

C I T Y O F
D E C O R A H

February 19, 2020

Residents of Ridge Road and Surrounding Areas
Decorah, IA 52101

**RE: Ridge Road Street Improvements Project
Decorah, Iowa**

Dear Hickory Ridge/Pine Crest Residents,

As you may be aware, the City of Decorah is planning several street improvements projects for Ridge Road in 2020. Some of this work has already begun with the rehabilitation street work for Lower Ridge Road from College Drive to Meadow Court. The other work will include the reconstruction of a portion of the Ridge Road hill. This portion is presently designed and just awarded this week, for work this spring. This letter is being sent to provide information regarding these projects and plans for traffic management during construction.

Lower Ridge Road (College Drive to Meadow Court)

Joint replacement work began last fall and was only partially completed due to poor fall weather. This work will continue as soon as conditions permit this spring (approximately late March) with replacement of both gutter areas along the sides of the street. This is a rehabilitation project where the center two lanes are good enough to keep, but the remainder is replaced to extend the life of what is left.

This work will be done either with one lane of traffic open or with complete closure to expedite the work. It is expected that the remaining work will take approximately one month to complete.

Ridge Road Hill

Due to the poor condition of the paving from Meadow Court to the top of the steep part of the hill (approximately to 719 Ridge Road), this portion of the street will be completely reconstructed with all new full width concrete paving. This will be done one side (half) at a time to maintain as much access as possible to homes along this portion. The north side (City Well house side) will be done first. When this side is complete and ready for traffic the south side will be done.

During construction of each side of the street, one-way, uphill traffic will be allowed. All traffic using this part of Ridge Road including residents along the reconstruction portion may use the open half of road to get home by traveling up the hill. All traffic traveling to College Drive (downhill) will be rerouted to use Locust Road.

This one-way, uphill traffic pattern is proposed to avoid any downhill traffic meeting on the hill with other traffic or construction traffic. Barricades and traffic controls will be set up accordingly.

During this one-way, uphill traffic period, access to homes along the hill will be provided as much as possible for the side under construction. There will be times of closure for paving and partial closures during more extensive parts of the work. There will be notice of these closures and if there is a need to park at the ends of the project and walk there will also be some form of temporary transportation such as golf carts.

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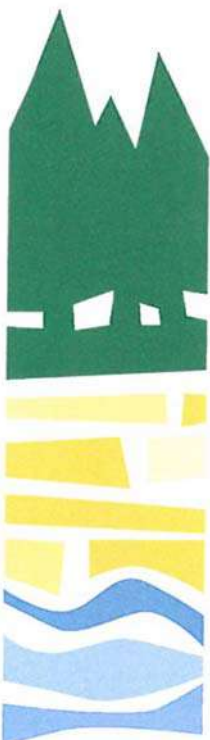
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Here are some notes about the construction of the Ridge Road Hill project:

- 1.) First half paving removals will begin approximately the week of April 20, 2020. This is subject to favorable weather conditions and attempting to avoid any spring snows.
- 2.) There will be some preparatory work ahead of this. Utilities such as Mediacom have new lines to install/move and streetlights will be relocated ahead of the project.
- 3.) Mailboxes will be removed and placed in a common pick up location at the bottom of the hill on Meadow Court. Mailboxes will be re-installed once the project is complete, but mail pick up by box will be at this location during the project. The existing mailboxes are in the way of the paving machine and we wish to avoid residents having to walk through the construction area to access mailboxes.
- 4.) Trees along the south side will be retained but may require some trimming. Some trees in the north boulevard (inside corner) will be removed due to poor health and/or conflicts with construction equipment and new utilities.
- 5.) Driveways will be removed and replaced from the curb to the sidewalk and in some cases including the sidewalk. All removals will be replaced with concrete. Generally, boulevard sidewalks are not planned for removal and replacement.
- 6.) Subject to reasonable weather, it is anticipated that each half will take approximately one month to complete. The goal is for the entire project to be complete by early July 2020.

Due to the length and steepness of the hill, this is not a simple project. The intention is to try and accommodate access for those along the hill as much as possible. It is also intended that the project be completed before any Locust Road traffic is diverted in this direction. Use of Locust Road as access to Hickory Ridge during the project is encouraged to reduce traffic through the hill construction zone.

Ridge Road Patching

At the same time as the Ridge Road Hill project there will be some additional limited concrete repair patching done along Ridge Road. This will not replace all the areas with issues simply due to budget limitations but will address some of the worst areas in the gutter and poorly performing street lane areas. During construction, these patches will be one lane at times but still open to two-way traffic as they will be much shorter length patches.

We hope this information helps provide background in preparation for the project and we appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work to make much needed improvements to Ridge Road. If you have any questions, please call City Engineer, Jeremy Brill at 563-382-2157 or Project Engineer, John Hjelle at Erdman Engineering (563-382-4194).

Sincerely,

Jeremy Brill, P.E., Ph.D.
City Engineer/Street Commissioner
City of Decorah