



Ken Robbins  
Highway Administrator

702 K St.  
Belleville, KS 66935

Phone: (785) 527-2235

Fax: (785) 527-5335

## Weekly Report to Commissioners

### Community Concerns

#### Culvert Installation/Replacement Requests:

- 190 Road .5 mile north of Lincoln Road; a 48” culvert under the road is rusted out and needs to be replaced.
- Valley Road .1 mile east of 130 Road on the north side; a broken concrete tile culvert needs replaced with a new steel culvert. Other drainage concerns may need to be addressed. *This will be completed after wheat harvest.*
- Valley Road .5 mile west of 130 Road; a culvert is needed under the road. *Investigating*
- 20 Road .25 mile north of Nickel Road, east side; a field access culvert needs cleared or replaced. *Investigating*

#### Bridge Concerns:

- Bridge X-11.9 had planks lifted off the bridge by water and debris when the area received 5” of rain recently. The bridge has a very low profile and we have decided to remove it and replace it with 2 large diameter culverts.

#### Other Concerns:

- Granite Road east of 10 Road ½ mile on the north and south sides of the Road; tree removal is needed before harvest. *Completed*
- A half section east of 100 Road between Shady and Timber Roads is being improved and the Farmer has requested that we clear our right-of-way of brush and trees after they clear the fence. *90% Completed; we will return within a few weeks now that we have permission to drop some trees on the fence if necessary.*
- 120 Road 0-.3 mile north of US148, a new home is being built and the road needs gravel. *Investigating*
- The owners of Premium Feeders and Nesika Energy are requesting improvements to 70 Road south of US 36 Highway for dust control.
  - a. Engineering Firm BG Consultants is preparing options and rough order of magnitude estimates for improving dust control on this road. A geotechnical study will be conducted by Consultant Terracon to specify a paving thickness based on soil strengths for one or more of the alternatives. This will allow the engineer to provide a more accurate estimate.*
- 30 Road south of Bridge 3-D.7 and north of Elm Road, ditch cleaning is needed and a road lift.
  - a. Investigating*

# Department Reports on Non-Routine Activities

## Roads and Bridges

- The Corps of Engineers has advertised “Proposed Adverse effects to an Eligible Historic Bridge” that we intend to replace near Talmo. We have also advertised for parties interested in adaptive re-use of the existing structure. The solicitation period ends on July 9, 2022.
- 20 road improvements north of Courtland softened quite a bit with the last rain. It had virtually no traffic on it before the rain. The thick gravel surface also retained a lot of water. A sheep’s foot was mobilized to push some of the gravel into the subgrade and compact the driving surface.
- An offer was accepted on a 2016 road construction broom for \$35,000. This will replace a 20-year-old broom that was totaled 9 years ago but has continued to be used. The replacement broom has less than 500 hours on it and was listed at \$42,000; less than half the price of a new one but with 80% of its useful life remaining. The old broom, while not road worthy may have some salvage value or could be used in a small community or project where mobilizing distances under its own power is not an essential task, as it is for the county.
- With the adoption of an Equipment Capital Plan, research is beginning for a Facilities Capital Plan. The shop, our most important facility asset, is a 4,536 sq ft building that has changed very little since it was constructed in 1929 and used by the railroad to treat wood with creosote. It is heated with used oil, ventilated with doors and windows. The floor is too rough to roll carts or mechanic creepers on. Replacement or upgrade options are being studied and will be presented as soon as possible.



## Transportation

- The Transportation Department is evaluating our operating strategy considering increased ridership and risk of service interruptions if we cannot retain part-time employees.
  - Demand has increased. It’s rare when we have to say no, but it is more common now that some negotiation occurs when a resident asks for a ride to fit them into a schedule within 24 hours.
  - We want to be more responsive to our smaller communities. The wait time to fit into a schedule often discourages residents of our outlying communities from calling.
  - Part-time employment is not enough to retain our current staffing levels and if we lose even one, we will have service interruptions.
  - We have two buses.

It is possible to increase at least one position to full time in the middle of a fiscal year due to the level of grant funding we receive for direct labor, however expenses for benefits will impact a non-department budget and we are requesting assistance to determine if this is affordable.

