

Emergency repair bids let on NW Missouri roads

(KLZA)-- The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission has awarded two contracts as part of a special letting to begin the recovery process for Northwest Missouri roads.

It is noted that the projected completion dates are not only dependent on the weather, but also on water levels going down and staying down.

Some roads in the area suffered significant damage in the flooding that first inundated the area in March. In some places water remains over roadways. As floodwaters recede, broken and missing roadways, damaged bridges, debris drainage issues and hazardous materials have been left in their wake.

Among the emergency projects let is US Route 159 in Holt County, from a mile east of Route P near Fortescue to the Missouri River Bridge. Crews started working April 29. Included in the nearly \$3.6-million bid to Phillips Hardy, Inc. is debris removal and emergency repair. The projected completion date is on or before June 1. It will include more than 10-thousand tons of rock being placed in a pavement gap west of Route 111.

Local traffic is urged, for their own safety to stay out of the construction zone until repairs are complete.

The bid for debris removal and emergency repair on US Route 136 in Atchison County, Missouri from Interstate 29 to the Missouri River Bridge was also awarded to Phillips Hardy at a cost of nearly \$3.5-million. This project has a projected completion date of July 1, but could be delayed as water was still over the roadway as of Friday, May 3.

Additional contracts will follow including Route 111, Route 118, the Little Tarkio Bridge on U.S. Route 159 and many lettered routes.

There are still several miles of roadway under water, with some rushing water which limits ability to assess damages.

Once the new rock and fill material on these routes are settled out, more permanent repairs will follow up the emergency contracts. The permanent repairs should take place next year.

The MoDOT release indicates the Iowa Department of Transportation is working to have their portion of Interstate 29 open by the end of May. When Iowa opens I-29, MoDOT will open the Missouri portion of I-29 between Exit 57 and the Iowa

border to all through traffic.

Many Signals Communications