

## **Jefferson County Highways & Transportation**

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### **Construction Engineering**

#### **Who We Are and What We Do:**

The Construction Engineering section includes inspectors and engineers working on infrastructure projects in Jefferson County. The section has two groups.

#### **Construction Inspection**

Inspectors oversee work in the existing right-of-way, which requires a Right of Way & Construction (street cut) permit. This work usually involves utility repairs or upgrades where contractors excavate, or obstruct all or part of the County road to perform their work. Contractors must obtain a permit, provide traffic control, and restore the road to its original condition (or better) after their utility work is complete. All permits issued for this type of work require a 2-year warranty of the road repairs after completion.

Inspectors also oversee public improvement construction that is part of new, privately funded developments. Public improvements include storm drains, detention ponds, sidewalks, curb and gutter, roads, traffic signs and signals that the County will eventually take over for ownership and maintenance. Since developments are paid for by a private developer, the County assigns inspectors to assure that work is done according to the plans approved by the County Planning & Zoning Division. After construction, public improvements are placed on a warranty period for 2 to 3 years. When the warranty period is over, the County will determine if the improvements meet the minimum standards for acceptance and then declare the work "complete". The Board of County Commissioners accepts the public improvements for County ownership. Developers are required to provide a security deposit during construction and the warranty period to guarantee the improvements. The deposit is given back to the developer after the improvements are finally accepted.

#### **Contract Construction**

Construction Engineers oversee construction of Capital Improvements Projects (CIPs). CIPs use public funds such as County taxes, impact fees, contributions from local districts, or state and federal grants to pay for the construction. CIPs usually include widening roads, replacing bridges, improving drainage channels or installing traffic safety devices.

Each CIP project begins with a set of engineered plans and specifications, and is competitively bid and awarded to a single, qualified general contractor. County staff inspects work, tests materials used in construction, makes contract payments, monitors the project schedule, and determines when the improvements can be accepted. The workmanship and materials for CIP work have a 1 year warranty period, prior to the County's final acceptance of ownership.