

## 2018 Road improvement projects

The Alcona County Road Commission is gearing up for another busy year of road work.

There are four road construction projects on the list that will have an impact on travel for motorists in various areas of the County this season.

Classified as Federal Aid roads, more specifically roads that are major thoroughfares or connecting routes to State trunkline routes or other Federal routes, these projects qualify for special funding from the Federal Highway Administration from different funding categories.

Federal aid, or funding from the Federal Highway Administration Transportation Trust Fund, dates to when the National Highway System was established in the mid 1950s to promote the efficient movement of goods and services across the United States on a network of major connecting roads.

Still bearing the original classification of important connectors, such roads built as part of that system remain eligible for the various federal aid funding sources.

Bamfield Road in Curtis Township qualified for funding under the High Risk Rural Road (HRRR) program and will see safety improvements to a section from Garrett Road to DeMotte Road west of Glennie.

Scheduled to start the first part of June, D. J. McQuestion & Sons, Inc. from LeRoy, Michigan will be the lead contractor on the job.

Plans are to dig up the existing surface, rework and realign a section to improve driveability, replace culverts, install new guardrail, add new traffic-directing signage, repave, and etch in roadside traffic-guiding rumble strips. The project is anticipated to be complete the first part of August. Except for minor, short-term delays, traffic is expected to be maintained during construction.



Improvements to the intersection of Walker Road at Poor Farm Road in Harrisville Township also qualify for funding from the HRRR program.

Katterman Trucking, Inc., of Hale, Michigan, has already started work with tree removal, which will be followed by modifications to the horizontal alignment of Walker Road to better alert motorists to prepare to stop, repaving, installation of raised transverse rumble strips prior to the intersection, and enhanced pavement markings and signing to include LED-lit stop signs.

Traffic will be maintained on the Walker Road project, but motorists will encounter minor delays. Completion is expected in late June.

According to Alcona County Road Commission Managing Director Jesse Campbell, both of the safety improvement projects are on sections of road that are seemingly not problematic for most drivers; however, both roads have crash statistics that suggest otherwise, qualifying them for funding directed at decreasing the statistics through enhancements and modifications to help motorists better negotiate these areas.

The other two projects slated for this year using federal funding are on Mt. Maria Road in Hawes Township and on F-41 in Mikado Township. Both projects are continuations of previous projects and both are the last in a three-phase plan. These two projects are funded by allocations to the Alcona County Road Commission under the Surface Transportation Program and the Transportation Economic Development Fund, respectively.

The work on Mt. Maria Road will be from Hilltop Parkway to Anne Street and will include replacing the existing asphalt surface, adding guardrail, and installing new signing.



Bolen Asphalt of East Tawas, Michigan, will be the main contractor and expects to begin work the first part of June, with completion scheduled for late June. Traffic is expected to be allowed thru the project during the construction, but motorists again should expect delays.

The F-41 project will be done by Elmer's Crane and Dozer, Inc. of Traverse City, Michigan and affects the section from Andrews Road to F-30.

Work is slated to begin around the end of July, with a target of finishing by the end of August. The project will include crushing and shaping the existing asphalt surface, repaving, updating guardrail, and replacing signs.

In addition to these projects, plans for local projects including gravel improvements, replacing culverts, and sealcoating are still being negotiated with townships, who step up to help pay for many road improvements. All in all, motorists should be prepared to encounter road work as road crews get set for another busy road construction season in Alcona County

The Alcona County Road Commission maintains over 700 miles of roads to get you where you want to go. Questions or concerns about the 2018's road projects, road funding, or any other road issues, should be directed to the Alcona County Road Commission at 301 N. Lake Street, P.O. Box 40, Lincoln, Michigan 48742, by phone at 989-736-8168 or by e-mail at [roads@alconacrc.com](mailto:roads@alconacrc.com)