

Portage County
Highway Department



800 Plover Road
Plover, WI 54467

Nathan Check, PE
Commissioner

Phone: 715-345-5230
Fax: 715-345-5356

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NEWS RELEASE

PORTAGE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TO BEGIN 2020 CHIP SEALING PROGRAM

Beginning the week of July 13th, the Portage County Highway Department will begin its annual chip sealing program on approximately 47 miles of county trunk highways. Chip sealing is part of the Highway Department's annual road maintenance and preservation program which helps prevent the rapid deterioration of asphalt due to oxidation and traffic wear. It is an economical way to extend the life of the pavement by sealing it and improving surface texture for skid resistance.

The chip seal process involves spraying a single layer of liquid asphalt emulsion on the pavement which is then immediately covered with a small aggregate. The aggregate is rolled into the liquid asphalt and allows traffic to resume travel on the road at a reduced speed. Following a cure time, excess aggregate is swept off the road.

A complete list and map of the county trunk highways to be chip sealed can be found on the Highway Department's website: <https://www.co.portage.wi.us/departement/highway-departement/construction-updates>. The first phase of the project will begin in mid-July and the work progress is highly dependent on weather. Roads scheduled for 2020 include:

CTH HH (Locust Street to Olympia Street)
CTH J (STH 66 to USH 10)
CTH A (STH 66 to CTH I)
CTH I (Hillside Road to Collins Lake Road)
CTH Z (CTH A to Waupaca County Line)
CTH ZZ (STH 161 to CTH Z)
CTH SS (STH 161 to CTH Q)
CTH QQ (USH 10 to Rolling Hills Road)
CTH A (STH 54 to CTH KK)
CTH N (CTH BB to CTH A)
CTH GG (CTH EE to CTH A)
CTH J (STH 54 to Church Road)

The traveling public is advised to find alternate routes during this period as the roads will be posted as Closed to Through Traffic with reduced speeds. If you must travel on these roads, reduced travel speed is critical for worker and driver safety as well as final work quality. Loose aggregate usually stays on the road after the initial rolling and can be picked up by tires of fast-moving vehicles and sprayed against workers and vehicles. High speed traffic over a fresh

County Engineer – Dean Schmitz
County Patrol Manager – Kory Kukuczka State Patrol Manager – Todd Makuski
Parts Room / Shop Manager – Corey Giese Assistant Patrol Supervisor – Bob Lang
Finance Office Supervisor – Stacy Zerby Financial Associate III – Kristen Hancock

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treatment that has not fully cured can displace the embedded aggregate as well and produce a slick surface. During the application process, traffic will be controlled by flaggers and it is especially critical to reduce speed and drive aware in the work zones. Planning an alternate route for the one to two week time period is highly recommended.

Any questions regarding the chip seal program can be directed to the Highway Department at 715-345-5230 or highway@co.portage.wi.us. The Highway Department thanks you in advance for driving aware and reducing your speed in order to make our work zones safer and to provide quality project.

Nathan Check
Portage County Highway Commissioner