

Street Paving FAQ's

How big is the city street network? The city is responsible for maintaining 167 miles of local streets and alleys, and partially responsible for the maintenance of an additional 26 miles of state routes within the city.

How much funding is needed for annual street resurfacing? A sustainable street paving program requires an estimated \$3.3 million in annual expenditure to resurface city streets as needed.

How much funding is needed for annual street maintenance operations? Street repair and traffic operations is funded at \$4.5 million annually to support the maintenance of guardrail, street lighting, traffic signals, sidewalks, curbs and handicap ramps repairs, street signs, pavement markings, berm repairs, crack sealing, maintenance of traffic, bridge repairs, pedestrian path and public parking lot paving, roadway patching, street sweeping, and snow and ice management programs.

How much funding is available to maintain city streets? The city receives \$3.0 million in gas tax and license fee revenues from the State that are utilized for roadway maintenance, far less than the estimated \$7.8 million in annual need. The funding gap is only partially supported through state grants and general fund revenues. Historically, the city has not been able to provide sufficient local revenue to support a fully sustainable pavement maintenance program leading to the increasing backlog of roadway paving needs.

Are there less expensive ways to repair city streets? Yes. Chip seal applications can be applied to preserve the useful life of city streets, though the result is less durable than asphalt pavement, and is more typically utilized in rural applications. Chip seals are not popular in suburban residential neighborhoods as the finished surface is rough, noisy, dusty and can lead to accidents for motorcyclists and bicyclists from loose gravel.

How often does a street need to be paved? The surface of a street needs to be repaved every 15 to 25 years depending on the volume of traffic each is exposed to.

What does it cost to pave a street? It costs on average \$360,000 to repave one mile of a local street. The cost can increase to \$760,000 per mile if the street requires more involved reconstructive work.

What's Next? – The most recent pavement condition assessment identified 195 streets and alleys in need of paving, at an estimated cost of \$22.3 million. Without additional funding the city will not be able to address the majority of street paving needs throughout the community.