



ADDITIONAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION

SEWER PIPES

Due to the fact that your road is being resurfaced this year, we recommend giving consideration to your sewer line, specifically the portion that extends under the road. These are frequently overlooked by homeowners, being out-of-sight and out-of-mind, but when they fail, they can be incredibly expensive to repair.

Sewer pipeline inspection is a relatively cheap and very effective means to assess the condition of the pipe between your house and the public sewer main, typically located under the road. The equipment and expertise required to do this work is widespread, with numerous local contractors available.

The benefit of performing such an inspection now lies in the potential cost to repair a pipe under the road. While Meridian Township is responsible for the large public sewer main, the individual house services, which run between the public main and each house, are the responsibility of the homeowner. Under normal circumstances, if a house service breaks under the road, the homeowner is responsible not only for the cost of the pipe repair, but also the cost to repair the asphalt road where it is disturbed.

However, if a pipe defect under the road is identified now, the homeowner has the option of making the repair in conjunction with the road resurfacing. This means that the homeowner would only be responsible for the cost to replace the pipe, and not the cost to replace the asphalt.

Please note, this is only a recommendation – you are not required to take any action at this point. However, if you have had previous issues with your sewer, then we strongly urge you to consider having your line inspected. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Department of Public Works (contact information above).

TREE TRIMMING

Removal of the existing roadway asphalt is accomplished by cold milling, a process that grinds the asphalt into relatively small pieces (“millings”) for transport away from the construction site. The milling machine (“mill”) sits on the asphalt surface and feeds the resultant millings into a separate dump truck. While in operation, the total height of the mill can reach up to 15 feet above the existing roadway.

Although contractors attempt to maneuver around vertical obstacles, one of the most common and unavoidable challenges are trees that have grown over the roadway. While the mill operators have the ability to make minor adjustments to the mill height and truck placement, the mill still must pass under these trees in order to effectively and thoroughly remove all of the asphalt. In areas where branches hang within 15 feet of the road surface, this can result in tree limbs inadvertently being damaged or removed by the milling process.

Typically, only minor branches and foliage are disturbed, and the long-term health of the tree is not impacted. However, if there are trees in front of your house that have limbs extending over the road (within approximately 15 feet vertically of the road surface) and you are concerned about potential damage, please take the opportunity to perform any tree trimming prior to the start of the asphalt work.

Please note, this recommendation only applies if there are tree limbs within approximately 15 feet vertically of the road surface in front of your house **and** you are concerned about potential damage. However, you are not required to take any action at this point. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Department of Public Works (contact information above).

ROAD DRAINAGE & DITCHES

WATER can be the single most detrimental factor affecting the long-term conditions of asphalt roads. For this reason, drainage is taken into consideration during the planning process for roadway resurfacing projects undertaken by Meridian Township. The water must be able to drain from the roadway for the road surface to last, and for the safety of the traveling public.

Swales and ditches are engineered along a road to take the rainwater off and away from the pavement. Existing features, including the elevations of structures, existing and adjacent roadways, driveways, and available outlets control the slopes of ditches. The fact that there is very little slope to the land can cause the water to stand in the ditches as it slowly drains to nearby outlets and infiltrates into the ground. *This is a common occurrence for roadside ditches because the main purpose of the ditch is to clear the road surface of water.* Additionally, over time ditches fill in with sediment, debris, and vegetation. This can cause a well-constructed ditch to fail to drain properly and require re-shaping or reconstruction of the ditch during road projects.

In order for water to continue flowing past driveways, culverts are necessary where a drive crosses a ditch. These culverts and driveway approaches are within the public road right-of-way, under the jurisdiction of the Ingham County Road Department. During road construction, contractors may remove the driveway approach to facilitate the replacement of the culvert. If so, the driveway will be backfilled with material so residents can access their driveway during construction. The driveway approach may have asphalt or millings temporarily placed in them while the contractor schedules the work to place the final surface.

The public road right-of-way is generally 33-feet from the center of the road (on each side) and may include areas that are typically maintained by the resident. Grading or construction activities of this area may be required to get water off of the roads, or to open the flow of storm water drainage. Crews will restore disturbed areas after the drainage work is complete. *In many cases the need to improve drainage may change the appearance and/or grade of the area in front of the property, even after the areas are restored with grass seed.* Moreover, at times the need to improve water flow upstream may require cleaning of the entire flow area even though there seems to be no visible problem or standing water at a particular location.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Department of Public Works (contact information above).

