GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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Road Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Top Priority Project Progressing in Sea Cows Bay

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Road rehabilitation and improvement projects, which is one of the Ministry of Communications and Works Top Priority Projects, is progressing in the Sea Cows Bay area. The work is intended to improve roadway safety and longevity, upgrade underground utilities and reduce future maintenance disruptions.

Minister for Communications and Works Honourable Kye Rymer empathised with motorists as they are experiencing traffic disruptions. He said, “I understand the frustration that residents and the motoring public experience when roads are excavated and traffic is disrupted, and I want to assure you that this is not something we take lightly. The reality is that we could have simply overlaid new asphalt on the existing surface. It would have appeared smooth in the short term, but after the next heavy rainfall, the same potholes would likely reappear because the underlying sub-base had already failed. Without a solid foundation and proper drainage, any surface repair would have been temporary and unsustainable.”

He added, “While that approach may have been quicker and less costly upfront, it would have resulted in recurring issues; possibly within months, causing continued inconvenience and higher long-term costs. When works commenced on the Sea Cows Bay Road, the initial plan was to mill and resurface the existing roadway. However, once we observed the extent of the sub-base failure, we made the responsible decision to fully re-engineer the road. Our objective is to do this once and do it right. Upon completion, the road will be constructed with a proper foundation, adequate drainage, and pedestrian infrastructure, including sidewalks. I am therefore asking for your patience and understanding during this process. The temporary inconvenience will result in a safer, more resilient, and longer-lasting road for the community for years to come.”

Project scope

- Excavation: Removal of existing pavement and unsuitable material to prepare the roadway for reconstruction.
- Sub-base placement: Installation and compaction of engineered sub-base material to provide a stable foundation for the new road surface.

- Water pipe installation: Replacement/installation of water mains and service connections to improve water reliability and reduce leak risk.

Traffic and Access Impacts

- Lane closures and temporary traffic control will be in place. Flaggers and signed detours will direct motorists and cyclists.
- Access to homes and businesses will be maintained whenever possible; temporary disruptions to driveway access may occur during specific operations.
- On-street parking restrictions will be enforced in work zones; advance notices will be posted.

Community Benefits

- Improved road surface and structural support for longer pavement life.
- Upgraded water infrastructure to reduce leaks and improve service reliability.
- Reduced need for emergency repairs and associated disruptions in the future.

Safety and environmental measures

- Crews follow safety protocols to protect workers and the public.
- Dust control, erosion prevention and proper disposal/recycling of materials will be implemented.

The Ministry of Communications and Works continues to ensure the continued development and maintenance of public infrastructure in keeping with international standards so that public utilities are reliable and affordable in support of an enhanced community life for every resident and visitor in the Virgin Islands.

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Gallery






Additional Documents or Media

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