



MEMORANDUM

**Highway
Department**

Jason Benson, P.E.
County Engineer

Thomas B. Soucy, P.E.
Deputy County Engineer

Blaine Laaveg
Superintendent

TO: Cass County Road Advisory Committee

FROM: Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer

DATE: November 9, 2022

SUBJECT: Road Advisory Committee Meeting
November 21, 2022, at 2:00 pm.

A Road Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled for Monday, November 21, 2022, at 2:00 pm in the Cass County Commission Room. The agenda is as follows:

Call to Order / Note Participants

Approval of Agenda

Minutes – July 18th, 2022

2:00 – 2:20 Update of 2022 & 2023 Construction Projects **Information**

2:20 – 2:40 2023-2027 Hwy & Bridge Plan **Action**

2:40 – 2:55 Update of Casselton Soybean Crushing Facility **Information**

2:55 – 3:00 Other Business

3:00 Adjourn

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**ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JULY 18, 2022 – 2:00 PM**

1. MEETING TO ORDER

Commissioner Mary Scherling called the meeting of the Road Advisory Committee to order at 2:00 PM on Monday, July 18, 2022 in the Commission Conference Room, Cass County Courthouse. Members present were as follows: Chad Peterson, Mary Scherling, Rick Steen, Duane Breitling, Jim Kapitan. Jason Benson, Scott Saewert, Blaine Laaveg, and via Microsoft Teams Bill Hejl. Also present were Tom Soucy, Robert Wilson and Kyle Litchy. Keith Monson was absent.

2. AGENDA, Order approved

MOTION, passed

Mr. Breitling moved and Mr. Kapitan seconded the order of the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

3. MINUTES APPROVED

MOTION, passed

Mr. Kapitan moved and Mr. Breitling seconded the minutes of the previous meeting held on March 21, 2022, be approved as written. Motion carried.

4. UPDATE ON 2022 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Mr. Soucy said the 2022 Construction Project updates include several box culverts. To date, one box culvert has been installed which is northeast of Gardner. The other two box culverts are just south and west of that area. Those box culverts are pending and will be completed later this summer by the Highway Department. The next box culvert installation is in the southwestern part of the county in Howes Township. The culverts installed by the Highway Department will complete a project in Lake Township. The County is working with the Water Resource District on a bridge project. A box culvert will be installed on County Road 9 southeast of Casselton.

Mr. Benson said some of the large box culverts cost approximately \$200-\$300K for a contractor to install plus \$70,000 for the culvert. It also costs \$10,000 to have a contractor come out and set the culvert. The remaining work can be done by the Highway Department.

Mr. Soucy said the bridge removal project on the Maple River will be completed by Industrial Builders when the ground is frozen. The 88th Avenue home and bridge buy out project should be completed in September. The bridge project on County Road 15 should start in about three weeks. The Highway Department is working with the Water Resource District, this project will help with the Diversion. Once the Department of Transportation (DOT) approves the project the bridge should open in September. The inspection and approval process with the DOT or a consulting firm must be completed before the reconstructed bridge can reopen. The Highway Department hopes to not have any excessive downtime between the project completion and the inspection and approvals.

Mr. Soucy said the shared use path on Interstate 94 up to the south end of Mapleton is a ten-foot-wide concrete path that Excavating Incorporated is installing and hoping that project will start next week.

Mr. Soucy said the Highway Department is paving a portion of 76th Avenue and 45th Street. They are working with Border States to complete the project. The City of Fargo will complete 64th Avenue. There was an article in The Forum regarding 64th Avenue and some of the road work being done. The City of Fargo will be completing their paving on 40th Street from 52nd Avenue to 64th Avenue to the new overpass on the east side of the interstate. This will improve traffic on County Road 17 and will alleviate some traffic, as this is our highest traffic route with between five and six thousand vehicles per day. Ms. Scherling asked when the completion date would be for the 76th Avenue and 45th Street project. Mr. Benson said by the end of this construction season. Mr. Benson said some of the 32nd Avenue road work is being put on hold, which will allow funding for 45th Street to be completed this year.

Mr. Soucy said the County Road 9 project from Interstate 94 to Durbin is in process. The Highway Department is currently having some supply issues and are trying to keep this project on task to get the pavement placed. When more information becomes available regarding the supply issues, it will be brought to the County Commission.

