

Background

For several years, there has been discussion among staff, board members, and the public on how to proceed with making improvements to Omro Road. The primary issue facing Algoma is that it is developing at an urban density but still has rural roadways like Omro Road. When funding became available, the Town applied for Federal funding through the Oshkosh Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in 2017. The following year, Algoma was awarded a \$2.5 million grant through the MPO by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The grant provides 50% of the funding for the project with the remaining \$2.5 coming from a capital improvement loan. Total project cost is estimated to be close to \$5.5 million. Since approximately 10% of Omro Road is within the City of Oshkosh, a Memorandum of Agreement will be signed between the Town and City to cost share for that portion of the project. Algoma is not assessing individual homeowners living or owning property along Omro Road for the costs to reconstruct the road. The final cost to all individual property owners will be determined when the final roadway design is approved in November, all the costs are considered, level of financing is determined, and what the interest rates are at that time. All municipalities in the State of Wisconsin are under levy limits and the amount of debt each can maintain. As a result, the Town Board will be very mindful of the cost of the project to property owners when making their final decisions on the amount and type of financing that is needed for the project.

Omro Road has a functional classification as a collector road and therefore eligible for this grant funding. As a collector road in an urban environment, the grant funding dictates that bike paths and sidewalks be installed as part of the project. Designated bike paths and sidewalks are also supported by the Safe Routes to School program. Curb and gutter will eliminate the steep ditches, standing water, and address flooding along the roadway. In addition, the Town of Algoma is under strict stormwater management guidelines as dictated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. To help meet the Town's stormwater management goals, the reconstruction of Omro Road will encompass stormwater infrastructure to capture, direct, and treat stormwater prior being released into Lake Butte des Morts. Jones Detention Pond just east of the Omro Road and Leonard Point Road intersection is being constructed in 2020 to take stormwater from Omro Road and treat it before being released into Honey Creek. There are other stormwater detention pond locations being reviewed that can serve as treatment options for stormwater gathered along Omro Road. The Town's *2018 Stormwater Management Plan* outlines those goals and objectives. The Town is required to submit an annual stormwater management report to the Wisconsin DNR for their review.

The Town Board selected McMahon Associates to design the new roadway. McMahon engineers are responsible for providing a design plan where all local ordinances and state regulations are followed. Once the final design plan is approved, staff from the WisDOT are responsible for letting (awarding) the project in March 2021, as well as construction oversight and financial reporting. The reconstruction of Omro Road **does not** encompass any improvements to Leonard Point Road.

This is a sample cross section of this type of reconstruction and is intended to be used for reference only and is not to scale or final design.

