

NEWS RELEASE: Aug. 20, 2010

### **Blackman Road reopening Sunday, August 22**

The Greene County Highway Department will reopen Blackman Road Sunday, Aug. 22, 6 a.m., concluding ten months of road closures on Blackman Road and the adjoining Battlefield Road.

Motorists are advised that the intersection of Blackman and Battlefield is, as of today, once again a 3-way stop.

“We appreciate everyone’s patience and cooperation during this difficult project,” said Duffy Mooney, Greene County Highway Department Assistant Administrator. “Our contractor still has some work to do, but we’ve reached the important milestone of getting Blackman Road reopened to traffic.”

Greene County road contractor, D & E Plumbing & Heating, began work on Battlefield in September, 2009, later closing Battlefield and portions of Blackman as the old road was removed and the road bed was raised, widened and smoothed. The project has also included utility relocation, improved stormwater drainage, and installation of curb and gutter. This approximately \$2 million project is a cooperative effort between Greene County and the City of Springfield, and includes a \$612,000 contribution from Jack Henry & Associates. Inc.

Although Blackman Road will be open, it remains an active work zone for several more weeks. A work zone speed limit of 20 mph will be posted until the project is complete. Work continues along the edges of the Blackman Road as sidewalks are installed. Finished grading, seeding and mulching will follow, after which the contractor will place the final layer of asphalt on Blackman and complete signing and striping the road. Motorists are advised to use caution, obey the work zone speed limit and look out for workers and equipment crossing the roadway.

In preparation for the reopening of Blackman Road, stop signs have been re-installed on at the intersection of Battlefield and Blackman. Advanced electronic message boards and flagging will alert motorists to this change. Since May, eastbound and westbound traffic has not stopped at the intersection due to the closure of Blackman Road.

For more information, call the Greene County Highway Department at 417-831-3591, or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 417-829-6019 or 417-224-5510.

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