



Secondary Road Department
Darren R. Moon, P.E. County Engineer

Road Department
Quarterly Board Report
1-06-2026

Maintenance Work Update:

The winter snow plowing season started early this year. Our crews started plowing snow during the weekend after Thanksgiving and did not get a day off for nearly three weeks as it snowed three weekends in a row. The plowing also included our motor graders on gravel roads, something that has been rarely needed on weekends over the past three years. We still have plenty of salt on hand but we are still looking for a salt supplier for later in the season since we did not receive any salt bids this year. The DOT has agreed to help us out if needed.

Construction Project Updates:

8 projects in 2026:

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Status</u>
150 th St. Skunk River Bridge (2025)	\$ 1,233,758 – FA	Open this week!
S14 Asphalt Overlay	\$ 2,380,000 - FM	Jan. DOT Let
E29 Asphalt Overlay	\$ 2,100,000	Jan. DOT Let
Nevada 2 Bridge 220 th St.	\$ 643,663 - FA	Let
Lincoln 25 Bridge	\$ 100,000	Feb. Let
Collins 20 Bridge	\$ 175,000	Feb. Let
Milford 22 Bridge	\$ 140,000	Feb. Let
Union 28 Culvert	\$ 90,000	Feb. Let
Indian Creek 36 Bridge	\$ 220,000	Feb. Let

Construction Project Design:

- Design work continues on the Howard 11 Bridge on 115th St. We anticipate getting a federal grant to fund this project but we are still waiting on that award.
- We are working with the City of Ames on a preliminary roundabout design at Cameron School Rd and GW Carver Ave. By February, the City of Ames would like some sort of commitment from the County on our interest in participating in the funding of this project. The preliminary design should give us a better idea on the cost of the project.

Federal Transportation Bill: -Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – IIJA

-ICEA Grants Committee update:

--CHBP: Story County has a bridge included in a statewide application for 33 bridges. Our bridge replacement project is located on 115th St. in Howard Section 11 and is estimated to cost \$700,000. This bridge will be tied to a project in Warren County if the grant is approved in order to meet the bundling requirement.

DOT Construction:

The Hwy 210 bridge over I-35 was opened back up to traffic just before Thanksgiving which relieved some of the traffic on our gravel roads in the area. The next phase of the I-35 project will replace the 290th St. bridge on our gravel road.

580th Ave. Interchange Church Traffic Issues:

The new 580th Ave. interchange at Hwy 30 is causing some new issues with traffic flow during the peak church traffic. The issue has been discussed at the MDST meetings and we are waiting to see if the church can adjust service times to help the situation. We may consider lowering the speed limit over the new bridge to 45 mph as a first step.

Main Shop Expansion Project:

Our department has a main shop expansion project budgeted in the CIP for FY26. We have worked with our architect to draft preliminary plans and plan to start finalizing the design soon so that we can let the project later this winter. We currently do not have a meeting/lunchroom or a heated truck wash bay for our maintenance department and this project would address those issues.

W 18th St. Drain Tile Issues in Nevada:

We had a meeting last week with Nevada about some of the drainage issues along W 18th St. that were a constant problem last summer. The city has a proposal to add a new tile on the east side of the road and they are requesting that the county assist with the funding for the tile since it would help drain the west side of the roadway. This tile would go through the multiple pipelines which complicates the tile installation and increases the cost of the project. The city estimates that project to cost around \$60,000 and would like to split the cost with the county.

Drainage District #107:

We received a request from a farmer in DD#107, just east of Fernald, to look at an erosion issue. It is questionable if the erosion is a District issue or a private property issue so I have requested that the district engineer look at it and make a recommendation to the trustees. The last few hundred feet of the tile has also been eroded and broken, which will require some district repairs so the engineer can look at this at the same time.

Nextera Wind Turbine Repower:

Nextera plans to repower 26 turbines north of Zearing. Most will reuse the existing towers but a few will be completely rebuilt including the base. This will require many oversize loads to haul in the components so we are working on a road maintenance agreement similar to past agreements.

Job Openings:

David Vawter retired after 31 years of service as Inventory Coordinator on December 26th. Our Lead Mechanic, Charlie Carsrud has now moved into that position and we have posted the resulting open Lead Mechanic position on our employment website until January 20th.