



McHenry County


Division of Transportation

Joseph R. Korpalski, Jr., P.E.
Director of Transportation/County Engineer

MEMORANDUM

TO: County Board Members

CC: Peter Austin

FROM: Joseph R. Korpalski, Jr., P.E.
Director of Transportation/County Engineer 

DATE: February 15, 2011

SUBJECT: Fleming Road Pavement Condition

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) has been made aware that some residents have voiced concerns to County Board members about the number of potholes and the overall pavement maintenance on Fleming Road. The purpose of this memorandum is to report what the MCDOT's maintenance procedures are and the extent of work that was performed by MCDOT Maintenance staff during 2010.

The MCDOT performs Road Checks or Road Patrols at least once a week (more are performed after a significant storm event) on all County Highways. This includes checking roads/pavement conditions for issues such as potholes and shoulder conditions, drainage issues which includes checking and cleaning drainage grates and culverts, removing/disposing of dead animals, sign issues, fallen tree/branch issues, picking up garbage and other debris, plus treating standing water with mosquito larvacides in the summer months. In 2010, sixty-six (66) of these road checks were performed on Fleming Road.

Potholes are patched year round. During the late fall, winter and early spring months we use a product called UPM, a polymer modified cold patch. While patching during colder months is not ideal, it is critical to maintain a roadway. The UPM patch material is designed specifically for cold applications as most potholes develop during the freeze thaw cycles when the weather is cold. The MCDOT will start patching potholes as soon as possible after snow and ice operations are completed. It works better if the potholes are dry and the temperature is above zero degrees. These patches are either hand compacted or wheel rolled. During the summer months hot asphalt mixes are used. This type of repair normally includes either saw cutting or cold planing (grinding) the edges first, and then compacting the asphalt with the MCDOT's five ton asphalt roller.

The MCDOT has the necessary equipment for patching potholes on all 250 centerline miles of County Highway:

- One heated patch wagon, towed by pickup or one ton dump truck.
- Three one-ton dump trucks for hauling and placing UPM

The one ton dump trucks are only used when temperatures are above freezing and the patch wagon is unavailable. Two of these one ton dump trucks are equipped with snow plows and salting equipment, and may be unavailable due to snow operations.

Last year, staff was out on Fleming Road patching potholes approximately twenty-six (26) times. Also, staff was out on Fleming Road an additional four times for major pothole patching and pavement edge patching. This work would include saw cutting the pavement and making larger size repairs as described above.

Hopefully this provides information you find useful about our roadway maintenance operations. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (815) 334-4964 or Maintenance Superintendent Mark DeVries at (815) 334-4975.