



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:

- 180 Road, 1/8 mile north of Timber Road on the east side; Driveway improvements are requested.
 - *Investigating*
- A farmer is requesting field access improvements.
 - 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. *Investigating*
 - 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. *Investigating*
- Diamond Road, ¼ mile east of 160 Road on the north side; a 20ft field access driveway needs to be upgraded to 18" x 40ft.
- 20 Road .25 mile north of Nickel Road, east side; a field access culvert needs cleared or replaced. *Investigating*
- 20 Road .75 mile north of Diamond Road, west side; a 24" field access culvert needs cleared or replaced. Ditch cleaning is also needed. *Investigating*

Other Concerns:

- 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.
- 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.*
- 30 Road south of Bridge 3-D.7 and north of Elm Road, ditch cleaning is needed and a road lift.
 - a. *Investigating*
- Diamond Road, 1/8 mile east of 110 Road; Right-of-way clearing of overhanging branches is requested. *40% complete; owner's representative has decided to remove the fence to enable trees bordering the right-of-way to be removed.*

High Banks Wind Energy Project Concerns

- A draft of the Road Use Agreement has been updated with prior comments and suggestions incorporated. It is ready for further review and consideration for approval.

This review does not constitute any form of approval and we are looking forward to a formal submittal of larger scale documents and development details if the project is authorized to proceed.

Department Reports on Non-Routine Activities

Roads and Bridges

- 2-3 inches of rain fell on the county which was the best possible scenario for anyone who has planted this year; but the worst possible scenario for our gravel roads because there was very little runoff. The gravel on the roads that was not worked into the surface held a lot of water and softened the soil prism below. Many requests for additional gravel were delivered where it was firm enough that heavy equipment would not further damage the road surface. It reminded us how important our paved roads are and that we need to invest in them while they are sound enough to be overlaid. It also led to discussions about how to improve the roads that were once paved but returned to gravel. These wide roads are not wearing well with just gravel. We will reshape 30 between US36 and Fir Road this year for a more pronounced crown which will require pulling material from the shoulders and narrowing the road. A longer-term solution may be larger rock that drains more effectively; this would be more expensive, and it may take 10 years or more to transition some of the higher traffic roads to a more durable surface. Currently we are spending nearly ½ Million on gravel and more gravel may not be enough. Residents were very polite when they expressed their concerns this week; some areas will simply have to dry out a bit before conditions can be improved.
- A 6-year Capital Plan for equipment has been prepared. Some of the highlights are:
 - The County maintains and operates 10.2 million in equipment assets
 - The Capital Plan organizes and compares the estimated useful life of 115 pieces of equipment, valued over 10k each to the date it was put into service.
 - There are 79 light and heavy rolling stock (everything with tires or tracks and an engine)

Equip. Classifications & Quantities			
BUS	2	LATTICE CRANE	1
PICKUP	27	DUMPTRUCK	5
HEAVYTRUCK	10	DOZER	1
LOADER	4	TRACK LOADER	1
EXCAVATOR	3	SKID LOADER	1
GRADER	13	LT SKID LOADER	1
TRACTOR	4	SCRAPER	1
BROOM	1	BACKHOE	2
		ROLLER	2

- 26 pieces of Equipment being operated beyond their estimated useful life.
- There are 1.9 million in capital needs estimated over the next 6 years.
- 330k should be budgeted each year for equipment replacement or upgrades.

To maintain the County’s equipment within this budget, the Plan recommends:

- Right-sizing fleet to limit light duty vehicles to 25; graders from 13 to 12 (10+2 spares)
- Budget Replacements in many cases with “like new” or “used” with low hrs. instead of new.
- Defer 400k in 2022 capital needs and allocate that over 10 years to improve fleet condition overall, over time.

Solid Waste

- Republic is planning a clean-up program for their community with the County scheduled to pick up waste on June 6.
- PENDING ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

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

1. 150 Road 3-5 tenths of a mile south of Elm Road. Road lift needed and possibly another culvert under the road near the half-mile mark. Trees need to be cleared on the east side of 150 Road. *Trees have been cleared, drainage improvements and road lift will continue as conditions allow.*
2. 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.*
3. 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. Karl Baxa (785) 275-2383
4. **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.
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 has been ordered from the Railroad Yard.*
8. Xavier Road, just west of residence 1090 has a culvert under the road that is filled with earth and needs replaced.
9. Queen Road, 2/10 of mile east of 70 Road, a culvert under the road needs to be widened to accommodate trucks passing each other; the owner would like to fill in the ditch on the north side and use a drop inlet to move surface drainage 70ft onto their property to accommodate a frontage road just outside the right-of-way. *Completed, however the recent rain has penetrated the road lift and this project will remain on the list until improvements are made.*
10. 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.*
11. 220 Road, between Marble and Nickel roads, pavement cut needed to excavate and replace culvert, then patch and repair pavement. *(Culvert beneath blacktop collapsing).*
12. Oak, .2 miles east of 30 Road on the north side; a 20 ft large diameter field access culvert is collapsing and needs to be replaced.
13. 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. 20 Road south of US Hwy-36 to Queen Road (1 mile) is being upgraded to an all-weather road.
 - a. 20 Road, 4/10-mile North of Queen Road; a culvert under the road is exposed and has been damaged by a grader. **Completed, Road lift and gravel work will continue as conditions allow.**
 - b. 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 the culvert under the road will be inspected more closely.*
5. Xavier Road, 1/8 mile east of 180 Road on the north side needs a 20ft deteriorated field access culvert replaced with a 40ft culvert, **owner will pay for the additional 10 ft of material.**
6. Shady Road ¼ mile east of 20 Road, north side, 30ft field access driveway needed south of pivot riser.
7. 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.
8. 110 and Cedar, 1/8 Mile west, 24” crossroad culvert exposed and damaged, needs to be replaced with an 18” x 40’ Culvert
9. 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.
10. 290 Road, .26 mile south of Cedar Road; extend 18” x 20ft Field access driveway culvert to 40ft.
11. 300 Road, .3 mile north of Fir; improve field access dry plug to 40ft width.
12. Granite Road .4 mile east of 90 Road on the north side; crushed 20ft culvert needs replaced with new 18” x 30ft culvert
13. Granite Road, 1.6 miles east of 90 Road on the south side; new 30ft field access driveway requested.
14. Hickory Road, 1/10 mile east of 90 Road on the north side; new 30ft field access driveway requested.
15. 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

- 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.