

R44 construction to continue

NADINE FORD-KRITZINGER

THE Western Cape department of public works and roads announced that work along the R44 in the vicinity of Avontuur WineFarm, which includes the replacement of damaged pipe culverts, would continue.

The department noted that work on the road was behind schedule due to the original contract being terminated.

The department has taken urgent steps to appoint a new contractor to expedite the completion of construction.

"Although a temporary deviation has been constructed to permit two lanes

of traffic to flow in each direction, it will be necessary to close one of the north-bound lanes which will affect traffic travelling towards Stellenbosch for a limited period of time," department spokesperson Siphesihle Dube said.

"The lane closure will occur during the last week of March and may extend into the first week of April.

"Weather permitting, the lane closure will not extend for more than five days."

Dube said the speed limit would be reduced on the affected road in the direction of Somerset West.

"One of the south bound lanes which will affect traffic travelling towards

Somerset West may also need to be closed to permit certain construction activities to be undertaken, however, this will only be undertaken during off-peak hours.

"For safety reasons, the speed limit through the deviation has been reduced to 40kph and due to the narrow width of the deviation, cyclists on the north bound carriageway are urged to use an alternative route.

"Winery Road may be used as an alternative route to avoid the possibility of traffic congestion and to afford cyclists a safer route."

nadinef@thenewage.co.za