County Highway System

Many different jurisdictions manage and maintain public roads within Beltrami County. With all of the different jurisdictions, it can be confusing for the general public to understand which entity is responsible for which roads. The roads are also given different functional classifications designations and are funded through various sources.

Jurisdiction

The Beltrami County Highway Department maintains the CSAH routes and County routes in Beltrami County. CSAH routes are numbered 1-99 and are marked with blue 5 sided signs with yellow lettering. County routes are numbered 100 or greater and are marked with white signs with black lettering. Both signs are labeled Beltrami County.

The remainder of the public roads in Beltrami County are managed and maintained by the following jurisdictions:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation maintains the State Highway (or Trunk Highway (TH)) routes; TH 197, TH 89, TH 1 and TH 72 and the United State Highway (US) routes: US 2 and US 71.

There are 42 organized Townships in Beltrami County, each responsible for the town roads within its jurisdiction. There are approximately 700 miles of organized town roads in Beltrami County. In addition there are 5 townships that are unorganized. The County Highway Department is responsible for maintaining the 32 miles of town roads within these unorganized townships. The County Highway Department also maintains approximately 285 miles of organized town roads on a contract basis.

The organized cities of Bemidji, Blackduck, Kelliher, Solway, Turtle River and Tenstrike maintain the City streets within their jurisdiction. The County Highway Department maintains approximately 15 miles of City streets on a contract basis.

The Red Lake Band of Ojibwa and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwa maintain the Tribal roads within their respective jurisdictions.

Additionally, there are roads that are open to the public which are maintained by the respective managing agency such as Beltrami County Park roads, Beltrami County Forest roads, State Forest roads, and U.S. Forest Service roads.

Functional Classification

Functional classification is a process by which streets and highways are grouped into classes according to the character of service they provide. Federal regulations require that each state classify roadways in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration’s Highway Functional Classification: Concepts, Criteria and Procedures. The functional classification hierarchy is generally defined as: Principal Arterials, Minor Arterials, Collectors and Locals. The functional classification of a roadway dictates the general level of accessibility vs. mobility. At the upper limit of the system (e.g., principal arterials) are those facilities that emphasize traffic mobility.
(long, uninterrupted travel), whereas facilities at the lower limits (e.g., local roads) are designed to emphasize land access. Collectors offer a compromise or transition between the arterials and local roads. A functional classification map for Beltrami County is included in Figure B-1.

**County Funding**

The County uses a variety of funding sources to pay for the maintenance and construction of the road and bridges under its jurisdiction. The Department works under the County budgetary process and is limited in the amount of available funding.

The County receives a portion of the State Highway Users Trust Fund, which is made up of the gas tax, motor vehicle registration tax and motor vehicle sales tax. This funding is dedicated by State Statutes to help maintain and reconstruct CSAH routes. Local property tax revenue covers costs in excess of the CSAH funding.

County roads are funded through the local property tax. In addition the County Board has designated a portion of the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds it receives from the State for improvements of County routes.

The County also applies for and receives State and Federal grants to help fund road and bridge construction projects.

**Maintenance Levels, Policies and Procedures**

In order to provide a safe roadway system in the most efficient manner the Highway Department utilizes different road maintenance classifications, policies and procedures.

**Gravel Road Management System**

The Highway Department is currently working to implement a management system to help manage its gravel roads. The GRMS will take into consideration traffic levels and types of use to help determine level of maintenance based on available funding.

**Pavement Management System**

The Highway Department is currently working to implement a management system to help manage its paved roads. The PMS will take into consideration traffic levels and types of use to help determine the level of maintenance, maintenance projects, and future construction projects within available funding.