

UPDATE

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"KEEPING OUR CURRENT AND FUTURE CLIENTS ABREAST OF THE LATEST HAPPENINGS IN THE ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING WORLD"

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RIDES Program Receives Stimulus Money

JW&A learned on July 20th that they were selected as the engineer to design a new paved parking lot, including electricity and lights, for the RIDES location in Spencer. The catch was that we had to have it designed, let and have the construction contract in hand by August 17th. That is a very tight time frame, but engineer Jeff Rose got the job done, sending in a crew to obtain the topographic information required for the design and then spending many long hours that week completing the design. The letting was held August 10th, with Randy Helmers Construction of Estherville being awarded the contract as general, and with Milford Electric doing the electrical work. Bids on this work were about 93% of the engineer's estimate. We were happy with this since we allowed only about one week between the time

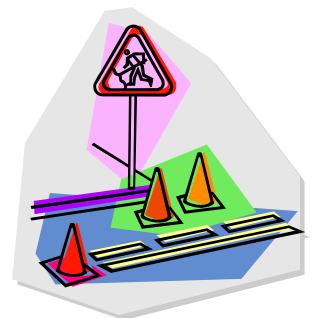
the plans & specifications were available to contractors and the date of the letting. Since this project is utilizing federal funds, special paperwork and payroll records must be kept, also providing an extra challenge to the project.

The RIDES program was awarded \$1.669 million in federal stimulus funds as part of Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, of which \$1.519 million will be spent on the purchase of 23 new minivans and buses. The remaining \$150,000 will be spent on the parking lot construction.

The parking lot has been staked out for construction and should be done, with the exception of the lighting, by mid to late October. A completion date of October 15th was specified. Engineer Rose states

that there may be a small delay with the lighting, but that the project should be completely done by the end of October, weather permitting.

RIDES provides transportation to anyone wanting to utilize it at a reasonable cost. Hugh Lively, the RIDES director, was quoted in an article in the *Spencer Daily Reporter* as saying that the RIDES program is not just for senior citizens. It is available for anyone. He said they can pick up kids and take them anywhere they need to go to relieve stress on moms.





Trails Construction Update

Bay Harbor Trail

It was reported in the last newsletter that Garlock Slough Trail would be the first leg constructed of the trail along the west side of West Lake Okoboji. That is not how it has taken place. Approval from the Iowa Department of Transportation was obtained to construct the Bay Harbor Trail segment. Bids were taken on May 12th with two separate contracts. Diamond Concrete of Spirit Lake was the successful bidder out of seven bids on the grading and paving portion. Their winning bid of \$462,264 was over \$61,000 lower than the engineer's estimate. This portion includes construction of approximately 9100 sq yds of 5" PCC trail and a steel bridge structure.

The second part of this project is for installing the storm sewer and two tunnels under Highway #86. By the time this newsletter goes out, both tunnels will be in place. This required the closing of Highway #86 for a few days. The pictures at right are of the first tunnel going in. The general contractor on this portion of the project is Peterson Contractors Inc. of Reinbeck IA. Their bid of \$331,733 was \$19,939 under estimate.

Garlock Slough Trail plans are still being reviewed by Iowa DOT and will be constructed during 2010.



Photos courtesy of Steve Litts, Executive Director of the Dickinson County Trails Board



Bogges Passes Exam!

JW&A team member Pat Bogges breathed a sigh of relief when he opened the mailing from the Iowa Engineering and Surveying Examining Board. It said he had passed the Fundamentals of Surveying exam, thereby proclaiming him as a Surveying Intern. The exam was taken in late April of this year, and he got the good news in early July, so there's several weeks of apprehension until the results are known. Pat now has a four-year apprenticeship, you might say, working under a licensed surveyor, gaining the experience and knowledge required to pass the next exam to become licensed to practice surveying in the State of Iowa.

Pat started his career with JW&A in August of 2000. He had completed a two-year computer-aided drafting program at Iowa Lakes Community College in Estherville. Being a lifelong Estherville resident, he's very familiar with the area. In his spare time, he likes to golf and is a pitcher for the Jackson Bulls, an area amateur baseball team. We congratulate Pat and wish him much success!



