

Chris Podany
Commissioners' Award of Excellence
April 2017

Chris Podany has been selected as the Commissioners' Award of Excellence winner for April 2017. Chris works as an Engineering Technician-Bridge Inspector and began working for the County on July 30, 1987. He was nominated by Chad Packard, Civil Engineer, in the category of Productivity.

Chris was assigned the duty of being the lead bridge inspector on the construction of the 125 foot long bridge located on Firth Road just west of S. 68th Street over the Middle Branch of the Big Nemaha River. In his nomination Mr. Packard stated, "This was not the first or even the longest bridge Chris had overseen construction of for Lancaster County in his 28 years with the Engineering Department. Each, however, always seem to come with their own unique set of demands and challenges, and as Chris experienced over the seven month construction period between April and November of 2016, this one would be no different."

One of the first challenges that was encountered, and set the project completion date back weeks, was the unearthing of several unforeseen obstructions. These obstructions were in the form of

massive concrete abutments from a bridge built in 1928 that were abandoned and buried during the construction of its 1974 replacement, and they had to be demolished and removed before the project could move forward. Another challenge was the corrosive nature of the soil at the site that required the use of square pre-stressed concrete pile to support the structure, rather than the steel H-pile, which added more difficulty and time to the construction. Then there were the normal set-backs, such as rain delays, equipment breakdowns, and scheduling conflicts that continue to put a project behind.

Mr. Packard added that, "Despite these setbacks, Chris worked diligently with the Contractor and his Subcontractors to provide the highest quality structure possible while ensuring the most responsible and efficient use of taxpayer money to deliver a bridge that will serve the public well for the next 100 years, long after all of us are gone."

In conclusion, Mr. Packard stated, "After 28 years of stoic self-sacrifice and perseverance, Chris deserves a long overdue thank you. Chris, thank you for all you do to keep everyone who uses the bridges in Lancaster County safe and the roads open."

For these reasons, we are pleased to award Chris Podany with the Commissioners' Award of Excellence for the month of April 2017.