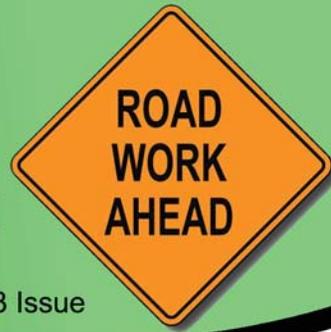


CHR Update

Improvements to Cockrell Hill Road

From Belt Line
Road to
Parkerville Road



A Collaborative Effort Between the City of DeSoto and Dallas County

February 2013 Issue

Next Phase of Cockrell Hill Road Construction Set to Begin

The new year brings with it the opportunity for a fresh start and a push to complete final items before the traffic pattern is changed and the next phase of the ongoing Cockrell Hill Road construction begins.

The partnership between Dallas County and the City of DeSoto continues to flourish as the two entities collaborate on this \$5.3 million project that will widen Cockrell Hill Road to four lanes between Belt Line Road and Parkerville Road, in addition to enhancing pedestrian access and improving drainage in the area.

Project construction began in January 2012 and continued at a moderate pace through much of the year. No construction project is without its problems, which is why the project team – comprised of the contractor, city staff and county staff – met nearly 30 times over the course of 2012 for the primary purpose of proactively addressing problems to ensure acceptable progress is maintained.

For the average person, construction progress best manifests itself when new concrete is on the ground. Workers completed construction of the new northbound lanes in late November.

“As of December 31, 2012, over 60 percent of the allocated time to complete construction has been used.”

Now that construction of the two northbound lanes is complete, they

will be used on an interim basis to carry traffic once work begins to build the southbound lanes.

Before reaching the point where constructing the northbound pavement was even possible, crews were confronted with a few challenges during the installation of drainage and potable water pipes beneath the pavement.

Stormwater produced during a rain event that drains to the new Cockrell Hill Road must be intercepted and carried downstream to prevent flooding. A network of 8,700 feet of underground pipes and culverts is included in the scope of the project to prevent flooding during any normal rain storm.

The predominant geology in the project area is limerock, which is present at fairly shallow depths beneath the ground surface. Construction crews were hampered in their efforts to install the drainage pipes due to the slow, tedious process it took to excavate the limerock to the required installation depths.

While installing the pipes, the contractor also uncovered existing utilities in some locations. This precipitated redesign efforts for a portion of the storm drain system to eliminate the conflicts, resulting in some delay to construction progress.

Before switching traffic and beginning work on the southbound lanes, workers must complete all sidewalk construction on the east side of the road adjacent to the new northbound lanes. The new sidewalk will be used to facilitate pedestrian access to Cockrell Hill Elementary School for the duration of the next construction phase.



Workers pour new sidewalk adjacent to the recently built northbound lanes.

As of December 31, 2012, over 60 percent of the allocated time to complete construction has been used. The next phase of construction is expected to progress at a faster pace since 80 percent of the drainage pipe was installed in the first phase of construction. Construction is estimated to be substantially complete by June 2013.

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Stay Safe in Construction Zones

Work zones, whether for construction or roadway maintenance, require extra attention and extreme caution. Drivers should pay special attention to workers, equipment and traffic control devices, as well as other motorists who may be confused by the construction zone.

Roadway work can be dangerous, and drivers going through work zones also face increased risk. According to the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse, nearly 700 people were killed in work zone crashes across the United States in 2009 (the most recent year for which data is available), and Texas had more work zone fatalities than any other state.

When traveling through work

zones, follow these tips provided by the American Road and Transportation Builders Association and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation:

- Eliminate distractions: Drinking, eating, using a cell phone or adjusting radio settings all take attention away from the road long enough for serious mistakes to occur.
- Expect the unexpected: Speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people may be working on or near the road.
- Slow down: A car traveling at 50 mph travels about 70 feet per second. The faster you are driving, the longer it takes to stop.
- Read caution signs: Don't assume that the same traffic switches or road conditions are in effect as



the last time you traveled through that work zone. Construction schedules call for frequent changes.

- Give yourself room: Rear-end collisions are the most common type of accident in work zones.
- Be patient: If you don't see workers, that doesn't mean they aren't there.

And remember, Texas enforces increased penalties for drivers who ignore posted speed limits in work zones where workers are present. A traffic ticket will cost more in posted work zones when workers are in the area.

