

Pottawattamie County Roads



John Rasmussen, the Pottawattamie County roads engineer, spoke at the Optimist Club on July 2. John is married and has five children at home.

John announced that they just won a High Risk Rural Road Safety Grant for \$500,000 to improve the L55 – US 6 intersection. They will Microsurface L55 North of Treynor this year to improve the ride and seal the pavement, extending the life of the road.

For Pottawattamie county roads, two thirds of the budget comes from gasoline taxes and the other third from property tax. Since the gasoline tax has not gone up since the 1990s but construction costs keep going up, the roads budget is very tight.

Flooding could delay some roads projects in the County. Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA) will pay for most of the repairs needed. However, the County has \$38M of infrastructure under water.

The roads budget for the County is usually \$12-13M per year. They employ about 60 people. They maintain county roads, including about 350 bridges.