



## CSAH 71 Improvements

*Cass County, MN*

The CSAH 71 Improvement project consisted of approximately 7.3 miles of two-lane gravel road surrounding Ten Mile Lake and traverses partially through the Chippewa National Forest, along with a naturally wooded and wetland area. CSAH 71 was identified as a National Preservation Route and was being monitored with close scrutiny by the residents, landowners, and recreationalists. The improvement included upgrading CSAH 71 to an asphalt surface with two to four-foot shoulders. Special detail during the design process includes extra effort to conserve the environmentally sensitive and scenic qualities of the adjacent landscape. The project also includes all-weather striping.

WSB provided the following services for the project:

- Customized public involvement process to bring the residents, public agencies, and engineering staff in agreement on how to improve the design while maintaining the natural aesthetics
- Prepared preliminary and final design utilizing the Natural Preservation Route Standards along with non-standard engineering backslopes, ditches, pavement section, and subgrade treatments
- Wrote specifications and used special construction methods to decrease disturbance to the surrounding area during construction
- Worked closely with local residents and stakeholders on the right of way acquisition process

*Client:* Cass County  
*Total project cost:* \$3.4 million  
*Completion:* July 2008

*Project Award*  
2009 Mn/DOT Environmental Excellence  
Award in Stewardship



*A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the residents and stakeholders on August 16, 2008.*