Adapted from NTTA January 2012 eNewsletter

1				2		3		4
5		6				7		
8								
9				10				11
12				13				

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS:

1. Hidden supply
3. Sunday parking space?
5. Cut companion
7. Coke's partner, at the bar
8. Primitive timepiece
9. Court arbiter
10. Irritable
12. U.S. National Anthem's fifth word
13. Munch noisily

DOWN:

1. One may come in a black-and-white
2. Full of pep
3. Outcasts
4. Milquetoasts
6. Sound heard in hay fever season
8. Pitches
11. Shriill bark

Adapted from freecrosswordpuzzles.com

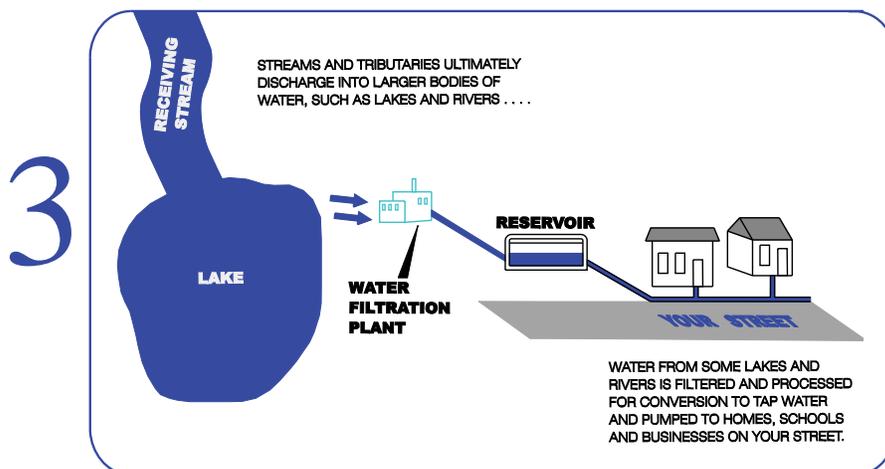
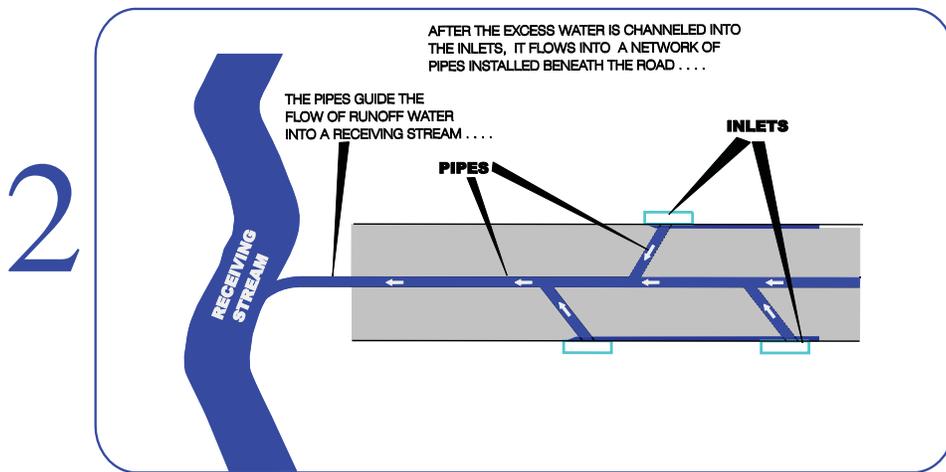
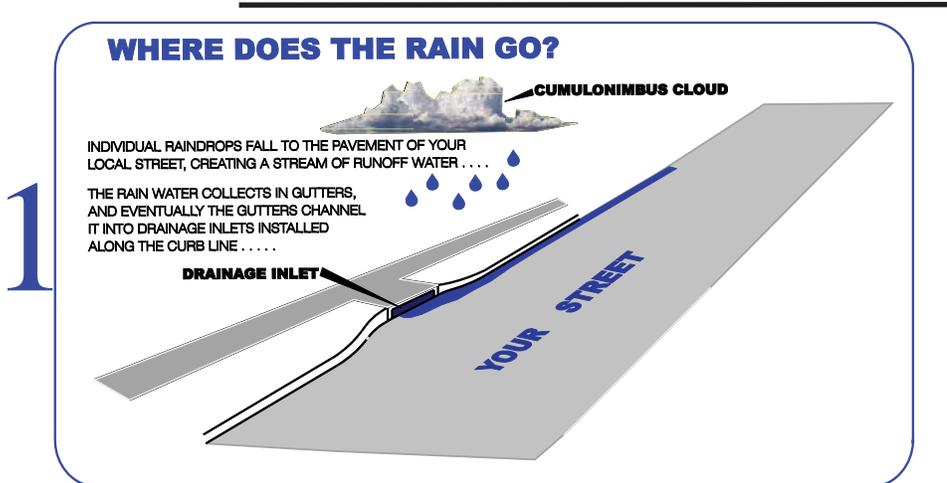
How's the Weather?

