



Curt's July 2015 Report

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NORTH DAKOTA LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM





Dennis Nelson, Williams County Road Superintendent, shared some of his road building tips with Ron Eck and Dale Heglund during the Tech Tour. Dennis utilizes Perma-zyme for base stabilization and a Duramaxx for asphalt surface patching. His unique system of phased roadway development allows the county to provide high-quality roads while simultaneously greatly reducing dust control costs.

Rhonda Woodhams, Williams County Highway Department Office Manager, points out that typical sign shootings have very random shot patterns, a far cry from marksman/markswoman accuracy and precision. Her theory links poor shooting ability to sign attacks. Wild game can be cunning, evasive and a challenge to hunt. Those with poor shooting skills mean that they often end up going home empty handed. In route home, they may take their frustrations out on less challenging competition. Mike Dollinger, Road Superintendent for McKenzie County, agrees - poor hunters become "Serial Sign Killers".



Western Tech Tour, June report additions - Ron Eck, Leanna Emmer and Dale Heglund finished out the June Tech Tour in Williams, Divide and Mountrail Counties. Some of the Tour was covered in Curt's June report (i.e., Stark, Bowman, Billings, Dunn and McKenzie).

[Western Oil County - Tech Tour Map](#)

McKenzie County - Mike Dollinger, Road Superintendent and Suhail Kanwar, County Engineer, remain great champions for the county, despite the many challenges that come

with being the epicenter of the Bakken activity. Mike has recently improved his gravel spec to include a PI requirement and Suhail has put together a county engineering department.

Divide County - Bryan Haugenoe, Road Superintendent, was pleased to share some of his county improvements - new sign truck, yard and shop improvements, gravel sources, etc... Field review of bridges, SIA sheet decoding and scour survey basics wrapped up our Crosby tour.

Mountrail County - Jana Heberlie, County Engineer, and her staff were eager to pick up tips on signing, road foundations, etc... Leanna Emmer, NDLTAP Truck Weight expert, joined the meeting to share truck weight information.

Ward County - Dana Larsen, County Engineer, was the last stop on the Tech Tour. Dana, Travis and crew have a solid understanding of asset management, engineering best practices, etc... and as such Ward County is often a go-to resource for surrounding counties.

Moving onto July - Curt's technical outreach:

Billings County	I met with Jeff Iverson to discuss Forest Service right-of-way grants. I provided Jeff with a map of record, discussed future right-of-ways, gravel projects and other road contracts.
Golden Valley County	I met with the Golden Valley County Commissioners and Pete Wirtzfeld, County Road Superintendent in Beach. During the meeting I explained my position and the technical assistance I can provide the county. I delivered the county a map of the Forest Service granted right-of-way's. Other topics discussed at the meeting were dust abatement and Motor-Grader Operator training. Golden Valley County will possibly have the opportunity to participate in Motor-Grader Operator training in the spring of 2016. Contract bids on road projects were discussed.
Stark County	I met with Al Heiser, Stark County Road Superintendent, Larry Gangl, NDDOT, Dickinson District, and Dave Leftwich, NDDOT to discuss Stark County projects. Contract bids were discussed. I checked a county road project with pit run subgrade. The road subgrade is very saturated, the contractor is removing anywhere from 1.5- 2 feet of material, then ripping 3-4 feet deep to dry out, then placing pit run gravel. It seems to be working well on the east end on the higher ground. I am still watching the west end where clay material is super wet. I will be watching the project and get contract plans from Al to compare to the project on the ground.

Other activities in July:

- Attended the HB1176 meetings in Dickinson and Stanley. During the meeting, we were reminded that the Needs Study Survey will be sent out this fall and that it is important to fill out the info accurately. Additionally, the Asset Inventory Toolkit

steering committee members were selected at each of the NDDOT/UGPTI meetings around the state. The Asset Program will be a supported toolbox that will provide inventory costing and planning information.

- I gave a presentation on the LTAP Program and the technical services I provide to the oil and gas producing counties at the NDOGOPC board meeting in South Heart.
- Steve Chase, NDLTAP Safety Circuit Rider, was out west for a couple days, assisting counties with "You Show Us" applications and compiling project highlight info for an upcoming article.
- Denise Brown, NDLTAP Training Coordinator, has been working on training plans to help bring more motor grader operator training out to the western counties. Jana Heberlie will be pleased with the progress Denise is making to help Mountrail County.

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