

Poetry, Texas Roads

01/23/21

Hi Poetry Texas!

It was an interesting week. Probably the best part of the week was attempting to figure out how to properly address the potholes on/in our roads in Poetry. I composed a long-winded rendering of this week's pothole adventures, below, so please feel free to pop a cold one catch up. **Update: Please see the yellow splash at the bottom of this document for some really great Poetry News!!!**

Update #2: Please see the yellow splash at the bottom of this document for some really great Poetry News!!!

I started learning about pot holes about three or four weeks ago when I was able to work a deal on a good quantity of recycled/reground asphalt. Within a few days of taking delivery of the asphalt I quickly ran out and filled holes down CR2326 to CR2400. To do this, I cleaned the holes and shoveled recycled asphalt into the holes and packed it all down with a [Tamper Tool](#) that I purchased for around \$28 from Harbor Freight. The best part of this task was seeing about two dozen smiling faces and hands waving as cars passed by.

Unfortunately, within 10 days most of the recycled material popped out of the holes. A Poetry neighbor, Mr. Ken Phillips, provided the real beginnings of my "pothole" education by letting me know that I needed to either purchase **cold patch** asphalt or **hot patch** asphalt if the holes were to be properly repaired. Fortunately for all of us in Poetry, there is a company in Terrell that specializes in producing both the **cold patch** and **hot patch** asphalts. The company is called [TexasBit](#). I pass by this company at least twice a day so I stopped for details. They specialize in selling material for large and small projects. The hot mix is around \$75/ton and the cold patch is around \$100/ton. A ton is around a yard of material and a yard of material should fill 20-30+ potholes depending on the size of the pothole.

Now that Poetry has a source of good asphalt from TexasBit, the next step was to determine the proper equipment. Equipment needs, to fill potholes, depend on the technique/procedures used to fill the potholes so I started researching different techniques that could work for our small country town operating on donations until we can elect our town officials. The following are the techniques that I researched from worst to best.

- 1) Gravel.  This technique works for only a very short period of time (a couple of days) in Poetry. The plus size is that it's the least expensive and requires almost no equipment but again, not a very good repair option. Equipment: Truck and Shovel.
- 2) Recycled asphalt.   Again, not much equipment needed and it's a little more expensive. Holes may stay repaired for up to 10 days. Equipment: Truck, Shovel, Tamper.

- 3) Enhanced recycled asphalt.  I put this one on the list because if a person were to properly clean out the hole by blowing out the dust and dirt with a blower and then paint the hole with an Asphalt Bonding Agent called Tack ([HomeDepot.com](https://www.homedepot.com/p/Asphalt-Bonding-Agent-SS-1H-Tack-Coat/303271000) Asphalt Bonding Agent SS-1H Tack Coat (\$50.92 each)), put the recycled asphalt into the hole and tamp it down with a Tamper Tool, I believe that you might get two weeks to a month with this repair. Not much equipment needed and it's a little more expensive but the repair lasts longer. Holes may stay repaired for up to 21 days. Equipment: Truck, Shovel, Tamper, Asphalt Bonding Agent, Blower, Stiff Bristle Broom for painting Tack and a Tamper.
- 4) Hot Recycled Asphalt.  Early this week Brian Vinson and I took a large propane torch that I purchased from Harbor Freight ([Torch](https://www.harborfreight.com/propane-torch-303271000)) a few buckets of recycled asphalt and attempted to repair a couple of potholes. We cleaned out the hole, heated up the hole with the torch. Spread out the asphalt on the road around the hole and heated the asphalt until it bubbled. We then scrapped the asphalt into the hole and tamped it down. By far, this is a way better method of using the recycled asphalt. The down side was that it took quite a long time to make the hole repair. My guess is that it took at least 10 minutes per hole and a good bit of propane to make the asphalt sticky but it worked really well. My best guess is that this type of repair will last at least 30+ days. Also, if I had painted a little Tack around the hole after I was finished I was told that this would help even more by stopping water penetration into the hole. Equipment: Truck, Shovel, Tamper, Asphalt Bonding Agent, Blower, Stiff Bristle Broom for painting Tack and Torch.
- 5) Cold patch.  A great semi-permanent technique to repair a pothole. Holes could stay filled for months and this is a really good option for Poetry. The repair procedure: wait for a day in which the temperatures will be at least 55 F for 24 hours. Clean the hole, dry the hole with a torch if necessary, and paint the hole with Asphalt Bonding Agent (Tack) using a stiff bristle broom, allow the Tack to dry a little, fill the hole with cold asphalt and tamp with a Tamper. At this point, I am going to recommend that we consider using a plate compactor. A plate compactor is a vibrating piece of equipment that costs around \$500 for a cheap one ([Plate Compactor](https://www.platecompactor.com/)). We could rent one from [U-Rents](https://www.u-rents.com/) or [Sun Belt Rentals](https://www.sunbeltrentals.com/). It would do a much better job than a manual tamper and the various Poetry Road Teams could use it as needed. The downside is its heavy and a pain to lift up and off from a trailer but it does work and less expensive than a self-propelled roller. Equipment: Truck, Shovel, Tamper/plate compactor, Asphalt Bonding Agent, Blower, Stiff Bristle Broom for painting Tack and Torch.
- 6) Hot patch.  This is a permanent repair. I didn't know this but with the exception of FM 1565, FM 986, CR 249 and CR 322 (asphalt roads), all the roads in Poetry are pretty much "Chip and Seal" roads. Chip and Seal roads are basically created by forming a base, applying a

