

Starke County Highway Department Monthly Report – May 2016

JUNE

Industrial Park Traffic

300E/200S – Truck Traffic problem

We have seen some decrease in traffic on 300E south of the industrial park as a result of our combined effort with the SCEDF and the businesses in the Industrial Park but not quite as much as we would like. We are beginning to see deterioration caused by the additional truck traffic, especially from Toto Road to 200S on 300E.

HIGHWAY FUNDING UPDATE

HB1001 and SB57

We have completed the necessary asset management requirements that will allow us to apply for the matching funds available under SB57. We have already received our special distribution of \$667,000 under HB 1001. We will use this for our side of the match for the following project applications

- 1) Three bridge contract for bridge #46 (900E, .9 miles S of SR10), #47(CR625S, just W of 875E), and #50(CR1150E, .9 miles S of SR10). The bridges are in close proximity to each other which will help us get a favorable bid on the construction contract. With these bridges added to the already completed Bridge #1 (700N, just west of 500E) and in progress replacements of bridges #78(250W, just south of Toto Rd.) and #96 (900S,.5 miles W of US421) we will have replaced 6 bridges this year, accelerating our bridge replacement program by two years and only leaving five deficient bridges in the County. At this time 3 years ago we had 18 deficient bridges. By completing this program quickly we avoid the possibility of losing funding in the future, save money that can be transferred to road improvements, and drastically cut our bridge inspection fees.
- 2) A project for road paving using our own forces. Under the new bill we are allowed to apply for matching funds for money used to buy the oil and stone we use for asphalt production. This will help us accelerate our road paving program even before the bridge program is complete.

We may not be awarded both of these matching projects but it is relatively certain we will get at least one. You can't get more than one project approved if you only apply for one.

We are also assisting Knox with their application and may do some cooperative work with them as we did with Hamlet last year. This will add some more SB57 money into our highway budget.

INDOT 2012 CALL FOR PROJECTS

We are also nearing funding approval under a different program for the last of our deficient Yellow River bridges. INDOT's call for 2021 project applications ended a few weeks ago and today the list of Northwest Indiana local public agencies that submitted applications and "passed round 1" of the process were announced. This is what we received from INDOT:

"Following is a schedule for all LPA's that submitted applications for the 2021 NOFA. Each LPA will be given 7 minutes to present their project with 5 minutes following for questions from scoring team members.

Please note all times are CST (LaPorte time)

Please respond and confirm your attendance.

9:00 – 9:15 – City of Plymouth – Hoham Drive

9:15 – 9:30 – White County – Bridge #95

9:30 – 9:45 – Cass County – CR 400S

9:45 – 10:00 – Marshall County – Bridge #73

10:00 – 10:15 – City of Logansport – Bike/Ped Facilities

10:15 – 10:30 – Town of North Judson – ADA Sidewalk improvements

10:30 – 10:45 – Starke County – Bridge #7

10:45 – 11:00 – City of Monticello – Bike/Ped Facilities

11:00 – 11:15 – City of Monticello – ADA Sidewalk Improvements

12:00 – 12:15 – Town of DeMotte – East Division Street

12:15 - 12:30 – Town of DeMotte – 9th Street

12:30 – 12:45 – Town of Lowell – Freedom Park Trail

12:45 – 1:00 – Lake County – Bridge #47

1:00 – 1:15 – Lake County – Bridge #65

1:15 – 1:30 – Lake County – Bridge #48

1:30 – 1:45 – Porter County – CR 100S

SPRING/SUMMER OPERATIONS

- 1) We began paving operations today. We began by doing intersections in Davis Township
- 2) Brush Cutting is being done throughout the County
- 3) Mowing operations are ongoing. We have five mowers operating throughout the County. Three are finishing their second pass. Two are on their third.
- 4) Drainage problems exist at Bass Lake/CR210/Elm St. and 300W/800S. Last month we hired a consultant to come up with possible solutions. The Superintendent will discuss the results of these reports

INTERN/WORK ONE OJT PROGRAM

- 1) Our OJT workers (2) through Work One have saved the County \$12,000 so far this year. We may have a third soon, one of our part timers just received his class A CDL and may transition to our apprentice mechanic position. If he does Work one will pay up to \$6,000.00 of his first year's salary.
- 2) The 18-24 y.o. Work One intern program has been expanded to all ages. We have already saved \$2500.00 in wages.

TRAINING

- 1) MUTCD (Signs) Road Builder class #8. May 19th - thirteen of our employees attended this class in Plymouth at the Swan Lake Resort.
- 2) Our insurance company provided a safety training class at our garage this month on driving safety with an emphasis on backing safety.
- 3) Weekly meetings are ongoing.
- 4) The Superintendent will be attended the IACHES (Indiana Association of County Highway Engineers and Supervisors) in Indianapolis on June 1st. During the conference He was presented the Purdue/LTAP Road Builder award/designation for completing the first part of their Road Scholar program. All of our employees are enrolled in this program and many are on their way to the same designation. When one of the drivers completes the program they will be the first non-supervisor to be awarded the award in the state. Only 60 of the over 500 counties and municipalities covered by LTAP have had a highway/street employee achieve this status. Our goal is to have all our employees complete this program thus continuing our effort to train our employees as well as possible. The good thing about the road builder designation is that it awards as many points for experience as it does for class work.

The 12 required courses and other requirements for Road Builder and Master Road Builder status are:

- Supervision and Highway Organization / Powers and Duties
- Liability and Risk Management
- Highway Funding
- Purchasing and Public Construction
- Roadway Safety
- Basics of a Good Road
- Temporary Traffic Control
- MUTCD
- Bridges Basics
- Drainage
- Road and Bridge Plan Reading
- Estimating Construction Cost and Quantities

1. All other LTAP training events will be considered electives and will be given credit according to the number of hours of training provided (half day workshops will typically be worth 3 hours, full days - typically worth 6 hours). To receive credit for attendance you must attend the entire course. You must check in at registration and receive the certificate presented at the end of the course.
2. Multiple day events will have event total credits. (*I.E. County Bridge Conference Day1 = 6 Credit Hours & Day2 = 6 Credit Hours Event Total = 12 Credit Hours.*)