

TRANSPORTATION

More Mumble Strips

07-10-17

This year's "Mumble Strip" installation on area highways begins Monday, July 17. Mumble Strips are basically quieter rumble strips.

Mn-DOT Traffic Engineer Tom Swenson says mumble strips will be added to 10 area highways...

..."as the originals." :18

Nearby roadways affected include: Highway 34 from Dunvilla to Interstate 94; Highway 55 from Elbow Lake to Barrett; Highway 108 from Dent to Star Lake; and Highway 210 from Breckenridge to the Todd County line.

The mumble strips will be installed on the roads' centerlines. The half-million-dollar project is expected to take about two weeks.

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7:30
MWSZ

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PRW

I-94 Traffic Shift

07-14-17

Motorists on Interstate 94 between Evansville and Garfield will encounter a traffic shift that began today, as crews begin resurfacing the eastbound lanes and the re-decking of two bridges. Traffic will be reduced to a single lane in each direction using the current westbound lanes.

Full access to the Evansville, Brandon and Garfield ramps will be maintained using temporary crossovers. However, some ramps will close for a short time once paving work begins later this summer. The speed limit has been reduced to 60 mph in the work zone.

The overall project includes resurfacing both directions of I-94 between Highway 79 and Highway 114 bridges. The work will run through 2018.

8A
1627

Roundabout Opens

07-14-17

The final leg of the Highway 59 and Becker County Road 22 roundabout south of Detroit Lakes has opened to traffic. Drivers can now access all four legs of the roundabout.

Minor delays may continue through July as crews install pavement markings and complete cleanup work.

6A
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NW32

Motor Vehicle Services Statewide Closing For Upgrade

07-20-2017

All statewide Motor Vehicle Offices, including Otter Tail County will be closed starting today. The closure is related to a system upgrade and services not available include vehicle registration, renewal of tabs, as well as license plates. However, Driver's License, DNR & Fish and Game transactions will still be processed.

Offices statewide will reopen on Tuesday July 25th. The closing is due to the transition to "MNLARS" in coordination with the State of Minnesota. MNLARS will replace the core functionality for DVS operations. When finished, it will be a Web-based system for driver's license, identification card and vehicle registration and ownership transactions. The closure this week is related to the motor vehicle portion while the implementation of the driver's license portions of MNLARS is planned for 2018.

1628
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Ottertail Coaches Driver Wins International Safety Competition

07-24-2017

Fergus Falls can now claim to have one the safest bus drivers in the world. Ottertail Coaches Driver Dave Mansfield has won the International School Small Bus Safety Competition which takes place annually in Indianapolis. Competitors are tested on their knowledge, maneuvering, and skill. Mansfield said it was a nerve-racking challenge...

Dave Mansfield Winning Driver 27 SEC

OUTCUE: "...you really don't know how well you did."

Mansfield also says he has participated in the challenge previously, but this was his first attempt in about 11 years. Second Place went to Karina Larson from Forest Lake. The organization says this is the first time in its history that first and second places went to challengers from Minnesota. The competition is sponsored by the National School Transportation Association based out of Alexandria, VA.

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8A

EDLM
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Garfield Highway 114 Closures

07-26-17

Overnight closures of Highway 114 at Interstate 94 south of Garfield are scheduled to start Monday.

The highway closures are necessary so crews can remove the eastbound Interstate 94 bridge deck over the roadway. Highway 114 will close each night at 9 pm and reopen by 6 am the next day. The work is expected to take about one week.

Detours will direct traffic around the closure. The interstate ramps at Highway 114 and I-94 will remain open.

The work is part of the I-94 resurfacing and bridge deck replacement project underway between the Evansville and Garfield exits of I-94.

NW 32
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1627
NW 32

Becker/Otter Tail Highway Work

08-21-17

Motorists on Highway 34 east of Detroit Lakes and Highway 87 east of Frazee will face delays and a detour when culvert work begins this week and next week.

Crews will replace two culverts on Highway 34 – one near Snellman and one near Osage this week. The work on Highway 34 will require lane closures and motorists may encounter intermittent delays where crews are working.

When work moves to Highway 87 the week of August 28th, traffic will be detoured east of Frazee. Signs will direct traffic to Highway 10, County Road 60 and County Roads 51 and 33. The detour is scheduled to be removed prior to the Labor Day weekend. A second culvert on Highway 87 near Evergreen will be replaced with lane closures.

The culvert work will result in improved drainage along Highways 34 and 87.

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NOON

State Highway 225 becomes Becker County Highway 26

08/30/17

The ownership of Minnesota Highway 225 from Osage to Ponsford will transfer from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to Becker County on ~~September 1st~~ ^{today}. The road ~~will then~~ ^{is now} be known as Becker County State Aid Highway 26.

Turnback funds in the amount of \$9.5 million will be provided to Becker County to improve the roadway. Becker County has been planning a series of improvements to the road over the next several years.

Signs along the route are scheduled to be changed during the month of September, and maintenance responsibility will shift to the county.

Highway 225 is one of several roadways that MnDOT is working to transfer to a proper level of government.