thin layer of tar, applying small rock and sand and maybe sealing the road once complete. If you look into the potholes in Poetry, you only see a thin black layer for the most part in the hole.

If we take these chip and seal potholes and properly fill them with asphalt they should last for years. The procedure is: Clean the hole using a blower, if there is moisture in the hole, dry it out with a torch. Paint Asphalt Bonding Agent into the hole and let dry. Fill the hole with hot asphalt patch from TexasBit. Leave a little extra mushroomed on the top. Use a tamper/plate compactor or self-propelled roller to fill in the hole properly. Paint a little "Tack" around the edges and go to the next hole. Again, this is the best technique but it does require more resources. To handle "hot patch" We need a trailer specifically tailored to handle this type of material. With that said, I'm always amazed by the talent in Poetry and it so happens that we have a guy by the name of Mr. Dan Thompson that lives over by 2433 and 2432. Dan sales and rents this type of equipment and I've asked him to provide the Citizens of Poetry with a quotation for a two day rental once a month. As it turns out, the best hot patch trailer in the world are made in the USA by a company called [Falcon](#). Dan represents Falcon hot patch trailers. The trailers have a diesel heater, they tilt, and they are built to accommodate hot tar falling 30+ feet into the trailer from a company like TexasBit. My guess is that it might be \$500 or \$600 to rent a trailer for one to two days but I am not sure yet. Dan will call me on Monday with a quote. In this case, we would rent a 4-ton trailer that tilts and it has a diesel heater built into the trailer. We need a one ton pick up to pull it. When the trailer is loaded with 4 tons of material, it's just under the maximum weight limit so drivers do not have to have a CDL to drive this trailer. If we have a team of citizens with shovels and a compactor, we can get some holes filled. This is the best choice for a permanent repair.

Budget. The hot patch would be the most expensive way for the citizens to patch holes but it's by far the best patch technique. The rent would be \$500-\$600 for two days (I'm guessing), but I think that we could put out at least two loads (8 tons) to three loads (12 tons) in two days. If I am doing my math right, we could fill up to 200-300 potholes in this time period.

Conservative Estimate:

Trailer rental (guess)	\$600.00
2 loads of hot patch (8 ton)	\$600.00 (\$75.00 per ton/Texas Bit)
Plate Compactor	\$500.00 (could use many times if we purchased). Cost should be about the same to rent a roller from Sun Belt. I will get a quote on Monday.
Shovels	\$0.00 (Citizens will supply)
Brooms	\$50.00
Tack	\$357.00
Torch	\$0.00 (Citizens will supply)
Propane:	\$100.00 (4-5 bottles)
Labor:	\$0.00 (Citizens will supply)

Diesel:	\$150.00 (trailer and truck)
Trailer bed release agent:	\$50.00
Clean up supplies	\$50.00
Total:	\$2457.00
Total per hole (200)	\$12.29

Now that I ran the numbers above, I am impressed. I've repaired potholes before on 2326 just and in doing so I purchase a cold patch in bags from Home Depot. My average cost to repair a hole is \$35.00 - \$45.00 so \$12.29 looks lot better.

