



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:

- Diamond Road near Farm Residence 175, requesting extension or redirection of a large diameter culvert.
 - *A second site visit has been conducted with the Road Supervisor and a project has been properly scoped for completion after harvest this year. We will collaborate with the farmer to determine the best location for borrow and spoils and let him recover topsoil if he has the resources. This concern will be moved to the "Pending Actions" section of this report next week.*
- 270 Road between Cedar and Diamond Roads, farm access culvert requested.
 - **Completed**
- Oak Road between 50 and 60 Roads, (2) Farm access culverts requested.
 - Investigating
- Penn Road between 120 and 130 Roads. A culvert under the road is showing signs of deterioration and is affecting the road surface near the intake and outfall areas.
 - Investigating
- 1702 Marble Road, requesting culvert replacement.
 - *What appears to be a driveway is instead a short county road from Marble to a residence. The road has fallen into a severe state of disrepair. This situation was created nearly 30 years ago because of a State Project which rerouted a county road through an intersection with a state road.*
 - *Improvements will be made as soon as practical; however, this may be a situation where the road and adjacent property could be deeded to the owner of the residence it serves to avoid this situation in the future.*
- 150 Road, 30 feet South of Ash Road, culvert requested.
 - Investigating
- Marble Road, 50 yards east of 230 Road, culvert requested.
 - Investigating

Other Drainage Issues:

- 40 Road ½ mile south of Fir, a resident has drainage concerns about a watershed growing out of our right-of-way and concerns about excessive erosion near the abutment of a nearby bridge.
 - *A second site visit has been conducted with the Road Supervisor and the project has been properly scoped. Two projects will be created and moved to the "Pending Actions" section of this report next week:*

- *Rip rap fill material will be placed at the southeast abutment of the box culvert as soon as practical.*
 - *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. This large project will be performed next year.*
- Rock Road between 10 & 20 Roads, a resident has concerns about a right-of way that has been farmed in the past, filling in the ditch and causing irrigation water to flood the road surface. Storm drainage also crosses the road at this location.
 - *A second site visit has been performed with the Road Supervisor and a scope of work has been developed for this project. Ditch cleaning and a culvert will be replaced in addition to a road lift, however this will need to wait until after irrigation season is over. This concern will be moved to the “Pending Actions” section of this report next week.*
- Queen Road, intersecting watershed just west of the National Bohemian Cemetery.
 - *Water flows over the road which can likely be solved with ditch and culvert clearing.*
- Ash Road between 110 and 120 Roads near Bridge A-11.4, ditch cleaning
 - Recent heavy rains have filled the watershed with debris which needs to be cleared before it firmly lodges under the bridge. Area Farmers often take care of this; however, a track hoe is needed this time.

Signs or Obstruction Concerns:

- Road closure signs on each side of Bridge T-22.7 on Timber Road between 220 and 230 Roads have been vandalized.
 - *Signs and barricades have been put back up.*

Department Reports on Non-Routine Activities

Roads and Bridges

- Pothole repair on Fir Road continued for a day for a very challenging mile that required several hundred tons of cold mix. 11 miles have been completed and we demobilized some equipment to give immediate attention to Cuba and the Fairgrounds near Belleville in order to get those communities ready for a Harvest Festival and the County Fair. We will remobilize to complete this project next week.
- Cuba received some greatly appreciated assistance from the County to prepare for their Harvest Festival. More Cold mix was used than anticipated, however it was essential to use enough so that it was not wasted. The work was performed very efficiently in a single day with a crew managed by Bobby Lawson. The Highway Administrator will meet with the City and propose a sealing project with a financial contribution from the City that will further protect areas improved, for as long as possible.





- Accessibility improvements are being made from the promenade at the Republic County Fairgrounds to a popular concession stand.

This will improve access for residents with disabilities and reduce a tripping/falling hazard that existed with a crushed walk path.

Reinforcing steel will be installed and concrete poured on Monday July 19, weather permitting, while improvements are being made to other areas with cold patch asphalt.



- **5 inches of Rain fell on irrigated corn and county roads between Scandia and the Nebraska State Line Thursday night, causing significant damage in some areas.**
 - Road Supervisor Nathan Craig with Grader Operator Danny Davis responded to community concerns on Friday which would normally have been their day off. Improvements were made where conditions allowed.
- PENDING ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS (in order of priority)
 1. Granite Road, between 70 & 80 Roads; Ditch Cleaning. **Scoping encountered greater watershed impacts than anticipated, meeting with Landowners and locating utilities.**
 2. 150 Road, North of Marble Road needs to be built up over the first culvert. (*Collector Road; water flows over the road*).
 3. Queen Road, ¼ mile West of 210 Road, farm access culvert installation needed.

4. 100 Road, south of the intersection with Highway 36 will be widened about 10 feet for 200 ft to improve tractor trailer access to a new business. Ditch Cleaning on Oak west of 100 Road will also be performed and gravel added to both 100 and Oak Roads.
5. Republic County Historical Museum drainage swale and small diameter culvert will be installed between parking lot and driveway to outdoor exhibits.
6. Republic County Historical Museum 6.5 x 9 ft x 6" slab of concrete (5,000 lbs.) will be relocated from a fuel station on the property to the site of a historic jail cage, leveled and cage lowered on top of it.
7. Hickory Road between 280 and 290 Roads, Farm/Residence access culvert requested. *An old 20 ft Culvert will be replaced with a new 30 ft culvert.*
8. 220 Road, between Marble and Nickle Roads, pavement cut needed to excavate and replace culvert, then patch and repair pavement. *(Culvert beneath blacktop collapsing).*
9. Cut and patch 4-6 ft of Concrete at 170 Road near residence 1549 *(Primary Road; Currently 23x23 & 10x23 inch potholes where previous asphalt patch has failed however potholes are shallow and should be scheduled with other pothole repairs).*
10. Fir Road, east of Residence at 2641, Ditch work needed to re-route drainage out of field and a damaged culvert replaced.
11. King Road, East of bridge K-7.2, Ditch Cleaning needed, *(Service Road).*
12. Marsh Trail and 20 Road South, ditch cleaning. **Some immediate concerns have been addressed; the larger part of this project will be completed this fall.** *(Collector Road; Needed after fire response filled shallow ditches with debris).*

Upcoming Events

- **A Contract has been awarded to Hall Bros. as the result of a competitive process for the Courtland to Highway 148 Overlay Project.**
 - A Change Order to include additional milling and overlay work that the City of Courtland has requested will be negotiated. We are waiting for a proposal from the Contractor.
 - The Engineer has noted that a substantial pothole south of the railway crossing needs to be properly excavated, filled, compacted, and patched before the overlay work can begin. The County and the City will work together on this.
 - The Highway Administrator has communicated with the Railways in the area and although we do not have a schedule for construction yet, we do have a commitment from the Railways to increase communication about train schedules during the period of construction that should aid in public notifications and flagging.
- Bidding and Construction of Off System Bridge K-7.2
 - State Department of Transportation Cost Sharing Agreement 144-21 has been approved and we are waiting for the State to solicit bids for the project.
- An invitation has been received from the Kansas Department of Transportation calling for Off-System Bridge Program Projects which will be considered for 2023 funding.
 - An application is being prepared for Bridge X-19.1; the Salt Creek Crossing on Xavier south of Talmo. Proposals must be submitted by July 30, 2021.