

Starke County Highway Department  
 Monthly Report  
 July 2015

**SUMMARY –** June was all about the rain. Our weather service reported a record June rainfall for our area of 11.98 inches. This caused many flooding issues, especially near our lakes and rivers. We closed various roads periodically throughout the month. As of today there are no closed roads in Starke County. We do have four low areas that chronically flood that we plan to “build up” later this summer to help prevent problems in the future:

- 1) 900E, .2 miles N of 625S
- 2) 1200E, .3 miles N of 500N
- 3) 700S, .2 miles E of 1100E
- 4) 200W, .3 miles N of 800S

In addition to the flooding our drivers were very busy dealing with other issues caused by the rain and wind in June. We cleared 45 trees from the roadways, replaced 7 culverts, and used over 500 tons of patch (1,000,000 lbs.) to repair water damage in the roadways. The drivers also performed other de-watering activities such as drain and culvert cleaning, creation of drainage trenches, and shoulder repair.

We did manage to perform some of our scheduled activities during the month when the weather permitted. We crack sealed for 3 days, sent out brush crews 12 days, made 2500 tons of pug asphalt, mowed, finished replacing a bridge, and even managed to begin our next round of paving. Our mechanics were also able to create “new” trucks for us by using two old chassis and some ingenuity..

**ROADWAY**

**Road Improvement program –** We were able to resume our paving operation in late June. We paved the County portion of Campbell Road in front of North Judson High School. We should be able to complete the bulk of our scheduled paving in July and August. Most of the asphalt is made, cured, and ready to go.

We will begin our limited chip sealing program in early August. We are crack sealing today and will continue throughout July.

**PHASE ONE PAVING**

PRIORITY	ROAD	FROM	TO	MILES	TREATMENT	NOTES
C	Indiana Ave.*	Jefferson St.	Starke Street	0.5	Pug	complete/May
C	Starke St.	500N	pavement line	0.1	Pug	complete/May
C	Golf Course Road	Starke St.	Parking Lot	0.1	Pug	complete/May
C	Hamlet St.	Terry St.	good pavement	0.1	Pug	complete/May
C	Terry St.	Hamlet St	Division St.	0.1	Pug	complete/May

C	500E	200S	150S	0.5	Pug	complete/May
C	525E	800N	900N	1	Pug	complete/May
C	600E	800S	SR10	2	Pug and Wedging	complete/May
C	600N	500E	Hamlet limits	1.2	Pug	complete/May
C	775N	700E	825E	1	Pug	complete/May
1	200E	450S	toto road	1.5	Pug	
1	350S	200E	150E	0.5	Pug	
1	450S	100E	Range Road	1	Pug	
1	500S	US35	100E	3	Pug	
1	800S	300E	US35	2	Pug	
C	Campbell Drive	500W	North Judson Limits	0.5	Pug	complete/June
1	Circle Ave.	SR23	South ST.	0.5	Pug	
1	Range Road	SR8	150S	2.5	Pug	
1	San Pierre Road	1075W	US421	1.5	Pug	
1	South St.	Circle Ave.	1200E	0.5	Pug	

## **SPRING ROADWAY MAINTENANCE –**

Patching was done throughout June and will continue into July.

We replaced or repaired seven culverts in June:

ROAD	LOCATION	DATE COMPLETED	PIPE USED	LOCATE	OPERATOR	NOTES
Toto Rd. & 800 W	Toto Rd. & 800 W., 1000' E & W of 800 W.	6/11/2015	45' of 18"	6/10/2015	Ricky, George, Mouse, Brian	Culvert Installation
100 W. & 50 S. - 150 S.	100 W. & 50 S. - 150 S.	6/11/2015	45' of 18"	6/10/2015	Ricky, George, Mouse, Brian	Culvert Installation
700S/775W	700 S. & 775 W. Entire Intersection	6/19/2015	N/A	6/17/2015	Ricky Fisher	Culvert Repair
650S B/T 1200W & 1100W	650 S. B/T 1200 W. & 1100 W., 1500 ft East of 1200 W.	6/19/2015	40' of 12"	6/17/2015	Ricky Fisher	Culvert Replacement
850 E. between SR 10 & 550 S.	Emergency Locate 850 E. between SR 10 & 550 S.	6/18/2015	50' of 24"	6/16/2015	Bill Crase	Culvert Replacement
300E 2500ft North of 300N	300 E., 2500 ft North of 300 N. Locate for 100' both sides.	6/25/2015	40' of 18"	6/18/2015	Ricky Fisher	Culvert Repair
800 E. & 300 N.	800 E. 500 ft North of 300 N.	6/29/2015	40' of 8"	6/25/2015	Ricky Fisher	Culver Replacement

**MOWING** – Our mowers were active as much as possible in June. The mowing has been hampered somewhat by the rainy weather. The tractors still managed to mow 2799 miles in June. Our brush chopper is still working on its first circuit of the County. It too has been slowed due to weather.

## **BRIDGE**

### **LOCAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS:**

**Bridge 70 (CR50E over Smith Ditch, .1 m south of CR500S)** is complete and open

**Bridge 79(CR450S over Smith Ditch, .2 m west of Range Road)** is complete and open to traffic. It was reopened last Thursday.

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

**Bridge #71 CR100E over Smith Ditch, .5 m S of CR500S** – is currently being designed. Construction should begin late this summer

**BRIDGE INSPECTIONS** – The next round of our bridge inspections is ongoing

**Equipment Acquisition** We now have added a tandem axle dump truck (#11) and a water/dust oil truck, that were not available before. This was made possible by the creation of the third mechanic position. We realized substantial savings by refurbishing these trucks on our own. It cost us \$6,000 to get #11 back on the road. A comparable used truck would cost us approximately \$50,000 to purchase. It cost us \$7,000 to create the water truck by using the chassis of truck #20 which had been out of service for a year because the bed had rotted away. A comparable used water truck would have cost approximately \$20,000. These two trucks alone saved us about \$57,000 in equipment funding. We plan on refurbishing two other chassis that have been out of service, giving us a full complement of 5 spare trucks, which is necessary during our winter operations.