



News Alert: All About the Slurry Pavement Project in South Riding

Over the past several weeks, I have received questions-and some complaints-about the pavement project that is underway in South Riding. This is a VDOT Administered project (not a County project), and it has been a little difficult for me to piece everything together.

In order to try to get some concerns addressed, last week I met with several VDOT staff and the contractor doing the work. I also conducted my own inspection of various streets involved in the project, including problem areas that I've heard about from emails and social media. The purpose of this email is to share what I learned with you, and hopefully answer some of the questions you have.

I will say at the onset that all parties involved agree there should have been a community meeting held at the beginning of this project so that VDOT and the contractor, Slurry Pavers, could share information directly with the community. I have asked that in the future VDOT work with my office to make sure that happens-as of now, my understanding is that another section of South Riding will see a similar project next summer.



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What Exactly Are They Doing?

It is important to note that this is not a paving project. The work in South Riding is part of a larger VDOT effort to resurface 1,300 miles of roads in Northern Virginia. The material being used is called slurry. Slurry is a pavement sealant that is applied in a thin layer over the existing surface. It consists of liquid asphalt, cement, lime, fine aggregates and water. VDOT also performs other surface treatments for road maintenance such as latex seals. Typically, slurry is used on secondary/subdivision routes while latex material is used on primary routes.

Slurry and latex fill surface voids, small or fine cracks, and minor depressions sealing the pavement against the infiltration of moisture. This treatment provides a surface that is uniform and smooth in appearance. It extends the life of the existing pavement before the pavement surface needs to be repaved. This treatment is a good choice for pavement resurfacing when used on roads that are still structurally sound. VDOT told me that they believe in this case, the resurfacing will extend the life of South Riding roads by about 5 years.

What are the Steps in the Process?

The contractor will mark and eradicate or patch cracks in the surface. Often times, these patches look like dark black "snakes" in the road. The materials used must sit for a period of time, and often feel "wet" to the touch. Then, markings such as stop bars are moved from the road, and a thin coating of the slurry material is placed over the road, covering the patch marks.

Cone barricades are placed to protect the uncured material from vehicle traffic. The slurry seal itself takes about 1-3 hours to cure enough to allow running traffic and several days to fully cure. The contractor sometimes uses sand over uncured surfaces to protect the roadway until it is cured. Once the surface has cured, the sand will be removed with a sweeper truck. Pavement markings cannot be placed until after the surface has cured completely. A 14 day waiting period is required before any permanent markings are

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placed. Overall, slurry projects take longer than traditional mill and paving projects, though they are much less expensive for VDOT.

Why isn't There Better Notification When a Street is Going to be Worked On?

Based on what I've heard, posted signs have had incorrect days, and some streets and side streets have not received proper notification. The contractor and VDOT are addressing these concerns by switching to a "doorhanger" notice that can be used to more specifically target homes where the work will be taking place.

In addition, temperature, humidity and rain play a role in throwing the schedule off. Ground temperatures have been reaching as high as 140 degrees, which results in some additional time needed for curing. Late afternoon storms always have been throwing off the schedule. Nevertheless, I believe that all involved have heard my complaints loud and clear.

Can I Access My House During Work?

VDOT emphasized that at no point, citizens should be denied access to their home. If a resident needs to drive over the wet material, a worker should help guide them across (the key is to drive straight, no turns). However, the workers will ask that residents not do this, and instead park on the street elsewhere. I have heard of multiple instances in which workers told residents they couldn't get to their house. As a result of those complaints, the contractor held a training session last week for all flag workers which included instructions on what to do in various circumstances. The flag workers are themselves temporary sub-contractors, so sometimes the message wasn't getting through.

Who is Supervising this Project?

VDOT has an onsite supervisor. In addition, the contractor has a supervisor, and VDOT has asked that an additional inspector be added to the project by the contractor. The onsite point of contact for residents

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that have immediate concerns is Jeff Dilly with Slurry, phone number 804-393-6831.

What if Gravel is Loose on the Street?

A few things could be possible. As part of the project, street sweepers are coming in once a week to sweep up materials after a section of road has been worked on. So, it may be that your street has not been swept yet. If your street has been swept but still has loose materials, you can let me know. There is a final clean-up inspection process that will take place and is supposed to catch these situations, but we will ask the contractor to pay special attention to certain sections.

How Can I Keep Track of this Project?

VDOT maintains an online interactive map that they update every week, available [here](#).

Also, the contractor gave me the following list of remaining streets in this project, along with estimated beginning dates of the work (as of Friday, July 29)

Street:

Lands End Dr. - 8-8,9
Murrey Dr. - 8-1,2
Quentin St. - 8-1
Ocala Circle - 7-29, 8-1
Kenai Ct. - 7-28
Universal St. - 7-28
Plum St. - 7-27,28
Talamore Dr. - 8-3,4
Sarazen Dr. - 8-5,8
Glasgow Dr. - 8-4,5
Royal Burkedale St. 8-3
Longleaf Ct. - 8-3
Hagen Ct. - 8-4
Flintonbridge Dr. - 7-27
St. Andrews St. - 8-3
Iverson Dr. - 7-27, 28
Hartwood Dr. - 7-28,29
Pembroke Circle - 7-28
Primanti St. - 8-1
Springdale Dr. - 7-28
Spectacular Run Pl. - 7-28

Majestic Prince Pl. - 8-3
Northern Dancer Ct. - 8-1,2
Fenian Ct. - 8-1,2
Twin Cedar Way - 8-8
Cedar Pond Place - 8-5
Falling Cedar Ct. - 8-5
Little Cedar Ct. - 8-8
Juinper Glen Dr. - 8-4

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