

Starke County Highway Department

Monthly Report

January 2015

Summary

SNOW PLOWING/REMOVAL – Thanks to a mostly snow free November and December our snow removal costs are significantly under last year's at this point. Despite this last week's ice and snow we are still working on our first load of salt and have used about 200 tons. At this point last year we had already used over 1000 tons.

ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM –We took advantage of the snow free weather in December and have been hauled all the stone for next summer's road improvements. Last month we announced that we would be increasing our asphalt paving miles from 10 to 30. Thanks to the decrease in oil prices we may be able to increase that amount even more. The lower prices, combined with our ability to make our own asphalt and more training for our paver operators, will likely decrease our paving costs about 25% per mile from last year's costs.. We will be decreasing our chip seal miles from 63 to 35 while maintaining our crack sealing and re graveling miles. Included with this report is our preliminary road improvement list. We are submitting it for Commissioner input.

SAFETY/TRAINING – Winter snow plow training continued through the month of December. Our training in January will focus on spring operations such as chainsaw and poison ivy training (brush cutting), bucket truck safety training, lifting safety (trash pickup).

INTERSECTION SAFETY – Purdue university has completed their preliminary of three county intersections (**350S and 200E, 700E and 200N**, and 700S and 300E). Their final recommendations will be submitted once traffic counts are completed. The preliminary report is attached.

LOCAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS:

Bridge 31 (800E over Eagle Creek, .2 m north of CR50S) is now complete and reopened last Wednesday, November 26th.

Bridge 86 (900S over Bogus Run, .2 m west of CR100W) is now 100% complete and is open for traffic

Bridge 70 (CR50E over Smith Ditch, .1 m south of CR500S) is now 50% complete. Laporte Construction originally was to begin construction in March but the good weather has enabled them to get an early start. They will resume construction when the weather allows

Bridge 79(CR450S over Smith Ditch, .2 m west of Range Road) is currently being designed. Construction should nbegin sometime this summer

Bridge #1 on CR700N over the Robbins ditch, .3 miles W of CR500E is currently being designed. Construction should nbegin sometime this summer

