

Wabedo Township Sioux Camp Bridge Replacement Project - 2016

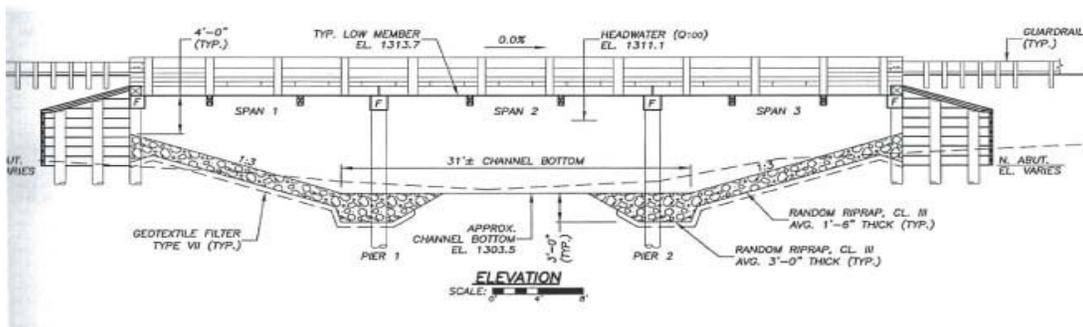
The Sioux Camp bridge over the Boy River was built in the 1960's. It is a timber bridge built on 2 railroad flatcar frames, one on each side of the river. The bridge has served our township well for over 50 years, but is now in need of replacement. MnDot (Minn Dept of Transportation) inspects these bridges on a regular basis and scores each one on a scale of 1-100 (100 being excellent). In 2013 when we started looking at replacing the bridge, it had a sufficiency rating of 63.3. Any bridge with a rating less than 80 could be considered for replacement. In the 2015 inspection, the sufficiency rating had dropped to 37.6 so it was good that our replacement project was going forward full speed.

In 2013, we started to investigate what it took for a township to replace a bridge. The cost of similar bridges was in the range of \$500,000 and our township could not afford that type of expense. Cass County told us about 2 bridge funds available to us. One was a Cass County bridge fund that could be used for this type of project but that fund had no money at that time. The other was a State bridge fund where counties that did not have bridges needing repairs could return unused bridge monies. We received some assurances that funding would be available and that the township would only be responsible for \$20,000 of the cost and in December of 2013, we signed a agreement with Erickson Engineering for the design of a replacement bridge over the river.

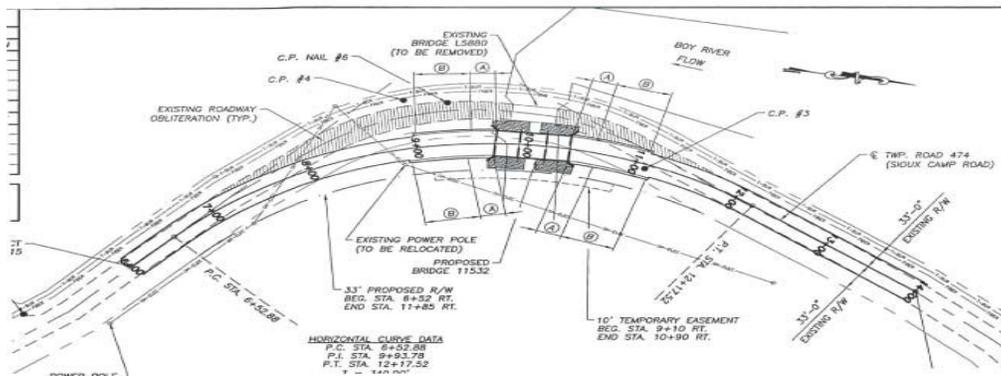
The design phase lasted through all of 2014, 2015, and much of 2016 as the state requested changes to the preliminary design. After preliminary design approval, the township needed to arrange for some help to do the bidding, contract work, assist in the financial work and the inspection work since we had little expertise in any of these fields. In July, 2016, we signed an agreement with Cass County to complete the bid process, perform contract work and be our fiscal agent (getting money from the state and disbursing to the bridge contractor). We also signed another agreement with Erickson Engineering to perform all inspection services during the constuction phase of the project. So while we are responsible for the entire project, we have subcontracted almost all of the work.

Cass County completed the bidding process in August, 2016 and the low bidder was Korby Contracting Co, Inc, of Fergus Falls, Minnesota. They will do the actual construction of the replacement bridge and the removal of the existing bridge. The construction project begins October 1, 2016 and ends August 31, 2017. Actual work is currently planned to begin October 17, 2016.

The new bridge will be a timber bridge and will span 68 feet (current bridge span is 41 feet). It will be built next to the existing bridge to allow traffic to continue to use the old bridge until the new one is complete. Completion of the new bridge is expected in the summer of 2017 with the removal of the old bridge after that. As shown in the following drawing, the bridge will be constructed by driving pilings with 3 spans of decking over the pilings and abutments on both sides.



The following drawing shows the new bridge located just east of the existing bridge. The existing bridge will be open to traffic during the entire construction of the new bridge. Placing the new bridge just east of the old one will also allow us to straighten the curve a little for safety.



If you have any questions about the project or the bridge itself, please contact Bob Adelman 218-363-3713 or Ron Stokesbary 218-363-2186.

We would be remiss if we did not recognize the work, time, expertise, and advise provided to us during this project by the Cass County Highway Department and in particular, David Enblom. His counsel has been invaluable and very much appreciated.