

USDA Rural Development Celebrates Partnerships That Helped to Improve the Quality of Life in Lac du Flambeau

On August 26, 2003 the U.S. Department of Agriculture of Rural Development State Director, Frank Frassetto, WI Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary, Frank Busalacchi and State Senator Roger Breske joined Tribal leaders and members of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe at a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony.

The ceremony, led by Emerson Coy the Tribal Director of Planning and Development, marked the opening of the newly reconstructed stretch of WI Highway 47 through the Lac du Flambeau reservation.

WI DOT Secretary Busalacchi was complimentary of the Lac du Flambeau community for their patience and fortitude during the summer long project.

“You have proven that a major construction project need not mean an end to a community’s way of life and its ability to serve its customers. Your efforts helped keep Lac du Flambeau’s community strong,” Busalacchi said.

The project involved replacing the Lake Pokegama Bridge and reconstructing 1.4 miles of Hwy 47, beginning at the Lake of the Torches Casino and ending at Cemetery Road. Adjusting the road way alignment and repaving with asphalt were included in the construction. In the urban section of the renovation new sidewalks, curbs and gutters were constructed and street lights added. New water lines and sanitary sewer utilities were also installed.

This \$2.2 million project was funded with a combination of federal, state, and local programs from the Department



Ribbon Cutting, marking the opening of the new State Highway 47. Members of the Lac Du Flambeau Tribe, WI DOT, Rural Development representative and State Senator Roger Breske.

of Transportation, USDA Rural Development and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Rural Development provided approximately \$478,000 in grants in order to replace and move the existing sewer and water lines affected by the highway construction.

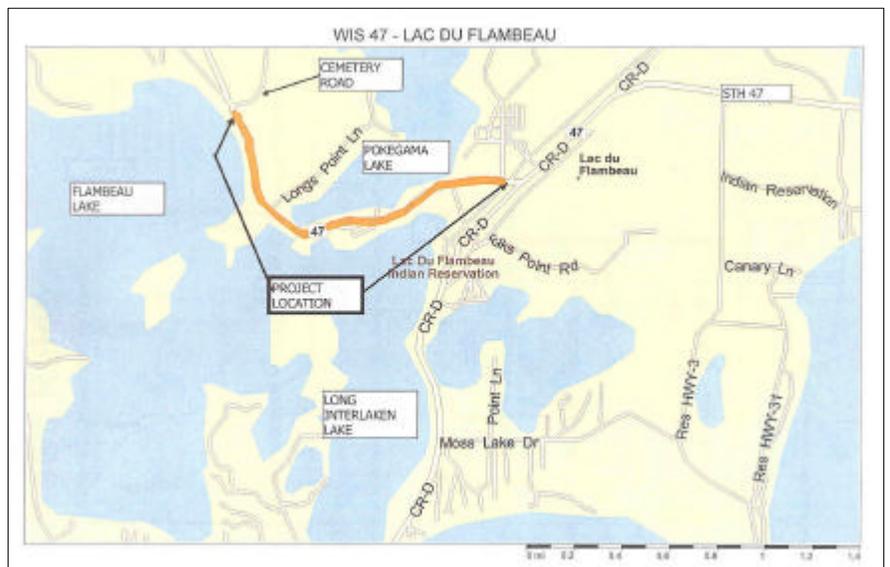
Rural Development State Director, Frank Frassetto, recognized the collaborative efforts used on this project and stated that the partnership has created a better future for the Lac du Flambeau community.

“The Lac du Flambeau Tribe deserves a lot of credit for their initiative on this project. Developing and maintaining a modern infrastructure is essential for rural areas to remain economically viable,” said Frassetto.

Approximately 4,500 vehicles travel along this stretch of state Hwy 47 and the renovation has impacted 605 residents.



Mike Allen, Tribal Vice Chairman Lac du Flambeau Band of lake Superior Chippewa Indians, speaking. Behind Allen sits guests Senator Roger Breske, 12th Senate District; Frank Busalacchi, WI Department of Transportation Secretary; Emerson Coy, Director of Planning and Development for the Lac du Flambeau Tribe; and Frank Frassetto, USDA Rural Development State Director– WI.



Project Map



12th District State Senator Roger Breske



Frank Frassetto, USDA Rural Development State Director commenting on the importance of the partnerships that made the Hwy 47 project a success and commending the Lac du Flambeau Indian Tribe for their initiative and hard work in making their community a better place to live.