- PENDING ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

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

1. Oak Road west of 20 Road beginning at the Railroad crossing; waterway on the north side is eroding the base of the road and then meanders out of the right-of-way eroding a field. *Improvements need to be made before irrigation begins or it will have to wait until after harvest.*
2. Rock Road, ¼ mile west of 290 Road. A wood box culvert needs to be replaced. *A review of this watershed suggests a 5ft x 40ft culvert can replace the wood box. This pipe has been ordered.*
  - a. Corner post for fence damaged by grader needs replaced when equipment is mobilized for this project.
3. **130 Road 1/10-mile north of Elm Road.** Erosion has undermined a box culvert abutment and some repairs are necessary before it can be backfilled. Adjacent property owner believes a double box is needed here or several large culverts. *We are proceeding first with watershed improvements downstream to help this area drain faster; a larger structure may not be needed in this location.*
4. 120 Road .3 mile south of Granite Road, replace wood box culvert with a 48” x 40ft culvert this summer.
5. Nickel Road at 30 Road on the west side of the intersection; a concrete box culvert is collapsing below the road surface. This will be replaced with a low profile “squash pipe.”
6. Diamond Road, .34 mile east of 190 Road, a concrete box culvert needs to be replaced with a culvert. A 36” culvert has been ordered for this.
  - a. A road lift and possible culvert reconfiguration are also requested near the intersection of Diamond and 190 roads to keep storm drainage off the road.
7. Elm Road ¼ mile east of 130 Road, culvert had a hole in the top. *Culvert has been repaired and a 10.5ft half pipe with a floor and headwalls is being installed this week.*
8. Xavier Road, just west of residence 1090 has a culvert under the road that is filled with earth and needs replaced.
9. 40 Road ½ mile south of Fir, a watershed is growing out of our right-of-way.
  - a. *A retention pond will be constructed within the right-of-way on the east side of 40 Road north of the box culvert with an overflow descending to riprap in the creek bottom about 18 feet below.*
10. 220 Road, between Marble and Nickel roads, pavement cut needed to excavate and replace culvert, then patch and repair pavement. *(Culvert beneath blacktop collapsing).*
11. 30 Road 5/10-mile North of US-36, a Concrete Box Culvert has lost 2 of 4 wingwalls at the abutments and requires frequent maintenance to keep the road surface from eroding into the watershed.
  - a. *This will be replaced with a culvert when 30 road is ripped, and the shoulders pulled this spring.*

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

1. Queen Road, west of 20 Road, tree removal, ditch cleaning and driveway upgrades needed for the first ½ mile. **40% Complete**
2. 30 Road improvements to restore the crown in the roadway between Highway 36 and Fir Road. *The project will start at US-HWY-36 and progress north and will take up to a year to complete.*
3. Fir Road, east of Residence at 2641, Ditch work needed to re-route drainage out of field and a damaged culvert replaced.

4. Elm Road ¼ mile east of 180 Road; *mulching of overgrowth on the south side of the road is **completed**; ditch cleaning will be performed, and rip rap will be installed to minimize scour at the inlet and outfall of the culvert under the road.*
5. Shady Road ¼ mile east of 20 Road, north side, 30ft field access driveway needed south of pivot riser.
6. 30 Road ½ mile north of Shady Road, west side, 20ft field access driveway needs widened to 30 or 40ft however, a fiber cable marker might need to be moved.
7. Nickel Road ½ mile east of 110 Road, needs a culvert repaired or replaced, water is flowing over the road and damaged portions of the road are closed with Barricades. *Operator has reported that some ditch cleaning may restore drainage without replacing the culvert, this will be attempted first.*
8. Hickory Road, 1/10 mile east of 90 Road on the north side; new 30ft field access driveway requested.
9. A farmer is requesting field access improvements.
  - a. A quarter section southeast of Jade and 150 Roads has had field access challenges after ditch cleaning. A 40ft dry plug can be installed approximately .45 mile east of 150 Road on the south side of Jade Road; and another 40ft dry plug can be installed on the east side of 150 Road, approximately .3 miles south of Jade Road. **Completed**
  - b. Two existing field access driveways need to be widened on the north side of Hickory Road, .5 mile, and .2 mile west of 150 Road. **Completed**
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).*

## Upcoming Events

- A Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Bridge Investment Program was published on June 10, 2022. The program will accept Bridge Project Grant Applications until September 8, 2022. Many of the County's bridges are being inspected this month and that information is critical in determining our needs. We will create a shortlist of candidates for our application for funding consideration in August.
- An Agreement with the State to replace Bridge X-27.2, 2 miles south of Agenda is being presented for Approval by the Commission.
- 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.