



**Fall 2020**

## **Getting Closer to the Finish Line**

Crews have been focused on the reconstruction of the northbound travel lanes, drainage, and utility operations through the city of Vernon, and reconstruction of the southbound lanes south and north of Vernon. The Florida Department of Transportation anticipates project completion in late 2020, weather permitting.

Key accomplishments include the following:

- North and southbound travel lanes are open between Mill Branch Bridge to just south of Reedy Branch Bridge in New Hope (4.5 miles).
- Approximately 10 miles of new northbound roadway open to two-way traffic (one lane in each direction). Reconstruction efforts underway on the old southbound travel lanes.
- Stormwater drainage is 95% complete. 35 of 37 stormwater ponds have been constructed.
- The last box culvert is currently under construction between Dawkins Street and Pompey Avenue.
- Road height adjustments at the intersections of Fanning Branch Road, Douglas Ferry Road, Marshall Road, and Leavins Road are complete.

## **UNDER THE SURFACE: STORMWATER DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN VERNON**

Installing curb and gutter with a new stormwater drainage system ensures excess rain and groundwater are guided away from the roadway creating drier and safer conditions for motorists.

Traffic was moved to the southbound travel lanes in March 2020 as the

reconstruction of the old northbound roadway began. Stormwater drainage is now complete and efforts are focused on building the new roadway. Layers of highly compactable lime rock base, geotextile mat and crushed rock or Graded Aggregate Base (GAB) are placed on top of the roadway before paving operations begin.



Two-way traffic moves smoothly through Vernon along the future southbound lanes. Moving traffic to one side allows crews to reconstruct and improve the old northbound lanes.



As new stormwater drains are installed in Vernon, the roadway construction will match in height when paving is complete.



Southbound lanes between Court Avenue and McFatter are prepared for paving using four-inch drainpipe covered with filter fabric. To help drain water into the stormwater system a support mat called “geotextile” is installed across the roadway.



Crews work inside a “trench box” using a “jumping jack packer” to compact the soil around a stormwater drainage pipe near the Dawkins Street intersection. A trench box is utilized when crews are working in a hole deeper than five feet. The trench box will be removed when the work is finished. A jumping jack packer is a one-person soil compactor typically used in narrow and confined areas.



Graded Aggregate Base (GAB) is placed at the Dawkins Street intersection.



The first layer of asphalt is placed at the Dawkins Street intersection.



Concrete curb and gutter is constructed prior to placing the first layer of asphalt.



Roadside curb and gutter acts as a safety barrier between the sidewalk and traffic. The gutter collects stormwater runoff and carries it to one of the project's 37 stormwater ponds.

## LEAVINS ROAD: DRAINAGE AND HEIGHT IMPROVEMENTS

Douglas Ferry Road, Marshall Road, Fanning Branch Road, and Leavins Road were identified as areas where driver visibility needed to be improved on S.R. 79. To achieve this the height of the road was adjusted to meet the new roadway. Changing the height and position of the roadway at these locations provides a safer intersection by increasing the driver's ability to view cross traffic in both directions.

Another safety improvement at Leavins Road is the improvement of drainage. Workers have installed a 48-inch drainage pipe to help move water off the roadway and to a nearby stormwater pond site. Paving operations at the intersection are scheduled to occur during the month of September.



The S.R. 79 and Leavins Road intersection was temporarily closed in April as

the reconstruction and drainage improvements began.



In this picture, 48-inch stormwater drainage pipe is ready for installation along the roadway ditches near Leavins Road and will route water to a nearby stormwater pond.



Leavins Road is now open to traffic with paving scheduled for September.

## **A LOOK AT PROGRESS IN ACTION**



Watch this video to see how FDOT protects the environment on the S.R. 79 widening project.



## DOWN THE ROAD

The following activities are scheduled to take place over the next three months:

### **Fanning Branch Road to Vernon:**

1. Shift traffic to reconstructed northbound lanes in downtown Vernon.
2. Reconstruct southbound roadway and install drainage between Fanning Branch Road and Cook Circle.
3. Complete the last two stormwater ponds.

### **North of Vernon:**

1. Pave reconstructed southbound lanes.
2. Shift traffic to newly paved southbound lanes while reconstructing northbound lanes between Clayton and Leavins Roads.

Motorists are reminded to pay attention to the posted speed limit when traveling through the construction area, watch for construction equipment entering and leaving the roadway, and use caution when driving through the work zone. Speeding fines are doubled when workers are present. All

planned construction activities are weather dependent and may be delayed or rescheduled in the event of inclement weather.



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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Stay in touch to receive details, progress updates, and more!

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