Bid Prices Still Coming in Way Under Estimate

Now's the time to do that much-needed project, especially underground constructions such as water, sewer, etc., as construction bid prices are still consistently way under the engineer's estimates. In fact, a water main extension project let in Estherville on September 2nd came in at 56% of the engineer's estimate. Another letting held on August 24th for an open ditch cleanout in Humboldt County was awarded to a firm who bid

the work at 77% of the engineer's estimate. Yet another letting for a tile installation for a Humboldt County drainage district yielded a construction price that was 60% of the estimate. The bid by material suppliers for that same project came in at 70% of the estimate. There were two options on this bid, one for a 1/2" drainage coefficient and one for a 1" drainage coefficient, the latter chosen because of the excellent

prices that will yield twice the drainage capacity. The current economy is such that there isn't a lot of work out there, and the contractors are needing the work and bidding very competitively. You can view recent bid tabs on our website.... (www.jacobson-westergard.com). Be sure to call us if interested in doing some work in your town or county. We can suggest some funding sources available.



“The relief the new systems provide will be significant and cost effective.”

Humboldt/Dakota City Tackling Drainage Problem

The City of Humboldt has had significant flooding problems for many years. Significant steps have been taken recently and more steps are planned in the near future. Much of the city is drained by Drainage District No. 13 (DD#13) which was established in 1906. There is also another district (DD#41) completely within DD#13 which was established in 1911. Most of Dakota City is drained by DD#80 that uses DD#13 as an outlet. A new district (DD#13A) was established in 1950 which provided improved outlets for the entire area.

As development continued in the “twin cities”, the updated system again became undersized. One large step taken to help this situation was the construction that took place this summer. This improvement took over 100 acres off the DD#13A system by diverting drainage east to the East Fork of the Des Moines River instead of the DD#13A tile.

Since this work is in a drainage district, the cost for the work will be paid by landowners including private citizens, businesses, cities of Humboldt & Dakota City, Humboldt County and the State of Iowa for Highway 3. JW&A is currently completing a reclassification report which will determine what portion of the work every piece of property will pay. This report includes over 2150 parcels of land and is one of the most complicated areas anyone will ever reclassify.

The City of Humboldt is continuing to pursue additional drainage improvements. They are seeking grants to construct a large detention area north of Highway 3 north and east of the Hy-Vee and Pamida stores. If grants are not available, improvements will be done using drainage district procedures. The relief the new systems provide will be significant and cost effective.

Highway 4 Reconstruction Nearing Completion!

If Mother Nature cooperates, detour signs should come down in couple weeks, as work nears final stages on the Iowa Highway 4 reconstruction project in Estherville. As of this writing, the mainline paving is complete and pouring of the driveway connections and sidewalks remain, along with backfilling behind curbs and other minor finish work.

The general contractor for this project was Wicks Construction of Decorah. The work involved completely removing all existing asphalt and concrete which dated back to 1932 and placement of 12" of modified subbase and 9" of PCC pavement with 6" curb. Total cost of the project will be around \$1.5 million.





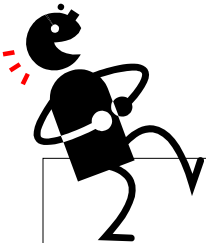
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Just for laughs...

*Be sure to check out our website for
upcoming lettings, bid results,
services we offer, etc.*

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Half Full or Half Empty?

To the optimist, the glass is 1/2 full. To the pessimist, the glass is 1/2 empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be!

The Engineer and The Bike...

Two engineering students were walking across campus when one said, "Where did you get such a great bike? The second engineer replied, "Well, I was walking along yesterday minding my own business when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike. She threw the bike to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, "Take what you want." The second engineer nodded approvingly, "Good choice; the clothes probably wouldn't have fit."

Great Engineering Quote...

Engineers aren't boring people, we just get excited over boring things!