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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Paving for Progress Capital Improvement 10-Year Plan Released

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA – May 22, 2015 – The City of Cedar Rapids has developed a Capital Improvement 10-Year Plan in order to efficiently carry out the Paving for Progress program and use the funds to create the greatest impact to the public’s roadways. The plan outlines improvements to 150 miles of roads in the next ten years. More than 50 percent of all vehicle miles driven in Cedar Rapids will be on roads repaired through Paving for Progress funding.

The entire Capital Improvement 10-Year Plan can be viewed online at www.cityofcr.com/pavingforprogress. Residents can provide their input by emailing PavingforProgress@cedar-rapids.org.

Creating a strategic 10-year plan enables the City to allocate funding to the best and highest use, relying on a prioritization list that is data driven, impartial, and measurable. The plan will also guide the City’s preservation efforts and balance the need to preserve the community’s fair roads while also reconstructing and rehabilitating poor roads. Prior to finalizing the plan, the City had been selecting projects these first few years for their ease of completion, so the funds could be put to use immediately.

The plan was developed after collecting pavement condition data on all of Cedar Rapids’ 600 miles of roadways. The data, combined with field inspections from staff, were combined into modelling software and a GIS mapping analyses to help categorize all Cedar Rapids’ roads from very poor to very good condition. All roads were assigned a “Pavement Condition Index” (PCI) number, which identifies appropriate treatment methods and reconstruction techniques. Preservation methods will include reconstruction, rehabilitation, and restoration.

The Paving for Progress program, made possible by the one-percent local option sales tax, allows the City to utilize a pay-as-you-go funding source, rather than selling bonds and incurring debt. The Capital Improvement Plan outlines how to allocate funding to create the greatest impact to the traveling public – by investing in roads that can be preserved for longer use and preventing the further deterioration that we see now. Balancing preservation with reconstruction effectively saves money and squeezes the most life out of the road network, while still giving the opportunity to practice pavement management on roads that have already deteriorated.

Highlights of the Capital Improvement Plan include:

- A phased prioritization of projects, each phase consisting of three years

- Recommendations for treatment & preservation
- Improvements to an average of 170 projects per phase
- Investing approximately \$18 million a year
- Pavement condition data updated every two years and plan re-evaluated
- Funding split between high traffic roads and residential streets (40/60) so citizens see as much work close to home as possible while still giving the high volume street network the attention it requires.

Without the Paving for Progress program, 90 percent of the Cedar Rapids road network would likely fall below the “Poor” condition threshold sometime in the next 10 years.

Residents can stay informed on Paving for Progress by signing up for text message or email alerts, at CityofCR.com/Subscribe.

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