

Starke County Highway Department Monthly Report – November 6th, 2017

COMMUNITY CROSSINGS GRANTS

We are looking at a few potential projects to include with our Federal Rural call for project applications.

- 1) The Bass lake intersection improvement at CR210 and old SR10, which will include plans for a bike trail station that would be coordinated with the local trails group.
- 2) Bridge #154
- 3) Four hot mix truck route projects (Possibly CR1100E, 700E, Range Road, and CR400S)

Priority	BRIDGE NUMBER OR COUNTY ROAD	LOCATION	PROJECT TYPE	COUNTY MATCH	STATE MATCH	TOTAL COST	NOTES
1	50	CR1150E over Osborn Ditch, 1m S of SR10	Bridge Replacement	\$70,000.00	\$200,531.20	\$270,531.20	Awarded Community Crossings grant. We have submitted the finalized contract, waiting for reimbursement from the State. This money will go into CEDIT and will be used on bridges 36 and 58.
3	47	CR625S over Osborn Ditch, .06M W of CR875E	Bridge Replacement	\$70,000.00	\$201,770.93	\$271,770.93	Awarded Community Crossings grant. We have submitted the finalized contract, waiting for reimbursement from the State. This money will go into CEDIT and will be used on bridges 36 and 58.
4	CR300E	From sr8 to 1100 ft south of Division Road	HMA Resurface	\$56,750.00	\$168,530.00	\$225,280.00	Awarded Community Crossings grant. Project to be bid out in December for Spring 2018 construction.

\$570,832.13

CURRENT BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS

Priority	Bridge Number	Location	Sufficiency Rating	Status	Completion year
1	36	CR25N over Eagle Creek, .1 miles W of 600E	26.9	Awarded to LaPorte Construction, construction to begin in Spring of 2018	2018
2	58	CR800S over Bogus Run, 0.02 miles E of CR200W	35.9	Awarded to LaPorte Construction, construction to begin in the Spring of 2018	2018
3	154	CR100E over Robbins Ditch, .4m N of CR400N	47.1	Plans Complete, possible INDOT call for projects project or we will bid it locally in the Spring of 2018	2018
4	7	CR1200E over the Yellow River, .5M N of CR250S	35.2	Design Contract awarded to Jones, Petrie, and Rafinski. We are finalizing the design contract with INDOT	2018

2018-2021 BRIDGE INSPECTION PROJECT

The deadline for the RFP for the 2018-2012 bridge inspections was October 27th. We received six LOIs (letters of interest) listed below in alphabetical order

- 1) Butler, Fairman, and Seufert Civil Engineers; Indianapolis, IN
- 2) Ciorba Group Consulting Engineers; Michigan City, IN
- 3) Lochner; LaPorte, IN
- 4) Primera Engineers; Munster, IN
- 5) United Consulting; Indianapolis, IN
- 6) USI Consultants; Indianapolis, IN

Over the next week we will be scoring the LOIs based on INDOT guidelines. Once we have completed the scoring we will send our consultant choice to INDOT for their approval. We are currently using USI consulting but we have had the policy of changing inspection consultants to get a fresh look at the bridges during each inspection cycle. We are also looking for a firm that will help us transition our bridge focus from replacement to routine maintenance now that most of our deficient bridges have been replaced. We have just finished our Fall bridge cleaning and clearing as part of our current bridge maintenance program. We are hoping the next bridge inspection consultant will help us expand our bridge maintenance capabilities.

ROADWAY SAFETY

- 1) Similar to the reflective post enhancers we are using on Stop signs and warning signs we are beginning to install reflectors on all of our bridges. We have been using them on all of our new bridge replacements and they have worked so well we are going to use them on all of our bridges. This hasn't been done in the past because of cost but we found a vendor that is selling them at \$3.00 per reflector as opposed to the "normal" \$17.00
- 2) We have been doing traffic studies on the roads that intersect US30. This includes accident data, speed data, vehicle types, traffic counts, etc. The information is being gathered to improve our presentation to INDOT when the planning phase of the US30 corridor project begins. We have done over 50 roadways thus far and will continue to gather information on these roads throughout the next year.
- 3) We have asked Purdue/LTAP to do three intersections studies for us. We ask them to do official traffic studies for us when we want a second opinion. The intersections are:
 - a) CR210 and Boa Shores drive at Bass Lake (crosswalk installation)
 - b) 300E and 700S (request for a four way stop)
 - c) 275S/Elcona Dr./Second Ave. in Bournes Park Subdivision (four-way stop near day care)
- 4) A resident of Koontz Lake requested that we look into removing a tree at the Koontz lake beach. It is dying and they are afraid it will fall in their yard. We are looking into jurisdiction. It may be on the home owners right away. If it is on public right of way the question is "Is it handled by the Highway Department or the Park board".

ROADWAY DESIGN AND IMPROVEMENT

We recently met with a vendor who produces a product that helps bind hot mix asphalt during when the asphalt is mixed. They want to expand to cold mix asphalt and want to use us as a "guinea pig" for a new version of their product. It may help us improve the quality of our cold mix asphalt. I

WINTER PREPARATIONS

This morning all of our employees attended a snow plow training session here at the County garage. Steve Moriarty of the Kosciusko County Highway Department led the Indiana LTAP sponsored training. This is the second time in three years we have asked LTAP to send Steve to conduct this training for our employees. He has given the same presentation at the annual Purdue Road School and does a great job relaying his knowledge to others.

We have a three-phased program for snow plow training here at our Department. First, we conduct trainings and discussions at our weekly morning meetings about snow plowing beginning in October. These are led by the Superintendent and our Foremen. Next, we bring in outside speakers like Steve to present an additional perspective to our in-house training. The last and most important part of our snow plow training is actual OJT (On the job training) experience. Nothing prepares you for snow plowing like getting behind the wheel of one of our trucks and experiencing it firsthand. We usually make sure we send a new employee to ride along with an experienced driver during the first few storms of the season. Then they reverse roles and the experienced driver sits in the passenger seat and guides the new driver through their first plowing experience.



TRAINING

In addition to the winter snow plow training this morning all of our employees also attended "slips, trips, and falls, training conducted by Bliss McKnight.

Bliss McKnight will also be coming to our garage on November 14th to conduct additional snow plow training, this time focusing on liability and safety as opposed to the operations based training that was held this morning.

On October 25th six of our employees attended Cold-in-place recycling, Cold plant based recycling, and full depth reclamation training in Warsaw, IN. The training was conducted by Indiana LTAP.