



BELTRAMI COUNTY
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
2491 Adams Ave NW, Bemidji, MN 56601
Telephone: 218-333-8173

May 23, 2024

Dear Landowner:

Beltrami County Highway Department is continuing to develop the road reconstruction project on CSAH #20 (Birchmont Beach Rd NE), from the intersection with CSAH #21 (Bemidji Rd NE), east to County Road 414 (State Park Rd NE). The project will reconstruct the road to include curb and gutter, storm sewer, and a paved multi-use trail that will be on the south side of the road. Northern Township will also be installing sanitary sewer facilities as part of the project. The Township has received some federal funding and continues to pursue additional funding for their project. Beltrami County was recently awarded a state grant to help with the road project. The tentative timeline for the project is in 2025 or 2026.

The preliminary road design is complete, but we would like to hear your opinion on street lighting. Lights along a road and at intersections help reduce traffic speeds and improve safety, but they can also be perceived as too much light pollution. Please consider taking the time to complete a survey located on the County website on the Road Construction page. You can also reach the survey by using the following QR code. The survey also includes some illustrations of what the proposed road and trail will look like compared to the existing.



One requirement that comes with state and federal funding is the need to demonstrate we have obtained the necessary right of way clear of any issues. The survey and title work completed has found an issue we need to address. When the road was relocated in the 1920's the developer did not clearly convey the road right of way. This pertains to the road corridor lying north of Auditor's Plat No. 10, which is on the western end of the proposed project. Title for the existing road corridor south of the centerline is still held by the original 1920's developer. In order to document this right of way, the County plans to commence a quiet title action for that portion of the existing road corridor. This action will not affect any privately owned parcels, but you will be notified of the action if your parcel is in Auditor's Plat No. 10. For the existing road corridor north of the centerline we will be formalizing right of way out to a maximum of 33 feet from the road centerline. You can expect to receive a letter in the next several months if we need to acquire right of way from your parcel. Generally, the right of way acquisition will be limited to parcels lying north of Birchmont Beach Rd NE, having an address number smaller than 1525. We anticipate no new right of way will be required from those parcels located in the plat of Bemidji Beach or Auditor's Plat No. 10.

The survey of the project area has identified a few parcels with private improvements located within the existing right of way. Safety guidelines require those improvements be removed or relocated outside of the right of way area. A letter was recently sent with more details if you own one of these parcels.

As we get closer to the construction project we will send additional communication with timeline, access to your parcel during construction, temporary mailboxes, etc. If you have any questions regarding the project, please call us at 218-333-8173. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bruce Hasbargen
County Engineer