



*"Our mission is to upgrade and maintain  
a safe and efficient road system"*

DATE: November 30, 2016

TO: Rob Manigold  
Peninsula Township Supervisor  
13235 Center Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686

RE: Summary for Tree Removals  
Bluff Road

Dear Mr. Manigold:

Please include this write up in your next newsletter to provide your residents information regarding tree removals for the upcoming Bluff Road project. The limits for the proposed project is from the south intersection of Bluff Road and M-37 to Blue Water Road. If funds become available in 2017 the project may be extended north of Blue Water Road to the north intersection of Bluff Road and M-37 or some point there in between.

The Road Commission has proposed Bluff Road as a project for the 2017 construction year. The preliminary scope for this project includes HMA (hot mixed asphalt) wedging with an ultra-thin overlay. Wedging will be performed to help provide more structure to the roadway and provide some correction to the profile (cross slope). An ultra-thin overlay is an asphalt overlay that is approximately 5/8" thick that will also provide additional structure to the existing pavement and seal the surface. This project also includes drainage improvements along with tree removals. The removal of trees will benefit the roadway by increasing the life expectancy of the asphalt. Trees provide shade that can prolong the asphalt from drying which will deteriorate the surface and can saturate the subbase which can cause structural failure. Trees also create an obstacle that is a danger for the motoring public and can be a substantial maintenance cost and safety concern with falling trees or branches.

In the spring of 2017, Road Commission staff will be marking trees for removal. Once trees are marked the County Highway Engineer along with the Road Commission's Maintenance

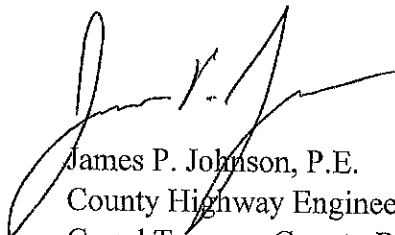
Supervisor will review and provide approval to the Contractor. Please note that during the review or anytime thereafter, additional trees may be added or deleted. All wood from the trees are the property of the land owner. The land owner can choose to keep the wood where it will be stacked in a pile adjacent to the removal location and placed outside of the Right-of-way or have it removed. If the land owner wishes to keep the wood it will be stacked in long lengths (not cut in cords). If the land owner wishes to have the wood removed the Contractor will do such at no expense to the land owner. The Contractor will be contacting each land owner to obtain a written consent for either option.

After the bids are received and the contract is awarded, the Road Commission will provide the Township with a name and phone number of the company who will be removing the trees. This information will also be made available on the Road Commission's website. If the Contractor agrees, residents may obtain a separate agreement with the Contractor to have them remove trees outside of the Right-of-way. Please understand that all cost and coordination efforts associated with this work will be borne by the land owner.

On trees larger than 18 inches in diameter and within a manicured lawn the Road Commission will provide the property owner with a check for 100 dollars for each tree. The Road Commission and the Township will share in the cost, each contributing 50 dollars. This money is intended to go towards the purchase, planting, and maintenance of a new tree that will be placed outside of the Right-of-Way. The Road Commission or the Township will have no further obligations for these trees in the future. Understand that the Road Commission can trim branches that extend into the Right-of-way for future considerations.

The Road Commission greatly appreciates everyone's understanding on the above items. We look forward to the 2017 construction season and hope everyone enjoys the finished product.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James P. Johnson', is written over the typed name and title.

James P. Johnson, P.E.  
County Highway Engineer  
Grand Traverse County Road Commission