In 2012, MnDOT completed a jurisdictional realignment study to ensure roads are owned and maintained at the correct level of government. For example, a higher volume county road that serves regional connections may become a state highway. Lower volume state highways that serve primarily local connections may be transferred to the county.

7:30

Highway 10 Project, Detroit Lakes

09/05/17

Traffic shifts in the work zone of the Highway 10/59 intersection project this week. MN DOT says this week, Hwy 10 traffic will be pushed to the south and work will begin on the north. South side of the Hwy 10 / Summit Ave. intersection is scheduled to reopen this week and the North side of the Hwy 10 / Summit Ave. intersection is open and will remain open with temporary accesses starting this week.

Hwy 59 lanes are narrowed and pushed to the west side of the Hwy 10/Hwy 59 intersection.

7:30
News 57

Fergus Falls Schools Enduring Road Construction For A Few Days

09-07-17

All is going well so far for the first couple of days at all ^{FF} district schools, and students and teachers are getting settled in. Superintendent Ness says he is personally amazed every year at how well everything goes with so many students and getting them to where they need to be...

NESS FIRST DAYS SYNOPSIS 28 SEC

OUTCUE: "...comings and goings of schools."

Ness says extra crossing guards and helpers will be stationed at Adams and Cleveland throughout the duration of the road construction to keep an eye out for all students crossing streets. Drivers are also reminded to use caution and follow posted speed limits around all schools, and also to respect all school bus stop arms.

1427

Adams Elementary Road Construction

09-07-17

It hasn't been what you would call a normal start to the year at Adams Elementary this year. With road construction taking place right by the school Principal Scott Colbeck said changes and work-arounds had to be made to accommodate the construction...

PRIN COLBECK ROAD CONST 24 SEC

OUTCUE: "...when the project is done of course."

Meanwhile at Kennedy Secondary School, Principal Dean Monke says for the most part, the new 5th graders are settling in...

MONKE FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL 21 SEC

OUTCUE: "...it's just been a great start."

Drivers are reminded to keep speeds down and observe all traffic laws around all schools in Fergus Falls.

Painting Signal Light Poles

09-07-17

Fergus Falls city workers have been busy this summer giving a facelift to signal light poles at intersections around the city.

Public Works Director Len Taylor says it has been eight to 10 years since the poles have been painted. He says they were peeling and fading, and the facelift was due.

The yellow and green traditional colors have been replaced with the color black. Taylor says he had seen black colored poles in other communities and thought they looked sharp. He says city crews made an exception at the intersection of Friberg Avenue and North Aurdal Avenue, next to the Kennedy School...

... "people like it." :25

It's hoped all signal light poles will be painted yet this fall. Next year, workers will start painting street light poles, the ones in worst shape first.

Taylor says he hopes to continue discussions with Otter Tail Power Company to convert all street lights to LED, such as those on the Regional Treatment Center campus.

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NOON

Vernon Avenue Construction

09-13-17

Central Specialties of Alexandria has been hired to do the Vernon Avenue street resurfacing project in Fergus Falls. Resurfacing will be located between Cascade Street and Arlington Avenue.

Part of the work will require improvements to the concrete walks by installing new ADA compliant pedestrian ramps which will be located on both sides of the street. This work will likely start still this week. Traffic will be maintained during this work, but traffic control devices will be installed near the driving lanes.

Once the concrete improvements are completed, Central Specialties will then install the planned traffic detour prior to starting the resurfacing work. The resurfacing work is scheduled to start the last week of September.

Substantial completion for all work is scheduled for this fall.

6A
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8A

Semi Runs Through Stop Sign At Road Construction

09-13-17

The Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office received a call on Tuesday afternoon at ~~2:42pm~~ of a tan long haul semi-truck east of Elizabeth at County Hwy 27 and County Highway 10 that ran through a stop sign and pulled in front of another vehicle. The vehicle did not make any contact with the semi, but several Knife River trucks were in the area doing road construction. Deputies were unable to locate the semi that generated the complaint. The Sheriff's Office will be adding extra patrol for that intersection.

The Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office advises that all vehicles, whether commercial or not, need to drive safely and observe all traffic laws when passing through a construction zone or road work.

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MWSZ

Ashby I-94 Lane Closure

09-18-17

Motorists on westbound Interstate 94 near Ashby will encounter a lane closure starting today.

Crews will be repairing concrete in the right lane. Westbound traffic will be reduced to a single lane at the Highway 78/Ashby interchange.

The lane closure is expected to last about one week.


1625

JPRW
DLM

Gas Line Break

09-18-17

The Fergus Falls Fire Department was busy Friday afternoon after a contractor working on the Vernon Avenue resurfacing project struck a Great Plains Natural Gas line, causing a leak.

The gas line was struck shortly after the noon hour. A worker using a saw was cutting into concrete when the incident began. Workers had trouble shutting down the line. Traffic was shut down from Burlington to Sheridan until about 4:00 pm.

There were no evacuations. The fire department checked homes in the area of the break, the corner of Arlington and Vernon, and determined that gas had not entered any homes, so residents were allowed to stay in their homes.

There were no injuries.

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OLM