

Sinkhole closes section of Capital Circle Southeast

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

A sinkhole large enough to swallow a car opened up Thursday morning along the north shoulder of Capital Circle Southeast.

The sinkhole led to the westbound lane being closed for several hours, but the road re-opened after construction crews filled in the hole.

Starting Monday, the road will see alternating one-lane restrictions so contractors can further investigate the sinkhole and find a long-term fix.

The land in southern Leon County is known for its porous karst features, which can lead to sinkholes from time to time.

"This is an active karst feature," said Jim Davis, executive director of Blueprint 2000. "Something has caused

the soil on the ground to go through some subterranean hole. It's not an uncommon event because of the topography and geology of that whole area down there."

Construction crews working with Blueprint 2000 filled the hole with sand and used a cloth-like material to stabilize it. They put rock and asphalt on top. Davis said the final repair cost isn't yet known.

Blueprint 2000, a city/county agency overseeing road and park improvements through proceeds of a 1-percent sales tax, is widening Capital Circle from Tram Road to Woodville Highway. The construction cost is nearly \$18 million. Widening currently is happening on the south side of the road.