

SHIPLEY'S CHOICE DAM REHABILITATION PROJECT MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATE

In an effort to keep the community updated on the construction project to remove the Shipley's Choice Dam, this monthly update will be distributed to Homeowners Associations and other interested parties via email.

1. **Official Project Name.** Shipley's Choice Dam Rehabilitation Project: The project will be referred to as the Shipley's Dam Project in this document.
2. **Project Background.** Visit the County website for the Shipley's Dam Project for this information. The website address is:
http://www.aacounty.org/departments/public-works/engineering/Capital_Projects/shipleys-choice-dam-rehabilitation
3. **Recent Activities.** The following construction was accomplished during the past month. Refer to the construction photos at the end of this document.
 - a. Paydirt's Utility Subcontractor, Ferguson Trenching, performed test pits along West Benfield Road to verify the location and depth of the gas, water, and sanitary force main pipes to be bypassed.
 - b. North of West Benfield Road, Ferguson installed a new manhole and sanitary sewer pipe.
 - c. Round the clock pumping was required to keep the work area and trenches dewatered.
4. **Construction Schedule.** As discussed in previous Monthly Updates, numerous delays have extended the construction schedule. Weather continues to be the biggest obstacle: 2018's record rainfall has saturated the ground, and rain continues in early 2019. Much of the construction requires excavation, and wet muddy conditions will continue to hamper progress.

Paydirt recently updated their construction schedule. Anticipated dates for major work are as follows:

Feb – May 2019	Install utility bypass lines north of West Benfield Road
Jun – Sep 2019	Culvert installation
Oct – Dec 2019	Reinstall utilities in roadway & remove bypass pipes
Oct – Dec 2019	Remove Shipley's Dam embankment
Jan – Feb 2020	Restore stream through dam, final grading & plantings

5. **Road Closure.** West Benfield Road will remain closed until the new culvert is installed, utility lines are reinstalled over the new culvert, and the road embankment and pavement is reconstructed. Given the delays and continued wet site conditions, *West Benfield Road will not reopen until winter 2019 – 2020.*

A precise road opening date cannot be given at this time, with the amount of work remaining for culvert installation and weather uncertainties. The County will continue to work with Paydirt and their subcontractors to expedite construction and open the road ASAP.

There are reports that eastbound Benfield Boulevard continues to back up in the evenings, where it transitions from two lanes to one. To reduce congestion, drivers should utilize both lanes up to the point where the lanes merge. Refer to information at the end of this document on proper “zipper merging”.

- 6. North Fork Bear Branch Stream Restoration.** The County’s Engineering Consultant, Brown and Caldwell, is designing the restoration of 3600 linear feet of stream and the retrofit/decommissioning of BMP 4449. The project area extends from Benfield Boulevard upstream to Red Birch Road.

Brown and Caldwell will complete the 30% design in March 2019. Once the design is completed, construction should begin in 2021. A community meeting will be scheduled in the future to discuss the project design and solicit comments from the community.

If you have questions or comments regarding the Shipley’s Dam Project or this Monthly Update, please contact the undersigned.

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SHIPLEY'S DAM PROJECT – CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS



Photo 1 – Muddy conditions as sanitary sewer manholes are installed. Photo 2 – Sanitary sewer installation w/ rebar for concrete encasement



Photos 3 & 4 – A Vacuum Truck is used to remove soil and locate existing underground utility lines.

SHIPLEY'S DAM PROJECT – PROPER MERGING

To alleviate congestion where eastbound Benfield Boulevard merges from two lanes into one (see photos below), drivers should utilize both lanes as they approach the lane merge. Most drivers move early to the left lane in this situation, then refuse to yield to drivers in the right lane to keep them from “butting in line”.



Photo 1 – Eastbound 2 Lanes merge into 1



Photo 2 – Use both lanes up before merge

The following YouTube video shows how the “zipper merge” is supposed to work: Click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cX0I8OdK7Tk> or search “Zipper Merge Demo” on YouTube.

1st 30 secs of video – Light traffic, no backups

35 - 52 secs – Heavy traffic, most cars in left lane, back up occurs

53 - 120 secs – How it should work: Cars using both lanes, leave room to merge, no backup

When drivers utilize both lanes and allow room for merging, all available road space is utilized for as long as possible, and congestion is cut by about 40%. Crashes are reduced because traffic is moving at the same speed and there is room to merge.