

Resurfacing Program Gets Funding to Repair Winter-Damaged roads

The City's 2007 road resurfacing budget of more than \$4 million is consistent with budgets in previous years. Yet, the rising cost of asphalt means the City is able to resurface fewer roads within this budget. City staff expect a 17 percent, or about a 25 mile, reduction this year in City and Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) resurfacing from this funding.

Last fall, City staff used an annual analysis of traffic and structural information to determine which roads are most in need of resurfacing and what method should be used. After extensive road damage caused by last winter's severe freeze-thaw weather, Street Division staff compared that list to locations most reported by residents with pothole and road surface concerns. This process revealed several additional roads that had deteriorated at accelerated rates and also need to be resurfaced.

The voters approved a one percent Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) sales tax in November 2004 to address transportation needs. Thirty-five percent of this tax revenue is dedicated to maintenance. Annual PPRTA funding for maintenance activities is a key factor in the City's ability to provide a reasonable resurfacing program. This year, the annual PPRTA maintenance funds are providing more than \$7.5 million for roadway resurfacing and is contributing an estimated 35 miles of resurfacing and approximately four miles of alley rehabilitation.

Even with the annual PPRTA maintenance contribution, the cost increases combined with the past winter's road damage, led City Council to seek additional funding for the needed road resurfacing repairs. Therefore, the City has reallocated \$250,000 from its Essential Maintenance Capital Improvement Projects fund toward this year's resurfacing program.

The PPRTA is also allowing the City to borrow \$800,000 from the City's portion of the PPRTA maintenance reserves. To pay back the reserves, the City will receive reduced annual funding from the PPRTA for maintenance activities in 2008 and 2009.

The PPRTA annual maintenance funding and borrowed reserves, as well as the City's reallocated funding, have helped. Drivers can be assured that many of the city's damaged roads will be repaired this summer. Still, Street Division staff are continuing to investigate new, alternative methods of roadway resurfacing to ensure the most efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars.

Please visit www.SpringsGov.com and click on "Transportation Education" for a list of roads planned for resurfacing in 2007.



Resurfacing efforts are designed to keep roads in good driving condition longer thru the use of preventative roadway treatments like chip seal, slurry seal, milling and overlay.

Did you know? During Pothole Week in May, City crews filled 1,208 potholes for a total of 29,686 potholes filled as of the end of May 2007.