

Ward Road: Reconstruction Preparation Timeline

Cass County Road and Bridge is conducting emergency repairs on Ward Road, starting immediately after Labor Day. These repairs are necessary due to the acceleration of deterioration due to additional traffic during the MO Route 291 closure at Lake Winnebago during MoDOT's bridge replacement project in early summer.

Raymore City Council approved a budget amendment for Ward Road emergency repairs in late July. The Cass County Commission provided the City with a draft of a cost share agreement on Aug. 17 and approved the agreement on Sept. 2. The agreement calls for each entity to contribute \$75,000 to the emergency repair project. Currently, the City of Raymore has jurisdiction of approximately 25 percent of the road—only the southbound lane between Ward Park Place and Alexander Creek.

Ward Road will be completely reconstructed in 2022, as part of the No Tax Increase General Obligation Bond Issues approved by Raymore voters in the August 2020 election, after which the City will permanently take over maintenance of the entire stretch of Ward Road from 58 Highway to 163rd Street.

It's not as easy as ripping up the old Ward Road and laying down the new one. The complete reconstruction of the roadway from 58 Highway to 163rd Street includes: full curb, gutter and enclosed storm conduit; two pedestrian crossings with flashing pedestrian beacons and raised medians; pathway along east side of street that connects to Lee's Summit sidewalk and trail system; small parking lot near south end of Ward for bicyclers, hikers; sidewalk on west side of street connecting Alexander Creek Drive to Ward Park Place; and new bridge and street level raised by five feet at Alexander Creek.

WARD ROAD PROJECT TIMELINE FROM AUG 2020- AUG 2021

Aug. 2020 Voters pass G.O. Bond Street Projects, including complete reconstruction of Ward Road.

Sept 2020 City receives for bids for Ward Road design services.

October 2020 Contract award for Design Services goes to Wilson & Company.



The City of Raymore will take over maintenance of Ward Road from 58 Highway to 163rd Street after full reconstruction.

March 2021 Raymore City Council approves cooperative cost-sharing agreement with Cass County, Missouri, with the county providing \$800,000 (of the project total of \$5,343,000) toward the completion of Ward Road improvements including widening, installation of curbs, gutters and sidewalks, signage and ongoing maintenance.

April 2021 City meets with representatives from Water Supply District #3 about the project. The district informs the

City of their desire to upgrade the water main line on the entire length of Ward Road to support new development and provide water service to the Raymore-Peculiar School District's future expansion at the Ray-Pec East Middle School campus. It is determined that the best decision is to incorporate the water main upgrade project into our Ward Road reconstruction project and arrange a reimbursement agreement with the water district. At this point, the water district authorizes their engineer to begin design work for the water main upgrade. This design is anticipated to be complete in December 2021.

April 2021 A blueprint of the Wilson & Company's design of Ward Road is presented in a report to the City Council. Council then approve the design elements, which in turn solidifies the City's right-of-way needs for the project.

June 2021 Contract award to Bliss Associates LLC, for services to include valuations for right-of-way and easement acquisition necessary to complete the Ward Road reconstruction project. Unlike streets within Raymore city limits, where a portion of the property lining the roadway is dedicated to the City as a right-of-way, there is no documented record of how Ward Road was created and no record of meets and bounds – or right-of-way – ever being dedicated.

This means that the City has to formally acquire right-of-way from more than 30 individual property owners along both sides of the mile-and-a-half stretch of Ward Road that will be reconstructed. The City needs to acquire a 40-ft permanent easement along both the east and west sides of the existing roadway, as well as temporary easements during construction in order to reconstruct driveways, etc.

The surveyor must create legal descriptions of properties that then go to the appraiser to determine fair market value of acquisitions. Next, Bliss Associates reaches out to individual property owners to discuss the project and start negotiations for acquiring property.

July 2021 City Council approval of emergency repairs.

August 2021 Raymore receives cost-share agreement from Cass County and Council approves cost-share agreement with Cass County at special meeting.

ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES TO RESOLVE

Water Significant water main conflicts with the existing storm sewer on the north end and some culverts around the bridge area.

Electric Evergy intends to replace an existing power pole near the Water District #3 driveway with a steel pole,

which will eliminate several guy wires currently in the path of the designated trail location. However, Evergy will not relocate the pole until the City submits the final design plans to them. The design plans will be completed once all easement negotiations with property owners along Ward Road are finalized.

MoDOT The Ward Road Reconstruction project *must* coincide with MoDOT's plans to construct a roundabout at the intersection of Ward Road and MO 58. This MoDOT project was originally scheduled to let in March 2021, and was delayed until November 2021. The project also includes turn lane improvements at MO 58 and MO Route 291 and a roundabout at the Prairie Lane and MO 58 intersection. The 3-part project is expected to take between one and two construction seasons to complete.

Earlier this year, staff revised the project schedule in consideration of challenges associated with nearby construction projects and utility conflicts. The project construction will go out to bid by January 2022, with the eagerly anticipated groundbreaking slated for spring of 2022, wrapping up in the fall of the same year.

For updates on this project and other G.O. Bond Projects, visit www.raymore.com/bondprojects ●