



Director of Public Works

RE: Road Levy Year Two (Past, Present, & Future)

Dear Teton County,

Voters approved a Special Tax Levy for Roads and Bridges in May, 2010 and last summer you began to reap the benefits of the 2-year levy. Now is a good time to review what your tax dollars accomplished last summer and what projects are planned for this summer. Please remember that all of these projects were made possible by the special road levy approved in 2010. On May 15 voters will have an opportunity to renew the special road levy for 2 more years.

Special Road Levy Accomplishments of 2011

The summer of 2011 was a season of road construction for the county, the cities and the State of Idaho. The special levy funds allowed the county to chip seal 9 miles of roadway including Ski Hill Rd., E2500N, and the "Cedron T". We were also able to team with the State of Idaho to complete the intersection of W4000N and State Highway 33. Chip seals will extend the life of these roads another 5-8 years.

Magnesium Chloride was applied to 14 miles of road in the summer of 2011. Dust control is the most visible benefit of this product. However, stabilizing the surface gravel with this product prevents tons of gravel from migrating off the road, extending the life of these roads.

Speaking of gravel, we are constantly trying to improve the quality and longevity of our roads through innovative techniques and materials. The special road levy allowed the county to crush approximately 9000 tons of gravel to our new surface gravel specification. Some of this gravel was used to rebuild E6000N. In addition, S2000W north of the highway was resurfaced with a mixture of gravel and bentonite clay as a test section. S2000W south of the highway received new culverts at Warm Creek last fall. The rebuild of S2000W is first on our project list of 2012.

Special Road Levy Projects 2012 – What to Expect

This summer we are planning to chip seal another 9 miles of roadway. Additionally we are teaming up with each city to chip seal a mile of their roadway. Last year the county contracted with Gal Lim Construction from Blackfoot for our chip seal project. This winter we were able to purchase a chip spreader for half the cost of the Gal Lim contract. The other half of the chip seal contracting budget will be used to hire local trucks to assist in our 2012 chip seal project. We have about 75 miles of paved/oiled roads in the county, all of which should be chip sealed every 5-8 years.

Other projects on the horizon for this summer include applying dust control to 17 miles of road, the replacement of the Badger Creek bridge on W10,000N, and various gravel overlays. We are also conducting subsurface investigations on E5000S and N500W to determine a long term solution for the repair/rebuild of these roads.

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Phone: 208-354-0245 • 150 Courthouse Drive, Driggs, Idaho 83422 • Fax: 208-354-8778
www.tetoncountyidaho.com



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Special Road Levy- Into the Future

The projects noted above are the result of voter approved funding via the special road levy in 2010. That special levy expires this year. A renewal of this levy is on the May 15th ballot. I will have more information in the upcoming weeks regarding the levy and what it will be used for. Regardless of your opinion, I urge everyone to exercise your rights and vote on May 15.

Please remember, that Road & Bridge crews are working to make your roads smoother, safer, and longer lasting. When you see them working on your road, slow down and give them a wave and a smile. Thank you.

Jay T. Mazalewski, PE
Director of Public Works
208-354-0245
jmaz@co.teton.id.us