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Your Voice in the Village

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Dennis Beard, HOA/POA Highway Safety Committee

On May 21st two members of the HOA Highway Safety Committee tagged fallen or ready to fall trees along the entire length of the RT 444 Parkway shoulder right of way. This tagging exercise, using short lengths of yellow police tape as flag markers, was done in coordination with TDOT officials responsible for the mowing and vertical trimming along the Parkway. Mileage location of each identified tree along both sides of the Parkway was recorded and provided to TDOT. This was done to assist their crews find and remove the tagged trees before the commencement of the summer mowing. This volunteer exercise by the HOA Highway Safety Committee is an extension of their role to liaison with TDOT in order to have and maintain for Tellico Village residents a safe and attractive State highway infrastructure through our community.

15 MAY2019 TDOT monthly project summary of RT 11 / Rt 321 Intersection Upgrade and Rt 231 Widening Projects:

Starting on May 28th, the paving contractor will begin to lay asphalt in the final designed road surface configuration. This phase of the paving will be completed approximately by the end of July from the Rt 11 / Rt 321 intersection going north bound on Rt 321 to end of construction zone. The 1.5" finishing layer of asphalt will be applied at the very end of the construction phase.

As part of this paving operation, TDOT will create a dedicated right-hand turn lane at the Rt 11 intersection when coming from Tellico Village towards Lenoir City. Traveling in this direction, Tellico Villagers will have one dedicated turn right turn lane, one Rt 321 north bound thru lane, and one dedicated left turn lane to Rt 11 south. The newly created right turn lane to Rt 11 N may be closed for brief periods of time for final under the road utility service tasks.

Based on Contract Change #7, expected completion dates for both intersection improvements and Rt 321 widening is mid-September 2019. The big challenge to maintaining that completion date is AT&T due to their need for utility infrastructure under the Rt 11 / Rt 321 intersection. AT&T needs to pull new fiber optic and copper cable through that underground conduit and connect new and disconnect old. Their schedule and TDOT's do not align at this moment thus potentially impacting the mid-September

completion date. Efforts are underway by TDOT management to make that schedule alignment happen.

Other issues:

- Rough / bumpy concrete surface (Rt 321 south towards Maryville down the steep grade prior to the Rt 11 intersection): Paving contractor stated that this "grooved" surface was poured to specifications to enhance tire traction in wet weather. Contractor expects that this rough surface will self mill itself over time with the constant traffic.
- 2" bump on Rt 321 south towards Maryville at the joint between new concrete surface and construction grade asphalt: Contractors recognize this severe bump and will correct with the next phase of near final paving operations that commence on May 28.

Next monthly project status meeting will be June 19th at the Lenoir City Municipal Building.