

## MEMO

**Date:** June 7, 2018  
**From:** Erik R. Henricksen, Engineering Associate  
**RE:** **Frequently Asked Questions**  
**2018 Pavement Maintenance Project – Slurry Sealing**



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**Question:** What is a crack seal and what is the point of doing it?

**Answer:** Crack sealing involves applying a flexible asphaltic sealant to fill cracks in the pavement surface. Cracks allow water into the rock base under the pavement surface, which makes the base weaker and leads to further pavement damage and even pavement structural failure over time. Also, when water gets into cracks and then freezes, the expanding ice causes additional damage to the pavement, which can also lead to costly pavement failure. By crack sealing pavements on a recurring cycle, the life of the street is extended and costly pavement failures and potholes can be prevented.

**Question:** What is a slurry seal and what is the point of doing it?

**Answer:** Slurry seal is a liquid mixture of asphaltic cement and fine aggregate (i.e. sand). Slurry seal rejuvenates and covers the asphalt surface that becomes oxidized and brittle, reducing its durability, due to exposure to the elements and traffic over time. Slurry seal also fills voids, pits and spalls in the pavement surface, and covers sealed cracks to improve smoothness and ride, which degrade over time with traffic. Applying slurry seals extends the life and improves the quality of the pavement, resulting in better streets at lower costs over the life of the street system. As a fringe benefit, it improves the appearance of the street which improves the livability of our neighborhoods.

**Question:** There is a lot of sand/gravel left over after this project, it seems the slurry seal is failing.

**Answer:** The slurry seal treatment is not failing. You are observing the residual sand left over from the slurry seal application. As the slurry seal is driven on, there are some sand particles that are released from the surface due to lack of adhesion. The City is anticipating this to occur and the City's contractor will be coming back to sweep the slurry sealed streets just after project completion and four weeks after project completion.

**Question:** I am very concerned that our Garbage Service and how it relates to this project.

**Answer:** Residents should put their garbage, recycle, and yard debris out Tuesday night (or early Wednesday morning) as usual. The contractor will be coordinating with Waste Management to ensure service is picked up first thing on those streets to be slurry sealed.

**Question:** Why isn't my street being worked on today?

**Answer:** There could be a few reasons why this work is not occurring on the anticipated day it was scheduled. 1) It's raining or has rained enough that the slurry seal material won't adequately bond to the pavement surface; 2) The temperature forecast is not warm enough to allow for the material to cure in time for roads to be drivable by the end of the work day. 3) An equipment breakdown or other unforeseen disruption has prevented the contractor from staying on schedule.

**Question:** I really don't understand why my street is receiving treatment.

**Answer:** Your street may have been selected for treatment due to the City's asset management tool, called StreetSaver, a pavement management computer model that recommends when to apply pavement preservation to a street based on inspection data and treatment history. This tool is used by more than 450 jurisdictions, consultants, universities across the United States. The idea behind the City's pavement preservation approach is to apply preventative maintenance treatments early such that the costs of the maintaining the street over its entire life span is less. If your street was selected by StreetSaver it was subsequently evaluated by the City's engineering staff to confirm that it is not too far gone or too early for the proposed treatment. The pavement preservation approach is much less costly over time than leaving streets to deteriorate and then overlaying or replacing them and provides the most "bang for the buck" for our community's pavement maintenance funds.

**Question:** I am disabled and need to access to my car and the street – how do I go to doctor's appointments or leave in the middle of the day?

**Answer:** There is no feasible way to apply slurry seal treatment and maintain vehicular access to driveways. Since this work is scheduled between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm, it is necessary that if you do have appointments scheduled for the day or during the day that you plan ahead and arrange to be out of your house early, and be prepared to be out until 5:00 pm.

**Question:** There is no parking on a nearby side street or there aren't sidewalks on my street to leave my neighborhood, what am I supposed to do?

**Answer:** Residents must plan ahead and arrange to either remain at their house for the day or to leave early enough so they are not blocked in when this work begins on their street.

**Question:** Will the sidewalks be closed too?

**Answer:** Areas outside of the asphalt pavement surface will remain open (e.g. sidewalks). Keep pets on a leash or keep them indoors so they don't run out into the slurry seal area until it has had enough time to dry.

**Question:** What if I drive on a newly slurry sealed street?

**Answer:** It is imperative that you do not drive on slurry sealed streets until the street closure is removed by the contractor. If you drive on a street too early your vehicle may get damaged due to the slurry seal material and the City may have to redo the slurry seal in that area. The cost for redoing streets due to residents walking, driving, or allowing pets on to the street will be billed to the appropriate resident, and can be very expensive.

**Question:** What if I have to leave my car in the street during the day of the parking restriction?

**Answer:** The City is making substantial efforts to notify residents that this work is coming. If a vehicle is parked in the street the day it is to be slurry sealed it will be towed out of the slurry seal area. If this is the case, the resident will need to contact the project manager to determine where to pick up their vehicle. Costs for towing will be the responsibility of the owner of the vehicle.

**Question:** Why isn't my street being slurry sealed this year?

**Answer:** Streets selected for slurry sealing have typically been crack sealed in the last three years and have minimal foundation failures. The Pavement Preservation Program is set up to crack seal streets approx. every three years and slurry seal streets approx. every seven years. Slurry seal is best applied after crack sealing has occurred in the last few years in order to minimize the amount of prep work. In addition to the program timeline established, whether or not a crack seal or slurry seal is the right treatment is also a consideration. Some streets are too deteriorated for preventative surface treatments to really make an impact on the streets lifespan. In those cases, special projects like overlays or reconstruction may be budgeted in the future. Since overlays and reconstruction are very costly and crack/slurry sealing much less expensive, Public Works tries to utilize as much money toward preservation to prolong the life of more streets and we try to budget for those more expensive reconstruction projects at a later date.

**Question:** If my street gets delayed, what can I expect?

**Answer:** The contractor will distribute updated notifications and an updated schedule will be posted on the website when available. . Typically, streets that are delayed/rescheduled are moved to the end of the project schedule to minimize ripple effects on the schedules already posted/notified for other streets.

**Question:** I'm concerned about the schedule and I would like to know when my street will be closed off.

**Answer:** Updated schedule will be posted on the website when available.