The time allocated to complete construction projects is based on the complexity of the project and other special circumstances that engineers discover during the project design phase. The construction contract time is typically allocated by “working” days. A working day is defined as a calendar

day, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, in which weather will permit the performance of work for at least seven continuous hours. Under ideal weather conditions, there is an average of 22 working days in a calendar month. There’s no question, however, that ideal weather does not persist for

an extended period of time in north Texas. Mother Nature can and does have a significant effect on construction progress at times.

There are 330 working days allocated to complete the Cockrell Hill Road construction. The number of working days and the impact of weather for the 12-month construction period beginning January 19, 2012 and ending December 31, 2012 are summarized below:



Weather Impact

January 19, 2012 through December 31, 2012

Number of Allocated Working Days

243

Number of Charged Working Days

217

Number of Weather Days

26

School Parking Lot Closed in Next Phase of Construction

To facilitate construction activities on the Cockrell Hill Elementary School property, DeSoto ISD officials approved the closure of the front parking lot for much of the duration of the next phase of construction.

The new southbound lanes that will be built within the limits of the school will be about three feet lower than the existing pavement. The lower road will impact the school's front parking lot, requiring a portion of it to be lowered as well.

Dallas County and City of DeSoto staff worked closely with school administration and district officials to develop an interim school access plan for the time the front parking lot is closed.

All staff, visitors and students should use the back entrance to the school, which is accessible from Mountain Laurel Lane. The existing parking lot in the back of the

school is expected to adequately accommodate parking demands during normal operating hours.

Dallas County staff constructed two temporary paved surfaces to provide for possible increased parking demands resulting from special school events. These parking areas are located on the City of DeSoto park property behind the school. To maximize the number of available spaces in the temporary parking areas, motorists should park using the head-in parking method.

Although the front parking lot will be closed to normal vehicular access, provisions will be made to provide timely access to the lot for emergency personnel at any time.

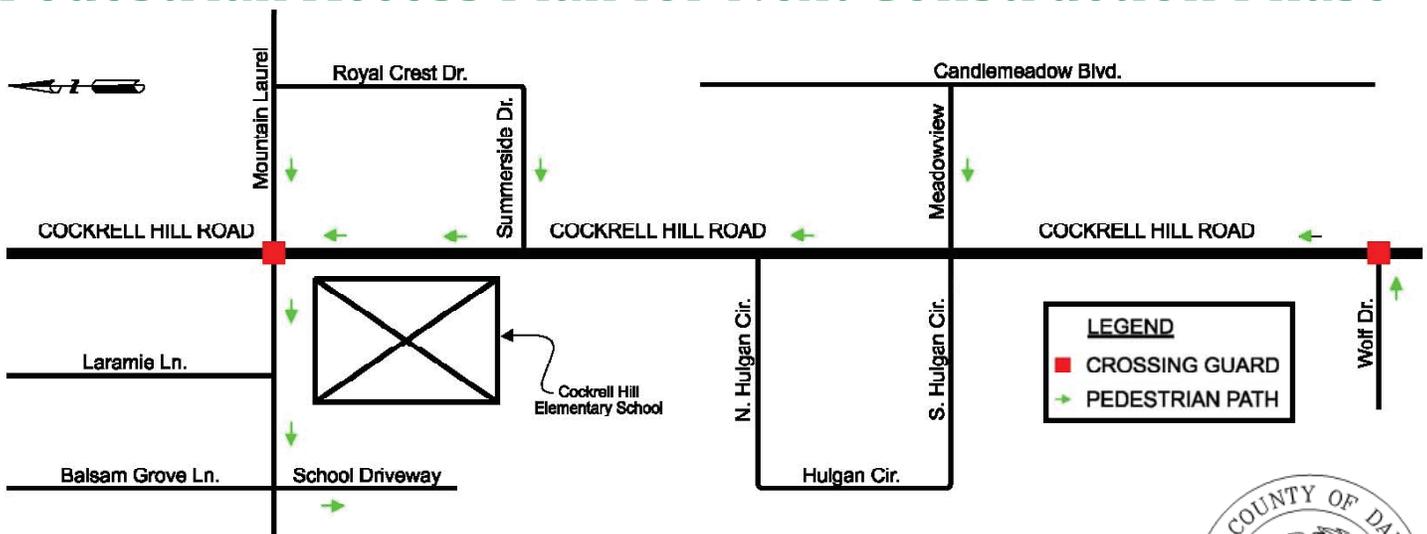


Access to the Cockrell Hill Elementary School front parking lot will be restricted during the next phase of road construction.

Crossword Puzzle Answers (from page 2)

1	C	A	C	H	E	2					3	P	E	W
	O						N	A		I				
3	P	A	S	T	E	7	R	U	M					
			H				R	I		P				
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9	R	E	F			10	T	E	S	T	11	Y		
	L		L				I					A		
12	S	E	E			13	C	H	O	M		P		

Pedestrian Access Plan for Next Construction Phase



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