

Evanston Road project “on budget, on time”

The Evanston Road resurfacing project is underway and appears to be going as smoothly as the blacktop surface already laid down.

“This project is on budget and on time,” District One Supervisor Frankie Massey said. “I am comfortable this will be done mid-to-late April.”

The road base repairs have been made, and a base layer of asphalt has been laid down this past week, according to County Economic Development Director Ken Flanagan. “It was getting pretty rough. People may think it is finished, but we still have a one-and-a-half-inch topcoat to put down.”

“This is a major road renovation project. Drivers should expect traffic delays over the next few weeks,” Massey explains. “I’m suggesting regular commuters avoid Evanston until the work is complete. Fortunately, there are several options to get around this construction project.”

“We are going to let the foundation settle for a few weeks and see if there are any spots that need more base repair work. The topcoat of another 1.5 inches asphalt will be in two or three weeks.”

Evanston Road is the main entrance to the George County Industrial Park and has experienced a significant increase in the number of vehicles and heavy haul traffic in the last two years.

The improvement project will widen roadway shoulders, repair the foundation, improve storm water drainage, and repave Evanston Road with 4.5 inches of asphalt from Hwy. 198 to Hwy. 613. The project is expected to be completed in Mid-April, weather permitting.

“We are rebuilding Evanston Road for the future. This project addresses the requirements for heavy hauling and the rise in drivers connecting from Hwy. 198 and Hwy. 613. This is a tremendous upgrade. Once complete, Evanston Road will serve the Industrial Park and local businesses for years to come,” Massey said.

All drivers need to use caution throughout the construction zone and pay special attention to safety flagmen, heavy equipment and slow traffic.

Evanston Road will remain open during the project. Employees and customers will still have access to American tank & Vessel, Enviva Pellets Lucedale, Eubanks Poling, Ready Mix Concrete, Tri-State Pole & Piling, Turner construction, and Vulcan Gravel.

This is an \$875,000.00 road restoration project, with grant funding coming from the 2021 State Legislature and match money from District 1 Road Fund.

The first round of road work on Evanston was completed in December 2021 at the intersection of GM Luce Road, with the addition of a new center turn Lane, low-boy trailer entrance and major utility relocations.