

Stephens Road Reopens

August 19, 2013

Stephens Road in south Hall County has reopened after being washed out during a significant rain event on May 19 when approximately 7.5 inches of rain fell in the area within six hours. The damage to Stephens Road was deeper, longer and larger than any other recent roadway washouts in Hall County.

The damage this event caused to Stephens Road required a longer repair period than some of the other roadways that were washed out by rain this year. A double 10-foot by 10-foot concrete box culvert was built to run underneath Stephens Road to replace the pipes that were damaged by the rain. In order to assemble that structure, a wooden form was designed and constructed and then multiple rounds of concrete were poured into that form on site, allowing the concrete to harden and reach an appropriate level of compressive strength following each pour. Once the double 10-foot by 10-foot structure reached an appropriate level of compressive strength, the culvert was backfilled with dirt and gravel, compacted using heavy equipment and frequently tested for compaction by geotechnical engineers. Finally, the roadway was paved with asphalt, completing the repair work.

The decision to use a concrete culvert was made with the best interest of area residents in mind. Hall County officials are confident that this new culvert will be able to withstand 25-year rain events and will have an excessively long shelf life.

"I'd like to thank our contractor E.R. Snell Contracting for their work on this repair, and I'd also like to thank the residents and commuters in the Stephens Road area for their patience as we've worked to repair the damage that Mother Nature caused," said Ken Rearden, director of Hall County Public Works.

Anyone with questions regarding the repair of Stephens Road is asked to contact Hall County Public Works Director Ken Rearden at 770-531-6800 or krearden@hallcounty.org.