

RESOLUTION 2021-5  
SUPPORTING PURSUIT OF 2020 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT  
PROGRAM FUNDING FROM MNDOT FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION  
OF SUCKER CREEK ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

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**WHEREAS**, Sucker Creek Road is a route of regional significance that connects to County Road 13 and is an important connection from Little Rock Road to Little Rock Lake. The road is located within the borders of Watab Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing portion of Sucker Creek Road in Watab Township is a 20-foot narrow roadway with minimal-to-no shoulder that is not adequate to meet the current traffic volume and has become a safety issue to Watab Township as the local road authority; and

**WHEREAS**, Watab Township recognized this fact as does Benton County as they are working to improve the bridge on this stretch of roadway in 2021 as well. Benton County is proposing to reconstruct and widen the bridge from 20 feet to 22 feet along with 3-foot shoulders to increase the safety of the traveling public; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing portion of Sucker Creek Road in Watab Township is a 20-foot narrow roadway driving surface that will continue onto the proposed reconstructed bridge that will be a 22-foot driving surface plus a 3-foot shoulder in the center of Sucker Creek Road; and

**WHEREAS**, Watab Township is seeking to reconstruct and upgrade the northerly approximate one (1) mile of Sucker Creek Road with a widened driving surface of 20-22 feet, add a shoulder for pedestrians, and improve the roadway to a 10-ton roadway, thereby allowing construction traffic for Rice Contracting and local resident's increased safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed upgrade to that portion of Sucker Creek Road located in Watab Township is consistent with its existing use and classification; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed upgrade of the portion of Sucker Creek Road in Watab Township will provide a connection that is safe for all users, has a reliable state of repair, and offers a predictable connection consistent with the traffic it serves in connection it provides; and

**WHEREAS**, Watab Township is currently preparing engineering plans for the reconstruction and widening of Sucker Creek Road; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation makes available up to \$1,250,000 to apply toward projects on local roads that are regionally significant, result in safety improvements, and address transportation deficiencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) requires a Township, such as Watab, that is not a State Aid Township/City, to have a County sponsor and the support of the County Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed year for said Sucker Creek Road Improvement project is 2021.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for Watab Township as follows:

1. The Town Board hereby supports the reconstruction and upgrade of Sucker Creek Road to the Collector Roadway standard to provide a safe and reliable connection from County Road 13 to the northern terminus; and
2. The Town Board hereby supports the Township's pursuit of Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funding and authorizes staff to prepare and submit such application; and
3. The Town Board hereby seeks the support by resolution of Benton County to act as Sponsor for the Township of Watab's Local Road Improvement Program funding application and the associated project development for the reconstruction of Sucker Creek Road, and furthermore, the Town Board hereby provides assurance that Watab Township will pay all costs associated with the project and all future maintenance of the roadway. Township staff will ensure that all aspects of LRIP funding requirements are met and the project's schedule is adhered to.

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**APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021:**

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Julie Johnson  
Watab Township Board Chairman

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Kathy Sauer  
Watab Township Board Clerk