

Street Repaving

Charleston County Public Works Department (CCPW) manages an annual resurfacing program for the Charleston County Transportation Committee. The City of Charleston participates in the county-wide resurfacing program. The funding comes from the state gas tax and is referred to as "C" Funds (2.66 cents on every gallon of gas) and funds from the ½ cent sales tax. More information is available regarding "C" Funds at <http://www.charlestonctc.org/>. By participating in this program, the city, other municipalities in Charleston County, and the county at large benefit by reduced administration costs and economies of scale that occur from the issuance of a large, county-wide resurfacing contract.

Each year CCPW receives a limited amount of "C" funds to apply toward the maintenance/resurfacing of roads throughout Charleston County. A Pavement Management database (PMP) is maintained which includes all the secondary roads (including state and municipality owned roads), which total approximately 1,600 miles within the county. The Pavement Management database contains all inspection data and also predicts future condition of roads based on an estimated deterioration rate of asphalt pavement. Oftentimes people think the worst streets should be done first, but that is not always the best approach. Streets in really poor condition might need reconstructing, which is very expensive, as opposed to a street that is merely threadbare, solid underneath, but shabby on the surface, which can be improved and protected from further deterioration by resurfacing. The goal is to address all of the streets in a comprehensive manner to maintain an overall level of road serviceability.

Each year, once funding has been identified, the funding amount is entered into the database which then identifies the most cost effective maintenance plan based on an established limited budget. After the PMP has produced the recommended resurfacing list, it is reviewed by staff and with local utilities. An attempt is made to schedule any necessary utility repairs prior to streets being resurfaced and in some cases delay resurfacing until major repairs can be completed. This is the case with Spring and Cannon Streets. These streets do not meet our criteria for resurfacing as the city has requested CCPW to defer the paving of these streets until upcoming projects are completed, i.e., a streetscape project and change of traffic flow from one-way to two-way traffic.

Also, the South Carolina Department of Transportation resurfaces state maintained roads throughout Charleston County. Some recent examples of state surfacing projects are Fishburne Street, Beaufain Street, and Meeting Street.

#