Coates Highway over Big Manistee River (Red Bridge) Bridge Replacement in Manistee County
March 8, 2018

The Manistee County Road Commission (MCRC) has announced that construction will begin for the replacement of the Coates Highway over the Big Manistee River (Red Bridge) bridge in Dickson Township beginning on or about April 2, 2018 and the project is expected to be completed by September 28, 2018. Coates Highway and the bridge are scheduled to be back open to traffic on or before August 24, 2018.

According to Mark Sohlden, Road Commission Manager, the scope of construction work will include the total removal of the existing 190’ long four (4) span bridge and replacement with a new bridge and related road approach reconstruction work, guardrail and pavement markings. The new bridge will consist of a three (3) span concrete bridge with a total length of 212’.

The construction project will be funded with State Local Bridge funds (95%), and MCRC local funds (5%) and the project low bid of $1,491,541.35 was submitted by Milbocker and Sons, Inc. of Allegan, Michigan to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) in Lansing on December 1, 2017. The MCRC funds also pay for the design engineering services and construction engineering services (construction inspection and contract administration) for the project.

According to Sohlden, the bridge and bridge site will be totally closed during construction and thru traffic will be detoured via a detour route with signage and portions of Coates Highway, High Bridge Road, and Warfield Road will be used as the detour route. Refer to the attached Traffic Detour Plan.

Access to local recreational areas including but not limited to the United States Forest Service Red Bridge River Access Site will be maintained at all times.

Recreational use of portions of the Big Manistee River for boats, canoes, kayaks, etc. at the bridge site will also be maintained during the bridge replacement project, however Sohlden advises that people use caution when they are in the vicinity of the bridge construction work.

The Contractor will be installing caution signs upstream and downstream of the bridge construction site and at the Red Bridge River Access Site to inform people that portions of the river will be closed during the bridge construction work.
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Sohlden asks for cooperation and patience from the traveling public and recreational users of the Big Manistee River during this key bridge replacement project and said to contact the Manistee County Road Commission at telephone number 231.889.0000 if you have any questions regarding the project.