

Village wants focus on Fredonia Ave.

Written by MARK JAEGER
Wednesday, 07 July 2010 18:48

Public Works Committee asks county to start planning for road reconstruction scheduled for 2014

One look at the rutted pavement is proof enough that Fredonia Avenue is badly in need of repaving.

With daily reminders of the road's shortcomings as they drive through the village, members of the Village of Fredonia's Public Works Committee and Sewer and Water Committee began giving the pending road project close consideration during a recent joint meeting.

The village's primary east-west route is tentatively due for reconstruction in 2014, but officials concede budget uncertainties at the county level could alter that timetable. The county is expected to be the lead agency in the project because Fredonia Avenue is also a county highway — Highway H.

Because the county is the lead agency on the project, village trustees endorsed a letter to Ozaukee County Highway Commissioner Robert Dreblow designed to get the planning process started.

"While we have had some verbal conversations on this topic, I believe it is important to start the 'paper trail' on what we all know is a long and arduous process," Public Works Director Al Neumann said in the letter.

Neumann told committee members that the letter to the county "is an invitation to the table ... it is an indication we want to start planning."

Village officials asked the county to start thinking about key issues about the road design, including whether concrete or asphalt will be used, the possibility of adding turn lanes at key intersections, the preference for buried utility lines and engineering considerations for the bridge and railroad crossing.

The letter said the village is anxious to begin planning talks that would cover funding and the intended timeline.

"I look forward to hearing from you to start on the 'long and winding road' called the Fredonia Avenue reconstruction project," Neumann concluded.

The last work the county did on Fredonia Avenue was an asphalt overlay in 1990. That project was designed to keep the road in good condition for five years.

In anticipation of the road reconstruction, trustees also started talking about the replacement of water main that runs beneath

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Officials agreed the water line, which is cast iron and dates to 1939, should be replaced by PVC pipe at least one year before the road work begins to allow for adequate settling.

“We could leave it as it is and hope we don’t have any problems, or we could plan for a 12-inch line and know we should be taken care of for 50 years,” Neumann said.

The committee agreed to replace the old main from Highland Drive to at least Fillmore Street.

The water main work would be paid by the village’s water utility rather than the general tax levy.