



Haverhill

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City uses new technology to prepare annual summer paving program.

Next stop: sidewalks!

This year, the city will receive a record amount of money, approximately \$1.5 million, to pave its roads.

As the city prepares for its annual road paving, Mayor Fiorentini announced that the city will use a new advanced “pavement management system” to assess its roads and help to determine which roads to pave.

The City of Haverhill has one of the largest landmasses of any city in the state. Haverhill has over 1,400 streets, 230 center line miles of street.

Determining which roads to pave is an incredibly difficult task. Five years ago, the city became one of the first cities in the area to use a computerized “pavement management system” to help gather the data to determine which roads to pave.

A high-technology pavement management system starts with a very low tech job, every 3 to 5 years, of having summer interns go out in physically inspect and photograph every single roadway in the city. That work was completed last summer.

The data is then put into a computer system maintained at the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission. Each road is evaluated and given a rating. The pavement management program allows the city to determine which roads are most in need of repair and to allocate money for preventative maintenance. The payment management system also allows the city to determine which roads can better be maintained through a preventive maintenance program with the use of such innovative techniques as crack sealing and micro-surfacing, both of which were initiated by Mayor Fiorentini to fix roads we could not afford to completely resurface.

This year’s evaluation indicated that the city needs approximately \$22 million of work to its roadways. This does not include sidewalks, which the Mayor is having evaluated next.

Mayor Fiorentini stated:

“Even with the increased money from the state, called chapter 90 money, we are only able to repave about 25 streets per year. Through the use of technology and the innovative pavement methods we instituted a few years ago, we hope to be able to stretch our dollars to make them most efficient. We know it is not enough, but we know it is a good start.

“Our next goal is to assess all of the sidewalks in the city. We anticipate that this is going to be a multi-million-dollar multiyear project. We know that giving the citizens of the City drivable roads and walkable sidewalks is a major concern for our citizens. This computerized high-tech pavement management system is our guide and directs us as to where we need to start the program.”