

County highway shop 80-percent completed

By Amy Smith Union staff writer | Posted: Friday, February 6, 2015 9:22 am

JEFFERSON — About 85 percent of the new Jefferson County Highway Department facility has been completed, the county's Infrastructure Committee learned Thursday.

The \$15.37 million facility, for which a groundbreaking ceremony was held Aug. 11, has taken shape as crews put the finishing touches on the building's interior.

Located at 1425 Wisconsin Drive (County Highway W) on the west side of the City of Jefferson, the site of the former Countryside Home, the highway shop will be home to the Highway Department's entire fleet of 60-plus vehicles.

A March completion date is planned for the project, with the highway crew moving into the space in April, according to a representative for the project, Chris Raykowski of The Sigma Group engineering consulting firm in Milwaukee.

"Things are really starting to finish up," Raykowski said during a committee tour of the structure.

During January, crews completed the brine building and continued mechanical, electrical and plumbing work in the main facility, which is now approximately 80-percent complete. Overhead cranes for vehicle repair and welding bays were installed, and installation of the automated vehicle-washing system was started. Wall framing was completed as crews continued to paint, drywall and tile interior finishes. Also ongoing were miscellaneous metal installations such as railings and roof ladders.

This month, crews from Maas Brothers Construction will finish enclosing the exterior of the building by covering the bright yellow insulation with metal panels. Mechanical, electrical and plumbing work will continue as systems are installed and tested. Also, drywall work will be completed as well as other interior finishes.

Raykowski said that, also in February, crews will begin installing custom, built-in furniture along with storage lockers in the men's and women's locker rooms. Plumbing fixtures' installation will get under way, and by the end of the month, Raykowski said, he hopes to begin testing all equipment for use beginning in April.

The building, approved for a budget not to exceed \$15 million, utilizes approximately 11 acres of the 40-acre plot, and necessitated demolition of all of the existing buildings of the county's former nursing home.

To reach the groundbreaking milestone, the county had conducted at least six studies and was headed by at least four county board chairpersons, three county administrators and two highway commissioners throughout the



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

UNDER CONSTRUCTION — Several members of the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors toured the new Jefferson County Highway Department facility Thursday. The building, about 85 percent complete, is set to be entirely finished by March, with employees moving in in April. For more photos, click [here](#). — Daily Union photos by Amy Smith.

process.

The county officially committed to building a new off-site facility in 2013 with the purchase of the former Countryside Home property south of Jefferson and a slew of contracts for the demolition of the existing buildings and design of a new facility.

The purchase price on the land was \$200,000, with another \$12,000 spent on an environmental study of the property and additional funds for the abatement of environmental problems and demolition of the existing buildings.

Other sites considered throughout the years included the former Briggs and Stratton Power Products building and the former Schweiger Industries building.