Falls Road Paving Project

Project to Begin Soon, Includes Hot Mix Asphalt Paving

PURPOSE
This newsletter is to inform you of the upcoming road resurfacing of Falls Road, between River Road and MacArthur Boulevard and to describe the process. This pavement system preservation project employs long term strategies to preserve and enhance the physical and operating conditions of the roadway system as it exists and assures a system serviceable for many years.

BACKGROUND
The Montgomery County Department of Transportation’s (MCDOT) Division of Highway Services (DHS) maintains nearly 5200 lane miles of streets and highways in the county’s transportation system. MCDOT recently completed another annual countywide pavement condition survey of all county roads, identifying and rating the condition of each. This pavement management system has enabled the development of countywide roadway pavement repair schedules.

SCOPE OF PROJECT
Overall, the pavement conditions of Goshen Highway were generally rated as poor to fair. This rating meets the criteria for Primary/Arterial Roadway Preservation using full-depth patching followed by hot mix asphalt (HMA) overlay.

PROJECT WORK PLAN
Generally, the work will proceed as follows:

1. Conduct survey — MCDOT inspectors will identify areas of the roadway that, prior to resurfacing, may require full depth asphalt patching of the pavement or other repairs.

2. Concrete Repairs - Damaged or deteriorating concrete curb, gutter and sidewalk within the project work zone will be repaired or replaced to specification.

3. Full Depth Patching – Full depth patching restores the pavement’s structural integrity and capacity to support vehicle loads. The areas of distressed pavement marked by the MCDOT inspectors is removed and replaced with new pavement. The final paving of the road will provide a smooth ride.

4. Pavement milling - This involves the grinding off of the existing roadway pavement as well as the pavement near curbs and driveways allows the new pavement to match the level of the existing curbs, etc. In this case, the entire surface of the roadway will be milled off to a depth of 1”-2” to restore the proper highway cross-section and to improve ride-ability and restore drainage.

5. Utility Adjustments - Sewer and storm drain manholes, water valves and gas valves, and other underground utility access covers need to be elevated to the same grade as the newly proposed pavement, usually 1” to 2”. During construction activities, all utility surface adjustments will be maintained by the placement of temporary asphalt ramps until placement of the final paving occurs.

6. Paving with hot mix asphalt - Asphalt is delivered to the site in dump trucks. The hot material is then transferred into the hopper of an asphalt paving machine. The paving machine places the hot asphalt in a uniform thickness and provides initial compaction.

7. Replace roadway lane markings - Permanent lane markings will be replaced shortly after paving operations.

SCHEDULE
The project is expected to begin in the summer of 2021 and will take approximately 4-5 weeks to complete, weather permitting. Construction will be performed during the day between 7 am and 7 pm, Monday through Friday.

IMPACTS
Continuous traffic will be maintained at all times utilizing lane closures. Street paving will necessitate temporary lane closures and temporary parking restrictions. Signs will be posted identifying such restrictions. Access to residences will be available at all times, however minor delays may be experienced as workers restrict traffic from freshly placed hot mix asphalt.

SHOULD THE POLICE TOW YOUR VEHICLE, CONTACT THE POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER (301-279-8000)

Generally speaking, this work is best characterized as noisy and disruptive. However, MCDOT and its contractors will take all necessary steps to mitigate any inconveniences this work may cause. Quality control for the entire project will be managed by County inspection staff to ensure that the project meets County specifications.

Please observe all temporary traffic control signs and proceed with caution through the work zone.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we work to improve the county infrastructure for residents and users.
SAFETY NOTICE

Please drive gently and safely through the work site and kindly remember that while repair work is underway, personnel and construction vehicles will be moving around the site. Some materials may be stored in the area. Please use caution when walking or driving through the construction zone. Children may be attracted to the noise and machinery, so we ask that you please keep all children under close supervision at all times, even after the work is completed for the day. Also, please follow the direction of flagmen and temporary signs and traffic control devices. We appreciate your patience and cooperation while we make these much needed improvements to the infrastructure. If, for some reason, you have a medical condition that could be potentially impacted by the construction activities, please alert the Project Manager listed below or Josh Faust, Public Outreach Manager, at josh.faust@montgomerycountymd.gov

DIVISION OF HIGHWAY SERVICES

Richard C. Dorsey  
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Project Manager:  James Kisner
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Should your questions be of a more general nature, please contact the MC311 Call Center by dialing 311 or 240-777-0311

DHS Email:  mcdot.highway@montgomerycountymd.gov
DHS Website:  www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Highway/

On the county map, click on the Gaithersburg West Service Area, where you will find additional roadway maintenance projects scheduled in your area.