

Frequently Asked Questions: *Paving for Progress*

May, 2015



1. What is this program?

Voters approved a 1-percent local option sales tax on road improvements in November 2013, which went into effect July 1, 2014. Paving for Progress will capitalize on \$18 million in new annual revenue, set aside solely for the maintenance, repair, construction and reconstruction of public streets.

2. How are projects selected and prioritized?

There are several goals with the campaign: make improvements to roads that have significant needs, and preserve and maintain roads to ensure they do not fall into worse repair.

The City is finalizing the City's Pavement Management Plan done by local professional engineering firm HR Green Inc., which will assist prioritization efforts and chart a multi-year strategy for road repairs. This plan used data collected on every Cedar Rapids roadway. This data, in combination with field inspections, served as the basis for the analysis of current pavement conditions and projections of future performance of the road network. The resulting plan will provide guidance on the most effective preservation practices, rehabilitation treatments, and reconstruction activities, and will be reviewed and updated every two years with fresh pavement data. This plan will also help give residents a better idea of when they can anticipate work on certain streets. The City anticipates finalizing this Pavement Management Plan in May.

While this plan is under development, the City continues to select projects these first few years for their ease of completion, so the funds could be put to use immediately. Starting in 2016, the city will start to rely more heavily on the prioritization list set down through the Pavement Management Plan.

3. Why don't I see my street on the list this year?

The first few years of the program, the City has focused on road projects that were less complex. If your street is not on the list for this year, it may indicate the project included right-of-way permits, acquisition needs, or utility work ahead of when actual road repairs could take place. It does NOT indicate that your road is not on the list or will not be prioritized in the long-term plan. Additionally, many projects take additional time for design work if they include more complex changes such as additional turn lanes or pedestrian accommodations. The design work taking place on 42nd Street NE is an example of this pre-construction activity taking place ahead of actual road repairs.

4. Why did the City purchase street signs?

The City is committed to helping communicate which projects are LOST-funded. Since not every road construction project you see is paid for by the local option sales tax, the signs help distinguish projects that may not have been possible otherwise. Helping residents see their vote in

action is important to us, so they know which projects they have helped make possible. Many cities feature similar “Local Option Sales Tax at Work” signs. The signs cost \$72.90 each. The City ordered 50 portable signs; we will be re-using them throughout the 10 years of the Paving for Progress campaign.

5. Why are we spending time fixing curbs?

Curb repairs are the first line of defense in making sure our streets remain healthy. A little attention now will go a long way in ensuring we avoid major issues later. Curb repairs are also relatively simple improvements to make. They require no extensive engineering design, yet provide tremendous help to our storm water control. Curbs prevent water from getting under the street surface and potentially causing more damage, and help maintain a clean and attractive neighborhood, helping with property values. They also help provide visual references for snow plow drivers, which decreases sod damage. By tackling a large number of curb projects at once, our streets will be in a better condition overall.

6. Where can I get more information about Paving for Progress?

Residents can see an interactive map of the projects at www.cityofcr.com/pavingforprogress.

Comments, questions, or other feedback can be emailed to pavingforprogress@cedar-rapids.org.

You can subscribe to the City’s newsletter or text alerts at cityofcr.com/subscribe. Regular updates will be included in the CR City Source Newsletter or CR News Now text alerts.

You’ll also find information and photos shared periodically on Facebook (Cedar Rapids Iowa Government) or Twitter (@CityofCRIowa).