

Q. You striped our road, Jones Creek Road, and then came along behind the new striping and then did one of the worst patching jobs I have seen. Now the gravel is everywhere and the nice striping job is messed up and there is loose gravel on the road making it dangerous. Why was this done?

A. Since this covers four different subjects, I am going to respond with four answers.

A-1 Sometimes a question like this kind of bothers me, but in this case I guess I really can't blame the person complaining. As most of you know we received funding from the Federal government to stripe most of the major county roads this year. The Road Dept. met with the contractor to tell him which roads needed patching and not to stripe them until we completed the patching. In this case, the company made a mistake and they will be responsible for restriping the road, at their expense, and it may be done by the time you read this.

A-2 If you see pavement patching being done on county roads and there is loose gravel there, it means the patching was done by using tar and gravel (surface treatment). While this may not look as good as asphalt patching, it also is not as rough and bumpy. Once the patching we use settles out, other than the change in sound, you really do not have a bump as you go across the patch. This method of patching saves the county hundreds of thousands of dollars and drastically prolongs our road surface life.

A-3 Any time we patch a road, we also put out caution signs and ask the public to slow down. Small particles of gravel dust and small pieces of gravel are spread over the patches to keep the tar from bleeding through the gravel and getting on vehicles. When driving over the patches, it sounds like the gravel is hitting the vehicle, but it is really only hitting the inside of the wheel wells. However, if you do not slow down when it is fresh, occasionally it could hit the vehicle. That is why we try with signage to ask you to slow down when traveling over fresh pavement.

A-4 While a road like Jones Creek may look just fine to the traveling public, I can assure you that our Road Dept. would not be patching a road if it did not have cracks in it. Cracks allow water to get under the pavement which can cause severe damage and soft spots, not to mention actual freezing damage in the winter. Because of the brutal winter weather this year, there are very few roads in the county that did not receive some damage.

We ask your patience in keeping our roadways repaired in the most cost efficient way possible.