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DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS

County of Lassen



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B-1
2018/174

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June 19, 2018

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Larry Millar, Director

SUBJECT: Merrillville Road Maintenance, County Road 226

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Supervisors 1) Receive report 2) Provide direction to staff.

DISCUSSION: Merrillville Road is located in Road District 2, Susanville District, and is classified as a Rural Minor Collector. It consists of 3.90 miles of gravel road extending from its intersection with State Highway 139 to its connection to Forest Service Road 8269. Merrillville Road provides access to several ranches and home sites as well as provides access to Eagle Lake and the Lassen County Youth Camp.

The Road Department provides snow removal and grading maintenance to this road throughout the year. It strives to grade this road, as well as the other roads within the County Maintained Road System, every other month, however, due to the overall workload and current staffing levels this cannot always be accomplished.

The normal complaints with Merrillville Road are rough roadway and dust. The initial portion of the roadway receives the majority of the complaints regarding rough wash board conditions, which is largely due to the additional traffic and farm equipment, while the end of the roadway receives the majority of the complaints regarding dust since this is where the majority of the residents live.

In the past, the Road Department has issued Encroachment Permits to residents along Merrillville Road to allow them to water the roadway in front of their houses and in at least one case to apply a dust treatment to the roadway.

The Road Department will continue to grade the road, working towards being able to grade the road monthly during the summer months. This should help with the complaints for a rough roadway.

For managing the dust issue the County will continue to offer "no cost" Encroachment Permits to residents who would like to apply water or a dust treatment to the roadway in front of their houses.

Another option which has been utilized a couple of times in the past within other areas of the County would be to work with the residents on a cost share or improvement assessment with the residents. For instance, the residents could pay for the material costs and the County would complete the work with its equipment and labor force.

The County does not provide dust control measures to any of its non-paved roads which are in the County Maintained Road System. Several years ago the County tried a pilot project where we treated a

section of a gravel road in hopes that it would prevent dust and provide a roadway surface which would not require the frequent grading. This project was not successful in that it only lasted a couple of months and was expensive. The County is unable to complete this type of work with its own forces.

It is estimated that it would cost approximately \$60,000 to place asphalt concrete on the existing roadway surface in front of the residents, approximately sixteen (16) foot width and 0.58 miles in length. This would include the portion of roadway from the cattleguard through the subdivision to the end of the County Road. This includes approximately \$23,000 for the County to shape the roadway and place approximately 2 inches of asphalt concrete and approximately \$37,000 for the cost of the asphalt concrete. This option would solve the dust problem, however it would not improve the safety of the roadway. For instance, the eight (8) foot wide travel lanes would not allow centerline striping which we normally complete on our paved roadway sections.

The preferred option would be to widen the roadway through this section by approximately eight (8) feet to a total width of twenty-eight (28) feet to include two eleven (11) foot paved travel lanes with three (3) foot gravel shoulders each side. The estimated total cost to complete this work is \$175,000 which includes a material cost of approximately \$78,000 (\$17,500 for 3" aggregate sub-base material, \$7,000 for ¾" aggregate base, \$2,500 for shoulder backing and \$51,000 for asphalt concrete) and approximately \$97,000 for the labor, equipment and transportation costs.

For comparison purposes it is estimated that applying a dust preventative treatment such as Magnesium Chloride would cost approximately \$7,500, however this would need to be applied one or two times a season to be effective. The Road Department is unable to complete this work so it would need to be contract work.

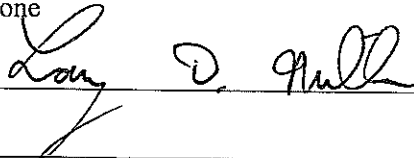
For example, if a cost share option was to be considered the County Road Department could provide all the labor, equipment and transportation along with supplying the aggregate base materials (since we have material on inventory) if the residents and/or other funding source purchased the asphalt concrete. This would be approximately \$37,000 for the sixteen (16) foot wide paved roadway or approximately \$51,000 for the twenty-two (22) foot wide paved roadway.

ALTERNATIVES: As discussed above

FINANCIAL IMPACT: To be determined.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: None

DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL:



REVIEWED FOR AGENDA: