



Concrete paving for CSAH 30 in Wabasha County

What was the problem?

Wabasha County is located in southeastern Minnesota on the Mississippi River. The City of Wabasha is the county seat. CSAH 30, a well-traveled road in and out of the city from the north and south, had major pavement deterioration, a poor ride, and a segment of substandard geometry. The original 1930s concrete pavement was a Minnesota trunk highway that was later turned over to the county. It was resurfaced with bituminous in 1992.

What was the solution?

In June 2013, the county began an improvement project of 5.25 miles of CSAH 30 that included reconstruction of narrow shoulder widths and ditches along 1.8 miles of that stretch. The construction went through the city limits. The contractor reclaimed and removed the existing bituminous surface and the underlying concrete pavement, and then crushed and reused it as the base.

“Wabasha County chose concrete because of the price of bituminous, the amount of traffic, and the expected preservation costs,” said County Engineer Dietrich Flesch. “Increasing truck traffic from silica sand transportation was anticipated and incorporated into the design.”

Key facts about the project

- ▶ June 3 to October 26, 2013
- ▶ Of the 5.25 miles of new pavement, 94,500 square yards is seven inches thick, and 10,500 square yards is nine inches thick. The thicker pavement is located where traffic is heaviest.
- ▶ A rural concrete width is 28 feet and the municipal width is at least 40 feet. Most of the existing curb and gutter was left in place.
- ▶ A + B bidding was used; the contractor bid the number of days they had to complete the project.
- ▶ Four separate intersections were redesigned to include left-turn lanes.
- ▶ Project included municipal utility work, and excavation of unsuitable soils and backfill with nearby river sand.
- ▶ The project was complicated by the need to leave one lane open to residents, businesses and an area school without any alternative access.

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- ▶ Project number: S.A.P. 079-630-015
 - ▶ Owner: Wabasha County
 - ▶ Prime contractor and concrete paving: Chippewa Concrete Services
 - ▶ Aggregate supplier: Wabasha Sand & Gravel

- ▶ Project design and inspection: Wabasha County technicians, staff
 - ▶ For more information, contact Dietrich Flesch, Wabasha County Engineer dflesch@co.wabasha.mn.us
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