



Route 62 could be shut well into next week

By **Ethan Forman**

Staff writer

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DANVERS — It could be well into next week or later before Route 62 reopens, having been shut down since Thursday by a 14-foot-deep sinkhole.

The sinkhole appeared above a culvert in the westbound lane in the middle of the road, closing a 500-foot stretch between Summer and Vineyard streets.

Motorists have had to deal with detours around the area.

The road where tens of thousands of cars passed each day is now a fenced-in work site, and the sinkhole, once the size of a small car, is now a 10-by-16-foot hole held in place by large panels.

A Department of Public Works official said the cause of the sinkhole was a washed-out wall of a granite box culvert, after heavy storms two weekends ago dumped 8 inches of rain on the town.

"If everything goes well, we hope to have the road done next Monday," Street Division Supervisor Joseph Finocchiaro said as he surveyed the scene.

Assistant Town Manager Diane Norris said the work could close the road well into next week or the week after.

After the recent heavy rain, water washed out the culvert's west wall, shifting the granite roof and allowing soil above the culvert to wash downstream, creating the sinkhole. The stone wall that was washed out consisted of large stones piled on top of one another. That will be replaced with a new concrete wall, Finocchiaro said.

Crews from Danvers-based J. Masterson Construction were at work yesterday. They will have to rebuild the sidewall, replace capstones with a top slab, fill the hole and pave, according to an update on the town's Web site.

The culvert work should be accomplished this week, while the paving would be done next week, Norris said.

Crews placed a large, black plastic tube into the culvert to divert water so they could work in the hole. This week's rain could complicate things, Finocchiaro, said, so workers are also bringing in a large pump to keep the culvert clear during the work.

Eastbound traffic is being diverted down Vineyard Street to Pickering Street to Beaver Park and then back onto Route 62.

Westbound traffic is being diverted up Summer Street to North Street and onto Route 1.

Norris did not have a cost estimate for the work, which does not require a bid because it is being done for health and safety reasons.

For updates, go to the town's Web site, www.danvers.govoffice.com. Police can answer questions about any traffic changes at 978-774-1212.

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Photos



Work continues yesterday on the collapsed culvert on Maple Street. Traffic has been detoured between Summer and Vineyard streets. Staff Photographer



Work continues on the collapsed culvert on Maple St/Rte. 62. Traffoc has been detoured between Summer St. and Vineyard St. Staff Photographer