

VDOT Residential Street Repaving Information

As you are aware, a significant number of residential streets will be repaved over the next year in the Algonkian District. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) provided the following information to be helpful for residents. My office is working with VDOT and effected HOA property management to provide advance notice as well.

The paving process begins with notification to the affected area. The contractor will place door hangers on the front doors of the houses on the affected streets. Door hangers will be placed at least three days before work will begin. Additionally, prior to the start of work, “No Parking” signs will be posted along the street as well. The “No Parking” signs will list a date range that street parking is prohibited. Paving may occur at any time during the posted date range. A range of dates is listed due to the nature of paving work. There are many factors such as weather, equipment breakdowns, personnel issues, unforeseen sub-base issues (see “patching” below), material supply issues, etc. that can affect the progress of a paving project, and the contractor has to allow themselves some leeway for these issues.

Parking enforcement and towing is handled by the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office at the contractor’s request. The “No Parking” restrictions are only enforced if a parked vehicle interferes with the contractor’s work. That is, parking on the street during non-working hours, or on days when the contractor is not working on the street will usually not result in a ticket or the vehicle being towed. **However, residents must understand that parking on a street with posted no parking signs is done at their own risk, and there is no guarantee that construction equipment will not suddenly appear and their vehicle will be towed and impounded.**

Milling is the first step in the resurfacing process. Typically, on low volume residential streets, the paving contractor will remove 1” – 2” of the existing pavement surface with a milling machine. One lane of traffic is maintained during milling, using flaggers to direct traffic. Access to driveways during milling is only blocked for a few minutes when the milling machine and haul truck are passing in front of the driveway. Debris from the milling operation is swept up using vehicle mounted power brooms and vacuum trucks. Once milling and sweeping are complete, vehicles can drive on the milled surface as they would any other roadway.

Localized pavement patching usually follows milling. The milled surface is examined by VDOT inspectors in order to identify localized areas of distress. Small areas (for example 12’ x 100’) of the milled roadway surface are milled an additional 2” – 5” depending on the level of distress, and then backfilled with a coarser grade asphalt. Patching in any particular location usually accomplished in one day. One lane of traffic is maintained during the patching operation and driveways are blocked only if the work is immediately in front of the residence. If a driveway will be blocked for an extended period of time during patching, the contractor or VDOT inspector will typically knock on the door and try to let the resident know that the driveway is going to be blocked.

Typically, within a week or so after milling and patching is completed, new asphalt is placed. The milled surface is coated with a tar-like emulsion to help the new asphalt adhere to the existing pavement surface. The new asphalt pavement is then placed and compacted. Like milling, the paving is done one lane at a time and traffic is maintained with flaggers. The new asphalt has to cool before vehicles can drive on it. Depending on the air temperature and time of

day, it can take an hour or so before the new asphalt can be driven on. Driveways adjacent to the new asphalt may be blocked during this short period.

Once paving is complete, permanent pavement markings (striping) will be re-marked by the contractor. The goal is to re-mark permanent pavement markings within two weeks of paving, but specifications allow the contractor up to 30 days to place permanent pavement markings, provided temporary markings have been placed.

Residents can access detailed information on VDOT's paving web page, located at: <http://www.virginiadot.org/novapaving>. The pop-up box on each street provides contact information for the Construction Manager in the field, for quick resolution of issues.
