

## Paving FAQ's

### *How long will it take to finish my street? And why does it take so long?*

There are many variables that determine how long it takes to pave a street from start to finish. It can take anywhere from 2-3 weeks to 8 weeks or longer depending on the size of the phase and the conditions of the roads (and other variables listed below) within that grouping.

The way a large scale paving program works – the few large paving contractors that work in this state must use the same equipment in towns all over the state. They come in and mill (dig) all of the streets in a phase in Nashua, and then the equipment moves on to another town. Next, the company that lowers/raises/adjusts the manholes etc. comes in and takes care of all of those issues. After that, the paving contractor comes back and puts the finishing layers of paving down on all of the streets in a phase. Finally, the contractor connects the driveways that have not yet been completed and picks up any barrels or trash left behind during the process.

The contractor will not come back to pave a single street even if it is ready for final paving - if the other streets in that phase are not also ready for that work.

That being said, there are many factors that can slow down or speed up this process such as the condition of the road under the current pavement, machine malfunctions, personnel issues, weather, and of course the need to repair/replace any utilities in the work area.

### *What happens to my berm once my street is paved?*

The paving contractor will replace the berm as needed.

### *Who will fix the damage to my mailbox?*

The paving contractor is responsible for all damage that occurs during the process and will work with the homeowner to get the mailbox repaired or replaced.

### *Why are there barrels/asphalt left behind?*

As mentioned above, the contractor moves through all the streets in a phase handling the same work at all locations – for example – one week they may put the final layer on all streets, the next week they may go back and finish off the driveway aprons, the week after that they will go through all the streets and pick up the trash and asphalt that was left behind. All of this must be completed before the City Engineers sign off on a phase.

### *Can I get to my house during paving?*

Yes and no! Yes, absolutely, most of the time you will be able to get to and from your home or business but may need to follow possible detour signs or directions from the flaggers on sight to get there. However, there will be certain days where access to and from your home or business is limited because of the asphalt application to your street. This should not prevent you from reaching or leaving your home for more than ½ to 1 hour at a time.

*They damaged my driveway during paving, when will they fix it (connecting it to the street)?*

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*Why can't you more accurately predict when my street will be paved and finished?*

In the past, we would normally pave 1-3 miles of streets during the construction season which runs from April to late fall. We have greatly expanded our paving efforts and hope to pave nearly 30 miles of streets in the same period of time. Due to the high volume of streets seeing paving and utility work simultaneously, it becomes nearly impossible to keep up with the multiple changes (sometimes hourly) that occur with an effort of this magnitude.

There are so many variables that factor into the speed and timing of the work – weather, equipment malfunction, personnel issues, utility problems, unforeseen structural issues below the current pavement – that the best estimates for date, time, and location of work are obsolete by the end of each day. We need to coordinate utility work by two large utility companies - Liberty and Pennichuck - in addition to working with our paving contractors and their schedules and issues. This City has not seen the likes of a project this big, affecting this many streets, in recent history. All of these factors make the dissemination of factual, pertinent information, in real time incredibly difficult.

*How do you choose which streets get paved and why isn't my street on the paving list?*

The City of Nashua has hired a consultant to assess every street with regards to pavement condition. This is an ongoing project that is constantly updating the state of our streets. During this process, each street is assigned a PCI (Pavement Condition Index) from 1-100 with 1 being the worst condition and 100 being a newly paved and pristine surface. We have a 10 year plan to address all the streets in our City.

As always though, nothing is ever that straight forward. We also have to take into account whether or not the street will need utility work in the near future, and we are working with all the utility companies to coordinate this effort. A Street may have a low PCI, say 17 or 18, but not get paved this year due to the fact that we have been told that utility work needs to be done, and they can't get to it during this construction season. So, the paving of that street will be pushed back until the utility work can occur. Once a street is paved, there is moratorium of 5 years before a utility company can open that street for work. The only exception would be if a street needed to be opened in the case of an emergency repair, so having the utility companies complete their repair/replacement work BEFORE a street is paved is extremely important.

If your street is not on this year's list don't despair. As mentioned above, we are constantly evaluating and re-evaluating all of our streets and hope to take care of any all problems during our 10 year program.