

ROAD REPORT

The Official Newsletter of the Sandusky County Engineer

No. 17

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FROM THE ENGINEER

Here's a few of things I have been involved with over the last two weeks:

ODOT has informed the Sandusky County TID that they are taking over the new Terra entrance/roundabout project. Not sure what prompted this action, but it makes sense since all the agencies involved are State agencies.

The Sandusky County Subcommittee met to award priority points for next year's projects. We are directly involved with two projects. The first is Brush, Tucker, Oakwood, Tiffin and Morrison. That could very well be our only paving project next year. Brush Street may be widened between Napoleon and State Street to make it safer for bicycle traffic. The Parks Department may be contributing to this expense. If it happens, there will be no more on street parking at Otis School. I have met with the school about alternatives. Everyone agrees that the current situation there is not good, and this will be an opportunity to make improvements.

The second project is the widening and paving of TR 220 between CR 213 and Route 20. This project will be funded by the OPWC, the Township, and the Commissioners since it leads to the County Airport. Although we won't be contributing any money, we will be doing the engineering and overseeing the construction.

The reason this may be the only paving next year is due to the disappointing quality of asphalt on recent projects. It doesn't hold up as well as it used to, and we have to find out why. It's a mystery since all the asphalt is tested and it meets all specifications. Carlos and I will be attending a seminar in Columbus at Flexible Pavements next week in hopes of learning more. Until we know more, I am not in favor of spending about \$100,000 a mile for additional paving.

At this month's Elected Officials meeting, it was announced that the County's (not ours) health insurance will be going up 7% next year. I haven't heard anything about ours.

ODOT has evidently decided not to re-bid salt. Instead, they are buying salt from a Fort Wayne, Indiana firm for \$105 a ton (plus shipping). They have scheduled a conference call on Tuesday to give us the official update. I am hoping we can avoid buying any of this salt, but two things must happen—we don't have another winter like last year's and we are very conservative with salt usage.

The construction season is winding down. Mainline paving has been completed on CR 41 and driveway approaches and intersections should be completed today. Gerken started early on their contract and TR 195, the streets around Clyde, and CR 175 have been completed. That leaves Limerick Road, which should be done next week. M & B plans on paving the TR 244 bridge on Monday. That only leaves the bridge on 41 for, hopefully, the following week.

With the exception of two employees, everyone should see this year's raises in today's paycheck. This gets more difficult every year due to stagnant income. I hope you appreciate it!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Tim Below	September 25 th
Andy Brough	September 27 th
Rich Randolph	September 30 th

FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

RY.226-0.52 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Things were going well on this bridge project. The north footer was poured the first week of September and the north wall was scheduled to be poured on September 11th. Well, Mother Nature decided to slow us down by giving us about 3 ½ inches of rain the night before the pour. This ended up delaying the pour for two days. This past Monday, we got the north wall poured. Since then, the wall has been stripped, ground, sealed and painted. Footer steel is tied and ready for the south footer. Monday morning we will be able to start the south footer. Nice job everyone!!

SC. 41-1.20 BEAM REPLACEMENT

This week we started prepping this bridge for new beams. The guardrail and posts were removed, asphalt was ground at the beam joints, and both approaches were dug out. Ohio Saw came in this week and cut the tie rod bars, the pins in the seats, and all four wing caps. Our excavator was moved to this project yesterday to separate the beams (for the rigging) for their removal. This morning, B&W Welding is scheduled to use their crane to remove the old beams. The old beams are being hauled to Willis Excavating where they will be recycled. On Monday morning, the new beams are scheduled to be set. Good job to everyone for getting this ready.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

- Mowing on the east side of the county was finished up. Tractors have been cleaned up and serviced. We will still have one more round to do this year.
- Dirt was hauled for Ditch Maintenance from Sugar Creek.
- Ed is out in the boom mower, off and on, mowing back banks.
- A bridge on CR 41 and TR 244 were waterproofed.
- Drives and mailboxes were shaved down on CR 41 for paving.
- Dirt was hauled and leveled to areas on CR 41 to back up some berms.
- Berming was done on CR 175, southwest of CR 312.
- Wash outs were bermed after the heavy rains.
- A catch basin was repaired in the parking lot of the Health Dept.
- Some guardrails were repaired around the county.
- The yard was mowed.
- Rumble strips were cut into the pavement on CR 41 at SR 590, CR 213 at SR 19, and CR 181 at SR 19.
- Just a reminder, our annual vehicle inspection is October 10th. Make sure to check over the vehicles.