

Dennis Corporation: Building Fairfield



Dennis Corporation president Dan Dennis is surrounded by pictures of some of the Fairfield County projects.

Photo of Dan Dennis by Bobb Hane



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(This is part one of a two-part series on civil engineering projects on-going or recently completed in Fairfield County.)

Many Fairfield County residents have, no doubt, noticed the number of civil engineering projects

around our community in recent months. They are the work of Fairfield County's on-call civil engineering firm - the Dennis Corporation.

During the upcoming months, County residents will see projects at various stages of construction including the Dutchman's Creek Pedestrian Walkway and Bridge, the 2007 and 2008 Fairfield County Road

Improvement Programs and the widening and improvement of Camp Welfare Road.

Dutchman's Creek Pedestrian Walkway and Bridge

For years Fairfield citizens have known of the problem of safety for Dutchman Creek Bridge

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BUILDING

Location of 2008 Road Improvements

Road Name	Location
High Hill Extension	High Hill Road to Cul-de-sac
Hilltop Drive	Reservoir Road to Dead End
Prophet Road	SC 215 to Dead End
Oxner Road	Roddy Road to Dead End
Downy Lane	Flora Circle to Dead End
Angle Drive 1	US 21 to Dead End
Colonel Creek Drive	River Road to Dead End
Possom Branch Road	SC 34 to Harden Road
Agnew Road	Peach Road to Cul-de-sac
Roddy Road	End of Pavement to Cul-de-sac
Chinkapin Drive	Downy Lane to Dead End
Brachen Drive	Old 21 to Dead End
Timberlane Circle	Shangri-La Dr To Timberlane Dr Pavement
Strawberry Lane	Jackson Creed Rd to Dead End
Harbor Drive	Bundrick Rd to SC 269

Source: Dennis Corporation

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fishermen and those crossing the bridge in vehicles. It is now being addressed.

"It is certainly not one of the biggest projects that I have worked on, but believe it or not, it is probably one of the most complex," Corporation President Dan Dennis said. "This project has been amazing. Like any project there was a vision, but the reality is where does the money come from."

The project had seven different funding agencies and each one had its own regulations concerning the project and the use of its share of the money.

"Designing it was easy," Dennis said. "That is stuff we do every day, but just to get it financed ... A lot of people, I think, didn't think we would get it done, but we got it done."

Under construction, the Dutchman's Creek Walkway and Pedestrian Bridge Project consists of a walkway which will remove pedestrian traffic from the roadway and onto a safe walkway.

Construction has gone well on the project. The parking area is complete, and the construction of the sidewalk and the boardwalk is operating on an accelerated schedule to be completed by December.

Construction will begin on the steel bridge in mid October.

"It is not going to be just fishermen," Dennis said. "Part of getting all of this grant money was we had to take a new approach. Originally it was the Dutchman Creek's Fishermen's Bridge. It is not that anymore. It is

the Dutchman's Creek Pedestrian Walkway and Bridge.

Instead of considering the project as just constructing a platform for fishermen, it includes a walking trail that goes through the State Park property and connects with a six-acre recreational property that Duke Energy is going to construct as a part of its relicensing agreement.

As a safety precaution, the County is requesting that all fishermen take caution during the steel bridge erection. Throughout the construction of this project, River Rd. will be closed to one lane from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

2008 Road Improvement Program
Work on the 2007 Road Improvement Program is complete. During this project, approximately 16 miles of roadway were improved.

These projects are financed through C-Funds, state gasoline tax money which is returned to the counties for roadway work. Fairfield County receives approximately a million dollars a year in C-Funds.

Preliminary work on the 2008 Road Improvement Program has begun. Approximately seven miles of roadway have been selected for improvements. (See the chart on page three for information on each project.)

In order to improve these roadways, the County needs all landowners on these roadways to fill out right-of-way forms for the work to begin. Forms are available from Billy Lucas, Public Works Director. Lucas can be contacted at (803) 635-

5209. The County is requesting all residents have their forms complete and returned by Dec. 17.

All Fairfield County roads are evaluated by a consultant every three years. From that information, a priority list is made to determine what projects should be done and when, assuming all legalities are met.

County ordinance sets up the priority list and specific points for specific reasons.

"When we were hired, we were given the list, the list was voted on by County Council and now it is law," Dennis said. "The ordinance states that every three years the ordinance can be re-evaluated so it is coming up for re-examination."

Camp Welfare Road Improvements

The Dennis Corporation is also working on improvements to Camp Welfare Road from I-77 to Camp Welfare Church. During this project, the existing pavement, base coverage and subgrade will be replaced, and the road will be widened an additional two feet in each lane.

Surveys have begun and the design should be complete by the spring with construction being completed by the summer.

Waterree Road Improvements

Improvements to Waterree Rd. were completed on Sept. 21. During this project, 3.1 miles of the existing deteriorating roadway were reclaimed, beginning at the intersection of US 21 with Waterree Rd. and ending at the bridge on that road.