

# Starke County Highway Department

## Monthly Report

### September 2014

#### Summary

**MOWING** – Our mowing operations are essentially complete. We are still spot mowing as needed. The brush tractors and two brush crews have been working all month cutting back brush in preparation for the start of school. We will continue cutting brush as long as weather permits. We have been getting good cooperation from the Sheriff's department regarding sight distance at intersections. We have noticed that many of the stop signs at our County intersections are too far away from the intersection itself. MUTCD (Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices) guidelines state that stop signs should be as close placed as close as possible to the intersection and no more than 50ft away. In September, we plan on repositioning the stop signs at intersections where sight distance has been a problem. By correcting this situation we will greatly improve the safety at these intersections.

**ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM** – During August we paved (wedging and pug paving) 10 miles of roadway at a total cost of \$211,768.09. This equates to \$21,176.81 per mile. We still may add to this total by the end of September. We were able to obtain the millings from the 300E project and the 700E bridge repair. We plan on using these millings for additional road repairs this year. This may add up to 6 miles of repairs at minimal additional cost. We also chip sealed 5 miles this month and still have 7 more planned. The scheduling of this is dependent upon weather and the availability of equipment. We will also be crack sealing and fog sealing. We began re-stoning gravel roads today. We plan on doing 32 miles this week and more later this month. Overall the road improvement plan is going well and we should meet and exceed all of our goals for the year.

**LOCAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS** The bridge replacements for bridges 31 (800E over Eagle Creek, .2 m north of CR50S) and 86 (900S over Bogus Run, .2 m west of CR100W) were both awarded to LaPorte Construction and work will begin on those later this month. Both bridges have a November 31, 2014 completion date. The bids for bridges 70 (CR50E over Smith Ditch, .1 m south of CR500S) and 79(CR450S over Smith Ditch, .2 m west of Range Road) will be opened on October 6th, 2014. The emergency bridge repairs on 700E were completed on August 15<sup>th</sup>. The bridge engineer from BLN inspected the bridge on August 24<sup>th</sup> and the bridge was opened the next day.



**INTERSECTION SAFETY – SPORLY'S FOUR WAY STOP** – We will be adding the four way stop as soon as Sporty's has completed their building improvements.

**BRIDGE MAINTENANCE** – The last stage of our bridge maintenance program is almost complete. Our bridge crew is finishing up the rip rap repairs on ten bridges. A representative from LTAP/Purdue University is planning to visit our County to evaluate our bridge maintenance plan.

**WINTER MAINTENANCE** – We have begun preparing for our winter operations. We have one salt contract in place and are working on a second one. We are ordering the equipment and supplies we need for the winter and we are starting to haul in the sand we will need. We are also coordinating with the schools to help us prepare our snow plow routes and turnaround repairs. Initial long range weather forecasts seem to indicate a slightly colder winter with slightly below normal snowfall levels.