

70th Street Project Current Activities

08-21-15

It was a tough week with the rain shutting most activities down for the first 3 days. Good news is all the ponds we've dug so far hold water! Bad news is that so do the roads. The south end of Oakwood Avenue has not been reopened to local traffic yet but should be the first part of next week. The sand that was used to fill most of the hole had been placed to get above the water table and the contractor was preparing to fill the last 4 ft or so with onsite material (Clay). The rain end up raising the water table to above the level of the sand, filling the low area some, and all the onsite material is too wet to use in this location. In order to get this last part of CSAH 37 up to grade and get gravel on CSAH 37 the contractor will be bringing in more sand to finish this area. With the predicted rain again this weekend and more next week this should allow the contractor to start finish grading CSAH 37, get the culvert crossing in at this location, and start placing the aggregate base. It's not panic time yet but it is time to start prioritizing and getting CSAH 37 reopen ASAP is the priority. The small utility joint has been extended all the way south along Oakwood Avenue at this point. They are now heading west from the roundabout along the north side of 70th Street. In a couple places, the contractor has had to carefully dig along side existing utilities currently serving residents to the south of the project and in one case a good chunk of Albertville. These utilities need to be lowered to get them out of the way for the grading to be completed. The hope was to be able to leave these in place until the new lines are ready and in use but the timing would have delayed the work along CSAH37 too much. There are still has two crews working on opposite ends of the project and will continue working both ends and meeting in the middle. About 2,000 ft is left to be graded. Storm sewer and driveway culverts have been installed along the majority of CSAH 37.

Next week the final grading of the subgrade should be taking place along CSAH 37. The sand and gravel should follow closely behind. The weather will most likely dictate how quickly this work can be accomplished. Once the gravel is in place the contract work can start but that's still a few weeks out yet. Small utilities will continue the joint trench heading west form the roundabout. Grading of the last 2,000 ft will proceed slowly as they don't want to expose any more soil to the rain than absolutely necessary and they need to locate dry material for the fill areas.