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Mount Laurel
Municipal Utilities Authority

Press Release

Hartford Road in Mount Laurel Reopens to Traffic As Mount Laurel MUA Completes \$3.2 Million Sewer Project

The Mount Laurel Municipal Utility Authority (MUA) is pleased to announce that the section of Hartford Road between Rt. 38 and Union Mill Road, which has been closed to through traffic since September 2017, reopened to vehicles today, Thursday, February 15, 2018. The initial project schedule called for reopening the road with temporary paving in late January, followed by a subsequent road closure in May for final paving. However, MUA Director Pam Carolan states, "In January we met with County officials and agreed to complete the entire project including final paving before reopening the road." Last night's rain prevented the permanent striping from taking place prior to the reopening. Striping work is scheduled to occur next week; The road will remain open with an alternating traffic pattern during striping. MUA Chairman, Chris Smith said, "I would like to thank everyone, especially nearby residents and commuters, for their patience during construction."

Construction was initially scheduled to take place last summer, there were significant delays due to permitting issues, and material production and delivery from the severe southern U.S. hurricanes. In September 2017 the MUA's contractor, Montana Construction Corp Inc. of Lodi, NJ, began the long and arduous project of replacing the 24" diameter sanitary sewer force main in Hartford Road from Union Mill Road to Route 38. The existing critical section of pipe carries over 80% of the sewage generated in Mount Laurel to its treatment facility on Pike Road. The pipe failed repeatedly beginning in 2012, resulting in the imposition of use restrictions for MUA customers to facilitate emergency repairs.

Subsequent investigation by forensic engineers hired by the MUA indicated that the piping, originally installed in 1970, was subjected to external corrosion damage from stray electromagnetic induced current. "The new piping installation includes additional protective measures to hasten future corrosion", noted Chuck Bernheimer, MUA Operations Director. Bernheimer believes that the new piping will last 100 years.

The MUA funded the pipe replacement project via its Capital Improvement Program, however long-term financing is planned. In the future, the MUA has plans for two additional projects in this vicinity: rehabilitation of the original 1970 piping as back up transmission line and installation of additional replacement piping in Hartford Road from Rt. 38 towards Marne Highway. Timing of these projects has not yet been established.

Photos (5)

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