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Weekly Report to Commissioners

Community Concerns

Culvert Installation/Replacement Requests:

- Marble Road .25 mile east of 30 Road, a 24"x 40' culvert under the road needs to be replaced.
- Elm Road .25 mile east of US81 on the south side; a driveway needs expanded to the west to accommodate two property owners. It may not require a culvert. *Completed*
- 2329 Hickory; a second driveway is requested that will require an 18"x 40' culvert. The property owner will pay for the materials. *Completed*
- Valley Road .3 mile east of Talmo Lane on the north side; a 20ft driveway needs to be widened to 40ft.
- Jade Road .3 mile west of 300 Road on the west side; a driveway needs improved with a 30' x 18" culvert.

Other Concerns:



Chevron curve hazard markers are being installed at 90 & Limestone Trail Roads south of Scandia (left) to match markers at Limestone Trail and 100 Roads (right) as viewed by northbound traffic from Norway.



- Norway Lane: drainage improvements are needed. *Should begin within 2 weeks.*
- 30 Road .5 mile north of Elm Road on the west side; skewed driveway for grain bins is the low spot in a very shallow watershed. The property owner is seeking improvements that may include ditch cleaning or a lift on the road or driveway, or a culvert.
- Rock Road between 30 & 50 Roads; a regrade, ditch cleaning and improved gravel finish may be necessary.
- Queen Road east of 260 Road for the 1st quarter mile; trees and brush need to be cleared from the right-of-way on both sides of the road.

High Banks Wind Energy Project activities

The County has assumed maintenance on all project roads. The Developer's improvements within the County Right-of-Ways are substantially complete. An Engineer has completed an inspection of all roads and structures in the project. Punch lists, noting deficiencies have been compiled by the Engineer for Motor Grader Districts 4,5,9 & 10. A post construction meeting with the Developer is scheduled for March 26 to consider the County's expectations and a schedule for completion.

While no formal communication has occurred, contractors for the developer have de-mobilized with the intent of returning during late spring or summer when scopes of work for post construction needs are clearly defined and weather for reclamation and road repairs are more predictable.

Department Reports on Non-Routine Activities

Roads and Bridges

- A re-grade of Rock Road between 90 and 100 roads is substantially complete.
- The Annual Noxious Weed Eradication Progress Report and 2024 Management Plan have been completed for consideration by the Commission before Submission to the State Department of Agriculture.
- A Line Agreement with JBN Telephone has been prepared for consideration by the Commission.
- An Equipment Capital Plan for this year is being developed to consider replacing 2 mowing tractors, 1 plow truck, a semi tractor for the low boy and a road groomer. These purchases will be within the new equipment budget allowance. For a projection of future needs, the equipment look-up table values are being updated with current replacement costs and purchasing strategies for the most meaningful plan possible.

PENDING ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Bridge and Culverts Division Project List (in order of priority)

1. 50 Road 1.4 miles south of KS148; a 24" Concrete tile culvert is separating under the shoulder of the road and needs to be replaced. *This repair will require some asphalt and may be postponed for few more months.*

Roads and Driveways Division Project List (in order of priority)

1. Gravel is requested for a half mile of Diamond Road west of 310 Road. *This work will be performed with reclaimed material from the wind farm project when it becomes available soon.*
2. Residents north of Fir Road on Republic Lane are requesting improvement of the road base with larger gravel or rock. The fine sand common to the area becomes tracked up easily when it is wet.
3. 210 Road south of Nickel; .1 mile is graveled from Nickel to a residence and .6 mile is graveled from US 36 north. A resident is requesting that the remaining .3 mile be graveled for direct access to Nickel where a number of residents live.
4. 100 Road .28 mile south of Timber Road on the west side; a 30" squash crossroad pipe has been cleaned out transferring runoff from acreage on the east side to a shallow ditch on the west side that cannot get through a plugged culvert several hundred feet to the south. The farmer believes most of the runoff could stay on the west side with some ditch cleaning. *investigating*

5. Queen Road, west of 20 Road, tree removal, ditch cleaning and driveway upgrades needed for the first .5 mile. *40 ft driveway installed; some ditch cleaning still needed.*
6. 30 Road improvements to restore the crown in the roadway between Highway 36 and Fir Road. *4 miles have been completed.*
7. Fir Road, east of residence at 2641, ditch work needed to re-route drainage out of field and a damaged culvert replaced.
8. 30 Road south of Bridge 3-D.7 and north of Elm Road, ditch cleaning is needed and a road lift.
9. *70 Road south of US 36 Highway is being prepared to receive recycled asphalt paving. Earthwork is regraded and a dust control agent has been applied. A schedule and cost sharing plan for Paving will be prepared by the Highway Administrator for the Commission and Property Owners to consider.*
10. Cut and patch 4-6ft of Concrete at 170 Road near residence 1549 (Primary Road; Currently 23x23 & 10x23 inch potholes where previous asphalt patch has failed). *A hot asphalt patch is being tested at this location.*

Upcoming Events

1. A kick-off meeting for the Cartograph Asset Management software will be held on Monday the 25th.
2. A Meeting with NextEra on a Project Completion Schedule will be held on the 26th of March.
3. The Highway Administrator, a Road Supervisor and a level III Equipment Operator will travel to Ellsworth on the 27th of March to inspect recycled paving processes to consider applications in Republic County.
4. Asphalt Emulsifiers will be available for sale after April 1, so hot asphalt patching can begin.
5. U.S. Senator Roger Marshall, M.D. announced \$1,520,000 in grant funding to the North Central Regional Planning Commission from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program.
 - a. *The Highway Administrator is communicating with the North Central Region Planning Commission (NCRPC) about what this means for Republic County. Representatives for the NCRPC do not know yet but hope to bring all the member counties together within the next 60-90 days to consider next steps.*
6. Special Projects in the works or being considered by the Highway Administrator
 - a. Asphalt paving options.
7. Vacations of Right-of-Ways are proposed for 3 road spurs adjacent to Highway 81 that were abandoned after improvements to the Highway many years ago.