



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:

- 250 Road 200' north of K148; a concrete tile culvert under the road has come apart and will be replaced with a 48" x 40' CMP culvert.
- 30 Road .3 mile north of US36 Highway; a new 30 ft driveway is requested, (18" x 30' CMP)
- 30 Road .4 mile north of US36 Highway; a new 40 ft driveway is requested, (18" x 30' CMP)
- Birch Road .25 mile west of 100 Road on the south side; a driveway needs improved that will include the installation of a 18" x 40' culvert.

#### Other Concerns:

- 20 Road just north of Oak Road on the east side; material from the back slope of a ditch was borrowed to lift the road during a culvert replacement. There is now a concern that runoff will top the backslope and enter the field, causing erosion. *An investigation has confirmed this, and it will be corrected.*
- Shady Road west of 30 Road, concerns have been expressed about a driveway from an irrigation canal right of way draining onto the road and what improvement the property owner and the County to make to improve the situation.
- 20 Road between Queen and Rock Road, improvements are needed. Water is ponding on the road.

## Department Reports on Non-Routine Activities

#### Roads and Bridges

- As reported last week: *Our Shop Foreman has been considering various diagnostic applications for our equipment and had not found anything that could handle all the different makes and models of equipment we operate until now. Diesellaptops.com now has a computer program that will work on all our equipment. This software offers us multi-brand coverage that will perform 99.9% of the commands that the OEM software can do without the requirement to purchase a renewal each year. The hardware, software, adapters and cables will cost us about \$11,000, but will likely pay for itself in the first year.*

- Asphalt patching continues on 50, 180 and 290 Roads south of KS-148.
- Inspection of the Recycled Asphalt Overlay south of Scandia has revealed a small patch in the southern ¼ mile of the project that needs to be repaired. The existing asphalt must have been weak or spanning a softer substrate; this will be excavated and repaired before sealing this fall.
- Sealing aggregate from the Weeping Water Quarry in Nebraska will be hauled for the chip seal of the overlay south of Scandia over the next few weeks. The only other 3/8" chipped rock available was from a Quarry near Great Bend at about 12% more in cost and a few miles further.
- Recycled Asphalt Paving will be tested for 1/10 of a mile on 70 Road just south of the state right-of-way. We are tentatively planning installation on July 29 or August 5<sup>th</sup>. The logistics of material and equipment availability will be firmed up and communication with property owners will occur next week.
- 4 Motor Graders are out of service due to various mechanical issues. Currently, our operations are only minimally impacted. We have three spares and one operator covering two districts.
- Improvements to the first mile of Republic Lane north of Fir Road will begin July 15, weather permitting. The improvements will include fortification of the road base with rock and clay to improve its bearing strength and ability to shed water. We intend to continue north on this major collector after a successful demonstration of the improvements.

#### PENDING ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

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

1. Bridge H-29.5, Sheet Piling needs to be installed on the NW wing of the west abutment to mitigate damage caused by erosion. *Completed.*
2. Norway Lane: drainage improvements are needed.

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

1. Rock Road between 30 & 50 Roads; a regrade, ditch cleaning and improved gravel finish may be necessary.
2. Gravel is requested for a half mile of Diamond Road west of 310 Road. *Completed.*
3. 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.
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. Queen Road west of 230 road for .25 mile on the south side; the right-of-way needs to be cleared for a new fence.
7. Penn Road, east of Scandia on the south side; trees/brush need to be removed from the right-of-way.
8. 30 Road improvements to restore the crown in the roadway between Highway 36 and Fir Road. *4 miles have been completed.*

9. *70 Road south of US 36 Highway has been prepared to receive recycled asphalt paving. 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. 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.*
2. 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.