

## 70<sup>th</sup> Street Project Current Activities

### Update 7-24-15-

We skipped an update last week as things hadn't really changed much from the previous week and things are settling into a routine. We seem to be getting a hard +2" rain each week just for good measure. It's slowed progress a little but for the most part things have dried out pretty quickly with the following sunshine. Work continues along the first portion CSAH 37 and 70<sup>th</sup> Street. The grading now has extended south along Oakwood Avenue further west on 70<sup>th</sup> Street. The roundabout has been brought up to subgrade and is starting to take shape. Another grading crew has just move onsite and started grading on the far west end of the project too. The bike trail is close to finish grade allowing the small utilities to start moving their existing lines into a new underground trench. They have nearly completed the crossing of Odean Avenue and are currently working their way west. They will continue to follow behind the contractor as the grading continues along the north portion of the right-of-way and bike trail.

Some unusual and unexpected material within the existing road bed and new road bed is being encountered. We've found pockets of 2'-4' boulders piled up in and adjacent to the existing road bed and in some other areas, thick layers of wet organic material which appear to be old buried wetlands/swamps. This material has been removed so we will end up with a good stable road base to build on.

A number of draitiles have been "discovered" and in most cases have been repaired. A couple draitiles appear to be old and held no water (and with the rain we have been seeing this in a good indication that they were not functioning or no longer needed). These typically were running parallel to the road approximately where the existing ditches were. Since these ditches are being removed and relocated they were not replaced but should not affect anything. The contractor and our construction observers are doing their best to keep an eye out for any draitiles either on the surface or buried and repair them as the grading moves along. Any and all help is much appreciated if you know of the location of any draitile. Feel free to stop the contractor or one of our construction observers and let them know if you know something is in the area they are working.

Things look like more of the same next week. The small utilities will continue towards the roundabout and then to the south along Oakwood Ave. Once the utilities are relocated and the new lines are powered up the old lines can be removed and things can really start taking shape along CSAH 37. Grading will continue heading west along 70<sup>th</sup> Street and now in the open field at the west end as well. Storm sewer and culverts work should start towards the end of next week or possibly the first part of the following week.

Traffic through the Road Closed zone has diminished greatly as the grading of Oakwood Avenue has made passage through CSAH 37 more difficult. We appreciate everyone finding alternate routes during construction.