



Monday, October 1, 2012

The final segment of Well Road in Daphne is complete. This project entailed 1400 linear feet of new roadway completing a new east-west corridor between County Road 13, a major collector, and U.S. Highway 98, a major arterial. Well Road existed for years as an unimproved farm to market road that linked the north end of Public Works Road to Pollard Road at a length of $\frac{3}{4}$ mile.

In the spring of 2011 the Utilities Board of the City of Daphne, a public utility, decided to locate their new Central Service Facility on the north side of Well Road approximately at the midpoint distance between CR13 and Pollard Road. This was a natural choice for the utility and a natural expansion of the commercial/industrial area. A partnership was formed between the Utility and the City to improve the road to a commercial/industrial standard. It is important to note that the Utility is a wholly separate corporation from the City and the partnership to share in the cost and construction was a first of its type. The $\frac{3}{4}$ mile section was completed in January of 2012 at a cost of \$400,000.00. The Utility funded \$300,000.00 of the construction cost and 100% of the survey, design and CE&I. The City covered \$100,000.00 through in-kind services and materials.

All that was remaining was the final 1400 feet to connect to County Road 13. The completing of this vital east-west link to provide for improved access to the commercial/industrial areas, to the two adjacent schools, and to the 37 acre \pm Trione recreational/sports complex became priority number one for the Mayor and Council. This project was included in this year's Capital Improvement Budget and is now a reality. Hutchinson, Moore & Rauch, LLC of Daphne were the Project Engineers and Asphalt Services, Inc. of Spanish Fort were the Site Contractor.

These roadway improvements will have an immediate impact by increasing the level of service on the 6 adjacent roadway links, providing infrastructure and access to land that is prime for development as commercial and light industry, and providing an additional "safe route to school" connecting Pollard Road to County Road 13. Furthermore, this new roadway link will provide a much needed bypass of the congested school zones at Whispering Pines and County Road 13. By offering an alternate route to thru-traffic, congestion at the schools would be reduced and safety along the links would improve.

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