

SUE SERINO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

DUTCHESS COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

July 12, 2024

Dear Resident:

As you are likely aware, Dutchess County Department of Public Works (DPW) has closed the southernmost unpaved portion of South Mill Road (County Route 85) between 665 South Mill Road and 696 South Mill Road due to a significant failure of the embankment supporting the road. This will be a long-term closure due to the scope of the issue and signage for a detour along US Route 9 and Mill Road is currently being installed. We apologize for any frustration this may cause and appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to ensure the safety of all road users.

For background, this section of roadway has historically experienced annual settling of a couple of inches, which DPW has addressed with routine maintenance by inspecting the roadbed frequently and filling in minor settlements with additional gravel as needed. However, late last month, a much more significant settlement crack was identified, and the road was closed until the issue could be further investigated. This closure proved fortuitous as subsequent heavy rains have contributed to the rapid failure of the underlying embankment, causing the roadbed to collapse several feet.

DPW is preparing to publish a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Geotechnical Analysis of the roadway to evaluate the cause of this significant collapse, analyze the stability of the additional unpaved area to the north along South Mill Road and offer recommendations for next steps to resolve the issue. Funding for the analysis will require approval from the County Legislature. The analysis, and any subsequent project design and construction (including further funding approvals), will be a lengthy process to ensure the safety of all road users, and it is anticipated this section of South Mill Road will be closed for at least 18 months.

For questions or concerns, please contact Dutchess County Division of Engineering at 845-486-2925.

Sincerely,

Mathew Dutcavich, P.E.
Director of Engineering