submitted proposals will be scored by both INDOT and Starke County. The contract will be awarded after that scoring is complete

Bridge Number	Location	Sufficiency rating	Updated construction estimate	Actual construction cost	Actual Engineering Costs	Total Replacement Cost	Status	Completion year
51	CR850E over Osborn Ditch, 00.01 South of CR700S	28.9	\$450,000	\$475,046	\$135,546	\$610,592	Completed by LaPorte Construction	2012
156	Range Road over Robbins Ditch, .1 miles N of CR400N	19.98	\$600,000	\$652,977	\$225,437	\$878,414	Complete by JCI Bridge Group	2012
9	CR500E over Jain Ditch, at the Intersection of CR700N	38.63	\$823,000	\$675,438	\$197,659	\$873,097	Completed by LaPorte Construction	2012
62	CR500S over Smith Ditch, 0.04 miles W of Range Road	24.14	\$400,000	\$449,650	\$107,459	\$557,109	Complete by JCI Bridge Group	2012
43	CR100E over Robbins Ditch, .1m N of CR800N	14	\$234,000	\$177,033	\$68,140	\$245,173	Complete by JCI Bridge Group	2013
86	CR900S over Bogus Run, .2 m W of CR100W	15.6	\$331,000	\$288,298	\$35,009	\$323,307	Completed by LaPorte Construction	2014
31	CR800E over Eagle Creek, .2m N of CR50S	15.6	\$330,000	\$279,332	\$35,009	\$314,341	Completed by LaPorte Construction	2014
79	CR450S over Smith Ditch, .2 m W of Range Road	29.9	\$350,000	\$317,515	\$35,009	\$352,524	Completed by LaPorte Construction	2015
70	CR50E over Smith Ditch, .1m S of 500S	15.9	\$420,000	\$396,105	\$35,009	\$431,114	Completed by LaPorte Construction	2015
71	CR100E over Smith Ditch, .5 m S of CR500S	47.4	\$333,000	\$319,175	\$30,904	\$350,079	Completed by JCI Bridge Group	2015
1	CR700N over Robbins Ditch, .3m W of CR500E	37.5	\$347,000	\$311,457	\$30,904	\$342,361	Completed by Northern Indiana Construction	2016
96	CR900S over Ryan Ditch, .5m W of US421	22.8	\$285,000	\$53,350	\$1,600	\$54,950	Completed by NIC	2016
78	CR250W over Bogus Run, .5 miles S of Toto Road	38.7	\$317,260*	\$282,864	\$25,000	\$307,864	Construction has begun. The bridge should be open for traffic by December 1 st ,	2016

HANDBOOK CHANGES

- 1) **Sick Leave** – In section 6.02 it says “ a Physician’s certification of illness may be required for illnesses extending beyond three consecutive days....but in section 7.02 it states “a physician’s statement and release to return to work are required if an employee’s absence is medical....” **Eliminate section 7.02**
- 2) **Appointments for workman’s comp injuries.** In section 9.0 it states “If a work related illness does not result in a workman’s comp disability, but does require periodic medical treatment, appointments for such treatment should be made outside of the employee’s regularly scheduled work day whenever possible. When it is not possible, the employee must use available accrued sick leave and vacation time, preferable scheduled in advance” **Our employees feel this is unfair and that they should not have to use vacation for appointment made during working hours for a injury suffered on the job. Sick time will still be used for these appointments if it is available.**
- 3) **13.01 personal use of supplies and equipment.** Although prohibited in the handbook, our department has traditionally allowed the drivers to use items such as a chainsaw or any other tool that they carry in their take home truck as long as they inform the Superintendent. **I believe this has worked well but it does conflict with the handbook. Amend to say Superintendent has discretion.**
- 4) **Cumulative Service for the purposes of determining the longevity bonus.** Currently it is calculated on January 1st of each year. This makes it easier to calculate payrolls and set the next year’s budget. **This is seen as unfair by some of the employees, especially those who hired on in the first few months of the calendar year. They have to work, in some cases, ten or eleven months longer to qualify for the bonus than someone who was hired in November or December. Our drivers would like to see this calculation changed from January 1st each year to their actual hire dates. While it makes it a little more difficult to do the payroll it is not an impossible task and would be seen as more fair by the employees. Amend to calculate longevity on January 1st.**

ROAD INVENTORY CHANGES

- 1) Vacate East Maple St. at Bass Lake
- 2) Vacate 200E, north of 50S
- 3) Vacate Division Road, west of 200E
- 4) Add Woodlawn Road at Koontz Lake
- 5) Vacate 700N, west of 50E

Any questions about these proposed changes can be directed to the Starke County Highway Department at 3835E 250N or by calling 574-772-3011. The formal requests to the commissioners for these changes will be presented on December 5, 2016

TRAINING

- 1) We recently purchased a new hot box for winter patching. Hot Box Training was conducted today at our garage by a representative of the manufacturer.
- 2) LTAP Road Scholar classes in November and December
- 3) Certified Construction inspection testing
- 4) AICC conference

WINTER PREPARATIONS

We are ready to go for winter. All material, personnel, and planning requirements are complete. We are taking advantage of the mild weather by stockpiling material required for next year’s road improvements.