

70th Street Improvement Project (2015-2016)

Update 6-19-15

The City of Otsego has awarded the construction of 70th Street Improvement Project to the low bidder, Fehn Companies located in Albertville. The construction of 70th Street between Martin Farms Avenue and Odean Avenue will provide a critical east-west transportation connection for the community. An off-street trail will be constructed as part of the project for recreation users and non-vehicle transportation.

The City project originally ended at Oakwood Avenue (CSAH 37). However, Wright County has secured Federal funding to improve existing 70th Street (CSAH 37) between Oakwood Avenue and TH 101 starting in 2017 or 2018. In an effort to minimize overlap of the Wright County and City projects, the City will be completing that portion of the County project from Oakwood Avenue to Odean Avenue in 2015. The City and County have agreed that the intersection at Oakwood Avenue and 70th Street will be a roundabout to improve safety, reduce costs now and in the future efficiency and to minimize regional traffic on a City street.

The City Council has committed to keeping the public informed during the planning and construction process and directed that updates be made available via the City's website and direct communications with property owners.

Current Activities

Temporary mailboxes have been installed in 3 locations. 70th Street residents mailboxes are located at the west end of 77th St near MacAllister Avenue. Oakwood Avenue residents mailboxes are located along 67th Circle near Oakwood Avenue (CSAH 37) and CSAH 37/70th Street residents mailboxes are located at Odean Avenue just south of CSAH 37. Right of Way and temporary easements have been surveyed and the erosion and sediment control has started to be installed this past week. A number of onsite coordination meetings have taken place between the contractor (Fehn Companies out of Albertville) and the small utility companies. The reconstruction of CSAH 37 and 70th Street will result in the overhead power lines and communication cables to be buried in a joint trench. Though the relocation of the utilities is not part of the CSAH 37/70th Street contract we are working closely with the utility companies to maintain everyone's existing services throughout construction.

CSAH 37 from Odean Avenue to 60th Street will be closed starting next June 22nd. Weather pending we expect that the CSAH 37 portion of the project can be reopened mid-September sometime with the remainder of 70th street reopening mid-October. Construction staking of will take place starting Monday, June 22nd and clearing and grubbing of trees and shrubs will take place the first part of next week. Most of these removals have been marked with paint. Removal of pavement along that section of highway will begin on approximately mid-week with grading to take place starting mid to late in the week of June 22nd. The contractor has stated they plan to work on the CSAH 37 improvements from Odean Avenue working to the west though they will have to jump around some to continue progress while utilities are being installed.

Project Funding

The construction of 70th Street is funded by Minnesota State Aid monies, which cities having a population of 5,000 or more receive from State gas tax revenue. The City also received a \$800,000 grant from the Federal government in recognition of the regional significance of the 70th Street connection between TH 101 and I-94. Wright County and the City have entered into an agreement regarding cost sharing and reimbursement for the portion of the project the City is constructing for Wright County from Oakwood Avenue to Odean Avenue. No general property tax dollars or other City funds are being used to fund the 70th Street project.

The City and County along with the City of Albertville is planning to pursue additional Federal Funds to reconstruct the last section of 70th Street that has not been upgraded to State Aid standards from LaBeaux Avenue (CSAH 19) to Maciver Avenue. Once that section is complete, a direct route from TH101 to CSAH 19 will meet State Aid standards.

Project Background

The 70th Street project has been planned for by the City and Wright County for more than 20 years. Construction has already been completed on the westerly one-half mile of the roadway from MacIver Avenue to Marin Farms Avenue with the remaining two miles to be constructed and open for traffic in 2015 with the project finalized in 2016. The City Council held several public information meetings to receive input from adjacent property owners in laying out the specific routing of the street and its design. Specific effort has been made by the City to shift the roadway to maximize the distance between the street/trail from existing homes, minimize right-of-way needs, and avoid impacts to existing trees and wetlands while complying with State requirements regarding the width, speed limit and capacity of the arterial street. The exhibits linked to the right illustrate the project location and design and were shown at the most recent public information meeting held for adjacent landowners.

The City of Otsego and Wright County, along with neighboring Cities have agreed that once the construction is completed for this project, 70th St. jurisdiction will transfer from the City of Otsego to Wright County. Existing CSAH 37 south of 70th St. will continue to be a County road for the foreseeable future.

Wright County has secured Federal Funds to reconstruct CSAH 37 from TH101 to Odean Avenue. This is planned to occur in 2018.

The City and County along with the City of Albertville has received Federal Funds (\$919,000) to reconstruct the last section of 70th Street to State Aid standards. That section is from LaBeaux Avenue (CSAH 19) to Maciver Avenue. Once that section is complete, a direct route from TH101 to CSAH 19 will meet State Aid standards. The completion of this entire route will be in 2018 and will include an asphalt trail along the north side of the street.

If you have any specific questions regarding the 70th Street project, please do not hesitate to contact City Engineer Ron Wagner at 763.427.5860.