

A this time, it's still my understanding that Williams brothers intends to be complete on the Highway 271 portion of our 3 part loop project by Labor Day. This is the portion that will carry traffic from the Bates Cooper Sloan funeral home to The Hwy 67 and Interstate 30 where El Chico restaurant is located. I will let everyone know if that changes.

Unfortunately however, I want to go on record saying that it is almost certain that our 3rd segment FM 4000 will complete on time. This is the portion that will carry traffic from South Jefferson at Home Depot and Tractor Supply out to the Chapel Hill Road.

Since my meeting with the contractor, James Construction Group, on May 14, we have seen some improvement in the pace, however they continue to face a very real deadline of September 1 to have the seal coat placed. Since this is the surface that we will drive on, it's a deal breaker. If the Sept. 1 deadline is missed, it is almost certain that this segment will not be open to the public until early summer of 2015.

PTP has asked James to focus all efforts on meeting this deadline in an effort to at least complete the segment between 271 and 2348 (union Hill road). This would at least enable traffic to travel the same segment that was in place prior to construction. This would not include the portion from 2348 to 1735, nor would it include the segment that connects 271 south with the new high speed 271 bypass that includes the bridge over the UP Railroad and travels through the Priefert complex.

Obviously I am very disappointed to give you this news, but at the same time I want everyone to be aware of where we are and despite the fact that everything looks like it is progressing the intersection of south Jefferson and Tractor Supply, the end is not near. Our county residents that previously depended on Tension Road need to be aware of this reality.

I certainly hope that James Construction is able to mobilize the necessary forces to complete this segment, but I believe this is unlikely with only 6 weeks remaining and so much work still to be done