

Starke County Highway Department

Monthly Report

August 2015 ~~SEPTEMBER~~

SUMMARY

ROADWAY

Road Improvement program – We have been very busy with road repairs in August. We have doubled our efforts to make up for the slow start due to the rain in June and July. We used almost all the road repairs methods available to us this month. We have paved, chip sealed, crack sealed, built up roads, patched, and replaced culverts. We still have a few roads to complete but overall we are pleased with the work our drivers have worked hard to complete.

PRIORITY	ROAD	FROM	TO	MILES	TREATMENT	NOTES
C	Indiana Ave *	Jefferson St	Starke Street	0.5		complete
C	Starke St.	500N	pavement line	0.1		complete
C	Golf Course Road	Starke St	Parking Lot	0.1		complete
C	Hamlet St.	Terry St.	good pavement	0.1		complete
C	Terry St	Hamlet St	Division St	0.1		complete
C	100N	700E	800E	1	Chip Seal	complete
C	100N	700E	800E	1	wedges	complete
C	100S	Knox Fertilizer		0.1	wedge	complete
C	100W	Toto Road	Intersection	0.1	wedges	complete
	100W	SR10	800S	1	Chip Seal	
C	100W	SR8	200N	1	wedges	complete
C	1200E	400N/1200E Intersection	400N/1200E Intersection	0.2	Wedges	complete
C	200E	250N	airport entrance	0.5	chip seal	complete
C	200W	800S	700S	1	wedges	Road Built up for flooding
C	250N	600E	700E	1	Chip Seal	wedged in 2014
C	300W	800S	700S	1	wedges	Road Built up for flooding
C	500E	200S	150S	0.5	pug	complete
C	500S	US35	100E	2.5	Pave	complete
C	500S	US35	550E	1.5	wedges	complete
C	50N	US35	end of pavement	0.25	wedges	complete
C	50W	250N	300N	0.5	Chip Seal	complete
C	525E	800N	900N	1	Pug	complete
C	600 N.	1100 E	Hwy 23	1	Wedges	complete
C	600E	650S	SR10	0.75	Pug	complete
C	600N	650S	800S	1	Wedges	complete
C	600N	SR23	top of hill	0.25	Wedges	complete
C	650S	US421	1200W	2	Chip Seal	
	700 S.	600 W.	700 W.	1	Chip Seal	
C	700S	975E	1100E	1.25	Wedges	road built up- for flooding
C	775N	700E	825E	1	Pug	complete
C	800S	300E	450E	1.5	Pug	
	875 N.	SR 23	1150 E.	1.5	Chip Seal	
C	875N	SR23	1150E	0.5	Wedges	Complete
C	Bourne's Acres	All	Roads	1	wedges	2 wedges
C	Campbell Drive	500W	North Judson Limits	0.5	Pug	

C	Circle Ave.	curve	curve	0.01	Wedges	Complete
	Circle Ave.	SR23	South ST.	0.5	Pug	
C	Prairie St	CR210	Sporty'z	0.2	Pug	
C	Cottage Ave	Prairie St	CR210	0.1	Pug	
C	Range Road	50S	150S	1	Pug	
C	Range Road	50S	250S	2	Chip Seal	
C	San Pierre Road	1075W	US421	1.5	Pug	
C	Toto Rd.	SR39	625E	8.25	Chip Seal	
	900E	550S	625S	0.25	wedge	Road Built Up for flooding
C	Toto Road	625E	SR39	8.25	Crack Seal	
C	625E	Toto Road	CR210	0.5	Chip Seal	
C	1200E	550N	600N	0.25	Wedge	Road Built up for flooding

MOWING – Our mowers mowed throughout August. We will gradually phase out our mowing this month and should be finished using part time mowers on October. We will keep those with CDLs on the payroll to help out with plowing this winter.

Training

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) developed the Certified Technician Program (CTP) as a vehicle to increase the number of experienced professionals to perform construction contract inspections.

The Certified Technician Program is comprised of six areas of certification:

- Bridge Construction and Deck Repair (3-Hours)
- Construction Earthworks (3-Hours)
- Concrete Paving (3-Hours)
- Construction Procedures 1 (3-Hours)
- Construction Procedures 2 (3-Hours)
- Hot Mix Asphalt (3-Hours)

Dating back from the January 1993 Highway Letting, one of the qualifications for whoever is performing the daily on-site inspection on any federally-funded Local Public Agency (LPA) project is that they must either be:

- a licensed Professional Civil Engineer
- a "BS in Civil Engineering" graduate from an accredited college,
- or certified under INDOT'S Certified Technician Program

To qualify based on Certified Technician Program (CTP) certification, the individual must be certified in the specific subject area (one of the six courses listed above) related to the type of work that comprises 50% or more of the total work to be done on the project. For example, certification in Bridge Construction and Deck Repair would be required for bridge projects. Certification is obtained by passing the applicable CTP course exams with a score of 70 or higher. All individuals will be notified by either phone or e-mail with the results of their exam.

Upon passing all six (6) exams, a certification card will be issued showing all exams passed by the individual.

Rik Ritzler – Completed all six as of September 1st (CERTIFIED)

Rachel Oesterreich - passed four of six with the results of her fifth pending

Andy Cornwall – Passed one, scheduled for another exam later this month

Bob Lorenz – Grandfathered in, needs to become recertified

LOCAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS:

Bridge #1 on CR700N over the Robbins ditch, .3 miles W of CR500E has been designed and we will sent out for bids in November for the Spring construction season.

Bridge #71 CR100E over Smith Ditch, .5 m S of CR500S – Bids are being opened tonight. It has a fall completion date

WINTER PREPARATIONS

We are getting prepared for the winter season. We have our Magnesium Chloride salt for our anti-icing operations. The Supervisors' trucks have been fitted with pavement sensors. Our road salt, plow blades, tires, and all other necessary equipment has been ordered and stockpiled. We have winter operations trainings scheduled throughout October. Our goal is to be ready for snow by the end of October.

Bridge Manager Position. When my contract was completed last winter it included the item that I would negotiate any salary changes with the Council. I did so by proposing to them a few options. They decreased my proposed salary increase and voted to approve money for Cumulative Bridge funds to be allocated for my salary instead. This allowed them to approve the increase for a specific reason and that it could be reduced or eliminated based on the bridge program in the future. Here is a summary of my justification

- 1) I have created a six year plan to replace all deficient bridges in the County by 2020. Two years ago it was estimated that this would cost just under 7 million dollars. We are on pace to do it for under 4 million.
- 2) I have created the County's first bridge maintenance plan. It has been in place for two years and is already showing great benefits and has saved the County hundreds of thousands of dollars in repair costs.
- 3) I have created and overseen our inspection program which is ongoing and this year alone saved the County over \$250,000 in engineering fees (300E projects and our three bridge replacements).
- 4) I am trained as the County's INDOT approved Bridge ERC (employee of responsible charge)
- 5) Many Counties have bridge engineers or use consultants to run their bridge programs, costing them at least \$75,000 a year in salaries and/or fees. With the new rules for bridge programs this expertise is necessary. By using my abilities and compensating at a much lower rate which can be adjusted due to need Starke County saves a great deal of money that can be used for bridge replacements.
- 6) I spent three years on INDOT's eight person Bridge Asset Management Team which was responsible for prioritizing and funding the State's bridge program. This experience has enabled me to create a bridge program that is improving the County's bridge health and at the same time reducing costs