Another factor to consider is the amount of labor. To do this successfully we will need a lot of help. Money needs to be fund raised. And folks need to come together for two days-once a month for some good old fashioned work. I think the money is available and I see several folks collecting donations. I think the folks on 2432 have pledged well over \$1000.00. I'm pretty sure that those on 2326 would probably pledge something similar and several other folks would chip in too. At our first Poetry Town Meeting, several signed up for the Poetry Road Team and these folks are already contributing. Please consider signing up. We will have a sign-up sheet at our next Town Meeting in February. We should also have a sign-up sheet on the website, www.PoetryTexas.org, in the near future. Note: we should have the website back up again sometime next week.

I understand that the long range goal is to enter into an inter local agreement with either Hunt county, Kaufman county or both or to simply hire someone to maintain our roads. In the interim, Poetry needs your help. Please consider donating your time or resources towards this project. Poetry and our citizens are well worth it.

I would like to acknowledge the following Poetry citizens that have all contributed in one way or another to start a conversation about our Poetry Roads. Thank you for your community service to Poetry

Royce Frankum	Sue Jaffe	Mike Jaffe
Debbie Emard	David Emard	Mike Griffin
Josh Graham	Robert Herrmann	Ken Phillips
Brian Vinson	Sheri Vinson	Tara Senkevech
Cheri Dolan	Dan Thompson	Dave Celella

I apologize if I left anyone out. I know that a really nice man by the name of Gene on 2432 has also contributed

Poetry Update

Mr. Dan Thompson just called me with some great news! Falcon hot patch trailers are going to have a demo trailer in our area and they have agreed to allow Poetry to use this trailer for one day, free of charge! They are hoping that Poetry might one day purchase a Falcon trailer so we have this one for a day trial. Dan and another person from Falcon will be in attendance to instruct and help fill holes. Dan thinks that we might be able to put out two loads in a day (8 tons)! The plan is to meet early on February 16th on CR2432 since this road has collected the bulk of the funds, train and start patching holes working down CR2432. Will refill the trailer and start on CR2326 (need funds from CR2326). I think that we will have left over asphalt so we will just start hitting various holes in Poetry until the material runs out. This is a great opportunity for Poetry, please sign up to attend.

Thank you so much Dan for this wonderful opportunity. Poetry, we will need about \$1375.00 for the day (\$600 asphalt, \$75 in diesel, enough to rent a roller from SunBelt, I'm guessing \$600, I already have two 5 gallon buckets of Tack, a blower, a torch, stiff broom, labor, \$100 misc for cleanup) Lets pool our funds together at the next Poetry Town Meeting, **February 9th at 7:00 at Faith Temple Church**

Poetry Update #2

01/25/21 Another fantastic update for the citizens of Poetry, Texas; Mr. David Martinez of TRACK-TIME has generously offered to loan the Poetry Road Team his roller (approximately 3' wide) and plate compactor plus trailer on the February 16th for our road education and test for Poetry. If all goes well and we have good weather, the road team will attempt to lay 8 tons of hot patch asphalt on that day starting early in the morning on the 16th.

Our gratitude to Mr. Thompson and Mr. Martinez for their generosity to the road team. We appreciate you helping us to be a great country town in North Texas.

Road Notes:

* one 5 gallon bucket of Tack (Bonding Agent) from Home Depot would paint up to 100 square feet of pot holes. Cost per bucket is \$50.92. Home Depot has free delivery so I ordered two buckets and it took about a week to get them to me. [HomeDepot.com](https://www.homedepot.com) Asphalt Bonding Agent SS-1H Tack Coat

*- The Harbor Freight Tamper tool didn't have a good quality handle and broke right away. They replaced it but if I had to do it again, I would purchase one from Home Depot, Poetry Tack and Ag or Eagle Hardware instead.

* [Sun Belt Rentals](#): San Belt has a 18 HP [self-propelled roller](#) compactor that they rent, check for a quote on Monday

* The Poetry Road Team is a community volunteer group of citizens working towards the betterment of our community roads. Our goal is to provide assistance to our community until we can elect a mayor and town council to address the specific needs of our roads.