



CITY OF TEXARKANA ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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Press Release

From: Tyler Richards, Public Works Director

Date: May 11, 2018

Re: New Street Rehabilitation Plan – **“ONE STREET AT A TIME”**

Due to the current state of our city streets Public Works will begin to implement a new street rehabilitation plan **“ONE STREET AT A TIME”** starting in 2019. Over the years the City of Texarkana, Arkansas has budgeted small amounts of money to rehabilitate sections on multiple streets in order to complete as much rehabilitation as possible with the minimal amount of funds the city has to work with. This tactic has become insufficient to address our current needs, and the days of chasing small sections are over. When the city allocates funds to complete only a small section of roadway, focus is directed away from quality of construction and placed upon completing as much roadway as possible. This plan not only decreases the longevity of the newly rehabilitated roadway but also does not address the entire scope of insufficient roadway. The plan of phasing out street rehabilitation projects over multiple years will no longer be implemented. The Public Works Department has now decided to allocate the full \$150,000 (approximate) amount for street rehabilitation to a single project per year rather than 3 or 4 smaller projects. This approach will allow us to focus on the issue causing the roadway to fail initially which will yield a new street system in which street integrity is maintained for much longer periods of time. Many of our city streets currently in substandard condition are due to drainage and street subgrade issues. In order to sufficiently rehabilitate a roadway these issues must be addressed prior to paving of the road. The projects will be conducted in a prioritized fashion based upon street condition and use. The City has consulted with outside experts to create a street pavement rating report which will be utilized to start this plan. The street ranking list will be updated annually to accurately reflect the current state of our streets.

Implementation of the revitalized plan will not in any way take away from regular street maintenance. Public Works will continue to dedicate a crew to patching potholes and other typical maintenance items. In fact, this plan will create a change for the better within our street maintenance procedures. Upon establishing new quality streets with the new plan, a maintenance regiment will be implemented on the new streets in the form of crack seal or slurry seal to keep our high-quality streets operating at their full potential. Eventually we expect to see a shift from chasing potholes to conducting preventative measures before the street condition reaches that point.

The City will also continue to apply for outside funding to add to the street projects that will be completed with city funds.

The City of Texarkana, Arkansas’ ultimate goal is to create and maintain safe and accessible transportation routes for our citizens. The City is dedicated to the implementation of this plan and is extremely excited for the future quality of our city’s infrastructure system.

Thank you,

Tyler Richards

