

# Sleepy Eye HERALD DISPATCH

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READY FOR CONSTRUCTION to begin—Robert Jones, MnDOT Project Manager/Senior Engineer and Christina Andres, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, hold the signs that Main Street businesses will display in their windows while the Highway 14 construction project is underway this spring and summer.

## Sleepy Eye soon to be center of highway construction

By Deb Moldaschel  
Editor

Now that winter is over our other Minnesota season begins—road construction. There are three projects on highways in and around Sleepy Eye this spring and summer. Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) senior engineer, Robert Jones, is the project manager for all three and visited the *Herald-Dispatch* last week to provide the latest information on the projects.

First to begin is the resurfacing of Highway 14 between New Ulm and Sleepy Eye. Work is scheduled to begin on Monday, May 7 and will continue for about one month. “The project will be done under traffic,” said Jones. “It will be a flagging operation with no detours.”

The work on Highway 14 will include all new striping and rumble strips on the center line and just outside the fog lines at the shoulders. The project contractor is Knife River.

The second project will have a bigger impact on Sleepy Eye as Highway 14 (Main Street) undergoes a more involved resurfacing project all the way through town. The project is expected to begin May 21 and take almost three months to complete.

Jones said this project will also be done under traffic, with the ex-

ception of a short detour of up to one week at 12th Avenue for city water and drainage improvements. In a letter to land and business owners last fall, Jones listed the following benefits of the Highway 14 Sleepy Eye project:

- Smoother pavement, improved shoulders, improved curb and gutter for optimal drainage, new left and right turn lanes making traffic safety better along the corridor;

- Improved pedestrian safety with two active flashers at 1st Avenue and Main Street. (Jones added last week that the flashers will be moved to opposite corners and include push button activation at all four corners.) A flasher will also be installed at St. Mary’s Street and Highway 4 on the crosswalk to the Lake Trail;

- Over 51 new pedestrian ramps, driveways, and new or upgraded sidewalks for better pedestrian access.

Jones pointed out that other than the short traffic detour at 12th Avenue, pedestrians will be the ones who notice detours in accessing businesses on Main Street. With work being done on both the road and sidewalks, Jones said MnDOT has advised business places to make their back door an alternate entry, especially during sidewalk construction.

The Sleepy Eye Chamber of

Commerce has signs available for businesses to display in their windows that state, “OPEN during construction.” Christina Andres, Chamber Executive Director, said Main Street business people can stop in at the chamber office to pick up the signs.

Jones is proud of the improvements that will be evident in Sleepy Eye after the Highway 14 project is complete, but acknowledged the obvious inconvenience. “While we’re sculpting the infrastructure of your downtown, construction will be a hindrance,” he said.

Mathiowetz Construction Company is the contractor for the Highway 14 Sleepy Eye project.

The third project that Sleepy Eye area residents will notice this summer is the roundabout that will be constructed north of town at the intersection of Highway 4 and County Road 29. Construction will begin June 4 and take two to three months to complete. Traffic will be detoured during this project. Mathiowetz Construction Company is the contractor for this project also.

More information on the projects in the Sleepy Eye area can be found at [www.dot.state.mn.us/d7/projects/hwy14hwy4sleepyeye/index.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d7/projects/hwy14hwy4sleepyeye/index.html)