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## **U.S. 24 Bridge in Clay Center to Open to Traffic**

The viaduct on U.S. 24 (Crawford St.) in Clay Center was removed and replaced with a bridge designed to meet the current and future needs of traffic at that location. The new bridge provides wider lanes than the former structure and is closer to the height of the adjoining highway offering better visibility to drivers. Traffic during construction was detoured around the construction site on Court Street. Traffic is scheduled to be routed onto the new U.S. 24 (Crawford Street) bridge by late evening Wednesday, November 14, 2012. While the roadway will now be open, there is still work to be completed and at times flaggers will be used to control one-lane traffic. Final completion of all work associated with this project is anticipated to be April 20, 2013.

A M Cohron & Son Inc. of Atlantic, IA, is the prime contractor for this project that started Tuesday, September 7, 2011, and the cost is \$4,994,651.18. The initial phase of the project was major repair to the Court Street bridge over Huntress Creek. That portion of Court Street to be used for the detour was milled and an asphalt overlay placed. On January 11, 2012, the detour for Crawford Street bridge replacement was placed on Court Street and the original 566 foot long and 24 foot wide viaduct bridge built in 1936 was replaced with a 380 foot long and 40 foot wide bridge. Due to lowering the approaches to the new structure, work was also completed on Pogue Road and the upper part of the park road past the swimming pool. The lowering of the new structure made it necessary to remove the road passing under to original viaduct

on the west side of Huntress Creek. Included in the work yet to be completed is grading, lighting, seeding (both temporary and permanent), an overlay on both the Crawford Street bridge and the Court Street bridge, patching of the Court Street roadway as well as final cleanup of the project.

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