



The Express-Times

Mid-August target opening date for road

Forks residents await final repairs on weather-beaten Frost Hollow Road.

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FORKS TWP. -- Resident Wendi Cameron recalls how Frost Hollow Road looked after heavy rains hit in September.

Gushing water ripped holes in the pavement, washed away guardrails and left the road impassable for cars, she said.

A stretch of Frost Hollow Road outside her home, just west of Route 611, remains closed for repairs, and Cameron is looking forward to the day it will reopen.

"It will be so much easier to get where I need to go, not to have that scary feeling with being boxed in," said the 42-year-old nurse, who lives with her three children. "It will be a relief just to know the road is safe."

Repairs to a section of Frost Hollow Road might wrap up in mid-August, said Ron Young, a spokesman for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Workers have been restoring the road, installing a new guide rail, lining a swale that runs parallel to the road with rocks and fixing portions of the road damaged in more recent rains, he said.

Frost Hollow road is presently closed between a one-lane bridge roughly a half-mile east of Meadow Lane Drive to Winchester Drive, near the intersection with Route 611.

The road is closed with the exception of local traffic from Elizabeth Avenue to Route 611.

Frost Hollow road has a history of weather-related problems. A roughly quarter-mile section just west of Route 611 was restricted to one lane in July 2001 after a rain-swollen tributary wiped out about 40 feet of the road.

This past September's rains closed the road entirely, leaving guardrails wrapped around trees, pushing trees into the swale and washing away pavement, witnesses said.

When the road reopens, it will return to two-way traffic, said township manager Cathy Kichline.

Frost Hollow Road resident Tim Sebring, 35, said he can barely remember when the road outside his home was last open to two-way traffic.

He moved into his home, near the intersection with Route 611 in 2001, just a few months before nature struck.

"It wasn't bad when it was (closed) one way," he said. "When it was closed, it really stunk."

But the inconvenience of taking detours and driving around Road Closed signs to get to his house could soon end. A fresh coat of pavement lines the road outside his home and rocks coat the nearby swale.

"It looks pretty good now so hopefully it will open soon," Sebring said.

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