Mr. Soucy said the 2022 chip seal projects will hopefully begin in August. Mr. Benson said these chip seal projects are about a three-week process to complete.

5. PROPOSED 2023 CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Benson gave an update on proposed 2023 construction projects. The 2023 budget was submitted last week and will be discussed at the Budget Hearings next week. The county will focus on several box culverts next year with about half of those being constructed internally and the larger ones will be contracted out. There have been some challenges this year getting box culverts in a timely manner. The culverts were bid in February and aren't going to be delivered until September. Mr. Benson said, I just want to make sure the boxes are received in time for next years projects. The culverts will not be billed until received, however the County would have a contract with the supplier and give us a guarantee to get the product installed next summer. There is a bridge on Cass County 22 by Prosper that has some road restrictions that will cause some challenges with that bridge, it will be replaced next year. The rest of the bridge and critical road work are in Horace, West Fargo, and Fargo. County Road 6 will be turned over to Fargo. Mr. Benson said the bridge on the Sheyenne River will be replaced and the roundabout will be upgraded. This will look very similar to the roundabout on 52nd Avenue. The Highway Department will be replacing the bridge on County Road 17 and that will be contracted out for completion. The Highway Department will be completing a roundabout on 64th Avenue.

Ms. Scherling asked when the County will turnover County Road 17 to the City of Horace. Mr. Benson said the turnover will happen once Horace hits a population of 5,000 and are able to work with Metrocog, just like Fargo and West Fargo currently do. This will be a two-year process and should happen sometime between 2025 to 2030.

MOTION, passed

Mr. Kapitan moved and Mr. Breitling seconded that the proposed 2023 Construction projects be approved. Motion carried

6. 2023-2027 HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE PLAN

Mr. Benson said the five-year Highway Bridge Plan will continue with Prairie Dogs Funds and this will allow the Highway Department to continue with planned projects. The Prairie Dog funds will be received next year and will carry over about \$3 million into the years of 2025 and 2027.

Mr. Kapitan asked if any Prairie Dog Funds have been received. Mr. Benson said no funds were received in 2020 and 2021. However, \$3 million in Prairie Dog Funds were received in 2022 and some will be carried over for next year's projects.

Mr. Benson said the Davenport resurfacing project is scheduled for 2025. The Highway Department will be back in the black by 2025 for federal aid funding that will include some reconstruction projects and asphalt overlays.

7. CASS 81 SLIDE REPAIR

Mr. Benson said the slide repair on County Road 81 between Fargo and Oxbow has approximately a daily traffic count of 1,400 and a significant amount of traffic from the detour on Interstate 29. The estimated cost for this project is \$1.5 million with a request of 50% or \$750K. The two options available for the project include: Option #1 grading and rip rap for \$841,920 and Option #2 would have Structural Steel Walls for \$2,876,004.

8. CASS 23 SOUTH – GRAND FARM

Mr. Benson said the Grand Farm project in Everest Township is approximately 0.3 miles south of Interstate 94, the interchange would potentially be a county highway and need grading improvements initially with a paving option a few years later.

9. CASS 22 6/7 RAYMOND TOWNSHIP – BRIDGE

Mr. Benson said the Raymond Township Bridge was built in 1954 The new bridge replacement will need steel beams, concrete abutments, piers and wooden piling. The latest inspection recommends a 19-ton posting. The 2020 inspection bridge rating was 64.20 and not posted. The project would impact two businesses, which include the Prosper Elevator and Peterson Seed Farms. The Highway Department has no options for rehabilitation and the project is currently included in the 2023 budget for bridge replacement.

10. FEDERAL BRIDGE SUBMITTED FOR HIGHWAY BILL IJA FUNDING

Mr. Benson said if the Federal Bridge Funds are received, it would be for \$10 million in submission, this would include the Georgetown bridge project and the shared amount would be \$1 million for three to five years.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Benson said County Road 4 by Mapleton is in need of new speed limit signs for the increased speed from 55 miles per hour to 65 miles per hour.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION, passed

On motion by Mr. Breitling, seconded by Mr. Kapitan and all-in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 3:12 PM.