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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

March 29, 2019

Dear Hawthorne Road, Hawthorne Court and Windsor Court and Adjacent Residents,

This letter is intended to provide an update on the current status of Hawthorne Road, to outline the next steps in the emergency repair, to outline the steps to consider long term maintenance of the road, and to provide a source for future routine updates.

Current Status

Hawthorne Road is posted as a Rough Road with a weight limit. Even with the weight limit posting, school buses, garbage haulers and local delivery trucks may utilize the road. The postings will remain in place, at a minimum, until the emergency repair can be completed. As you are aware, the road was closed on March 14 due to deteriorating surface conditions. The City hired Payne and Dolan to install large stone to add structural integrity to the road to make it passable. With the large stone installation complete, Payne and Dolan removed the equipment from the area.

Department of Public Works (DPW) Staff continues to be in touch with the Police Department and the Fire Department to ensure emergency services are available and accessible.

Emergency Repair

DPW staff is waiting for the frost to come out of the roadbed and for the roadbed to dry out before completing the emergency repair. Completing the emergency repair may include either grading or rolling the larger stone and topdressing with a smaller/finer stone to provide a smoother surface. Once the emergency repair is complete, Staff will reevaluate whether the Rough Road designation can be removed.

Long Term Maintenance Considerations

DPW staff will also initiate data gathering including road coring and field survey. The data will be reviewed by a consulting engineer and summarized in a technical memo with analysis and options for maintaining the road long term. The technical memo will be available online and subsequently presented at a public meeting for consideration and discussion. Residents will be invited to attend.

Given the decision making process associated with the complexity of implementing any long term solution, be that isolated repairs, rebuilding the road as gravel or reconstructing and paving the road, DPW staff anticipates that a construction contract, if required, would be bid in 2020 at the earliest. Therefore DPW staff will need to also consider and discuss what additional improvements or expenditures may be required to maintain the road as safe until then. That includes the assumption that the road will weather an additional winter, requiring snow removal and routine maintenance.

Future Updates

Keeping residents informed is a priority. Therefore DPW staff has established a page on the City's website that will be utilized for continued updates on Hawthorne Road. The page can be accessed here: <https://www.ci.mequon.wi.us/publicworks/page/hawthorne-road> (also at www.ci.mequon.wi.us → Your Government → Public Works → Hawthorne Road). If you check the website and still have questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Public Works at 262-236-2913.

Please note that salt is a gravel road's worst enemy. Please ensure that any personal/work vehicle transporting salt does not contaminate the road surface and that any contractors you may hire for snow removal on your driveway are also aware. No salt should be applied within the City's right-of-way on Hawthorne Road. Salt causes the gravel road surface to thaw, leading to damage and material loss. More information on the effects of salt on gravel roads will be provided on the City website.

While the website will provide up to date information on Hawthorne Road, any immediate maintenance issues should be reported to Public Works at 262-236-2913. Additional questions can be directed to me at 262-236-2938 or klundeen@ci.mequon.wi.us.

We appreciate your patience while we continue to navigate the discussion on the long term maintenance strategy for Hawthorne Road.

Thank you,



Kristen Lundeen, P.E.
Director of Public Works/City Engineer