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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Safety Issues delay Route 14B Project

(Tamuning, Guam, May 3, 2023) The Guam Department of Public Works (DPW) regrets to inform the public of the delay in the re-opening of Route 14B (Ypao Road) due to extreme safety concerns.

During the construction period, erosion was discovered on the cliff at the upper portion of Ypao Road. Exploratory excavations revealed that the existing road was constructed over loosely compacted backfill containing metallic debris and large rocks. The loose backfill has contributed to the erosion of the hillside to the extent the face of the cliff is dangerously close to the edge of the road. The road is showing signs of failure due to the weakened subgrade raising concerns over the possibility of a catastrophic failure of the roadway.

In order to mitigate this safety concern, the contractor will need to remove the substandard backfill in this area and replace with proper backfill material that is compacted to Federal Highway Administration specifications. Additionally, this also required a redesign of the retaining wall in this area increasing the height from 10-feet to 20-feet. The contractor needs to order special formwork for the higher retaining wall from off-island resulting in a delay in the re-opening of this section of the road.

Vincent Arriola, Director of DPW, "Safety of our motorists is the utmost priority of the Leon Guerrero-Tenorio administration and the DPW. We are extremely fortunate no catastrophic incident has occurred to date and with the roadway under construction, we can safely address the exposed issues. Despite this unanticipated delay, our team will continue to work closely with the contractor and keep our community informed."

DPW regrets to inform the public of the delay in re-opening this important artery, but the unexpected conditions encountered during construction require these changes and additional work.

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