

# Memorandum

**To:** Board of Commissioners  
**From:** Eric W. Shanley, P.E., Director of Highways  
**Date:** December 17, 2018  
**Re:** 2018 End of Year Report

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Major contract road work in 2018 on Atlas, Scarcello, Chilco and St. James was completed at a cost of approximately \$2,282,000. Work was performed by Interstate Concrete and Asphalt and completed approximately \$55,000 under the bid price. Work included approximately 30,000 tons of asphalt on approximately ten (10) miles of road. Additionally, work on Government Way is nearly complete with final punch list items remaining for the spring of 2019. Government Way is now open to traffic with four lanes between Hanley and Prairie.

2018 road work also included 25-miles of chip sealing and 2.9 miles of double shot bituminous surface treatments (BST) to gravel roads. The Districts work this year reduced our gravel road miles to 9.307-miles, down from 33-miles in 2011 and 40-miles in 2006.

Based on current pavement assessments and 2018 completed road work, the District's Average Network Pavement Condition remains in the Very Good Condition, with over 90% of the roads considered in the Very Good Condition.

Other significant improvements for safety include the Ramsey/Union Pacific RR X-ing and Ramsey/BNSF Grade Separation Project. This in addition to guardrail improvements around the East Hayden Lake Road and systemic intersection improvements throughout the District, installing flashing stop sign beacons. Crossing Improvements at Ramsey UPRR are now operational and the District has started design for the Ramsey/BNSF Grade Separation Project. Safety Improvements on the East Hayden Lake Road and systemic intersection improvements are anticipated for 2019.

District staff is in the final design stages for our 2019 scheduled road projects. 2019 projects include approximately \$2.5 million in contract work and \$0.5 million in chip sealing. The District with its own forces will also be providing Bituminous Surface Treatments to McCoy and Sage Creek Roads, as well as chip sealing approximately 25-miles.

For the winter snow season, the District began preparing winter equipment in early October, starting with winterizing specialty equipment, installing de-icer systems, sanders and snow wings. The District was operationally ready for winter maintenance activities prior to the end of October and began minor de-icing work and snow plowing in late November. Our current snow fighting equipment and routes for this season consists of 10-plow trucks on 8-routes, 6-medium duty de-icer truck plows on 4-routes and 3-graders on 2-routes. Each of our 10-plow trucks are equipped with wings and we have 8-sanders. Additionally, we are in the process of hiring additional employees to assist in District Operations.

On the Administrative side of the Districts work, we are continuing to experience a significant increase in permitting, subdivision platting and engineering reviews. This this in addition to construction oversight of new subdivision roads and the associated building permits from new home construction. The District is also experiencing an increase in zone change requests, special notice permits, conditional use permits, variances, encroachments, commercial approaches, City annexation requests for comment and subdivision reviews (i.e. Cda School on Prairie Ave, multiple storage facilities, major subdivisions on Brunner, Ramsey, Chilco, Diagonal, Rimrock and several minor subdivisions throughout the District).

In development this year which was like 2017, the District is working with developers on twelve (12) major subdivisions and over 20 minor subdivisions. In comparison to the subdivisions in 2018, in 2012 the District provided review, comment and oversight of 4-major and 9- minor subdivisions. Not including utility or encroachment permits, District Staff has received more than 491 approach/ building permit applications, up from

370 last year and a 307% increase since we began tracking the number of approaches permits submitted annually in 2013. In 2013 we received 160 permits. Permits are generally handled by the Office Staff at least twice (once at application and once at signoff) while the Director or Deputy Director deal with a single permit two (2) to three (3) times (application/initial inspection, progress inspection and final inspection).

In recognition for the increase in the workload, staffing levels to accomplish that work have remained constant or have even decreased with a significant reduction in outside consulting services. Contributing factors in our ability to do more with less, are well qualified personnel and efficiencies in managing the Districts work.