City of Hailey Road Maintenance Projects Underway

Large Scale Resiliency Principles Applied Using New Methods

(Hailey, Idaho) City street crews have been preparing roads for chip sealing by filling potholes in advance of planned chip seal projects. Airport Way has areas of significant roughness. Preparation there includes applying leveling asphalt to smooth out the dips in the pavement. Road roughness, or the sensation of smoothness while driving, should significantly improve, while extending the life of the roadway and completing needed maintenance.

These depressions are not "potholes" because the asphalt structure is still intact; instead they are places of settling, compression, or poorly repaired trenching cuts. Typically these are just chip sealed over during the project but for Airport Way this preparation will result in a significantly improved driver experience. Asphalt for these roadway patches will be approximately 6 tons, at a price of $100/ton, plus approximately 75 man hours and city owned equipment.

The City of Hailey plans to double its usual chip-seal road maintenance work this year, thanks to revenue from a voter-approved electric utility franchise fee increase. Instead of the usual four days of chip seal, eight days of chip sealing are planned in two sessions. The first session will be completed the first week of August and the second session of will be done August 16-20. Motorists and bicyclists are cautioned to be careful driving, to take a detour if possible until the loose chips are cleaned up in the days and weeks following the project.

As one of the City’s resiliency initiatives, in an effort use less material with similar results, oil and rock will only be applied to the travel lanes of some areas, rather than the full width of the road. It is in the travel lanes that significant road wear occurs, and maintaining those sections is of primary importance. In areas where shoulder work is needed, the chip seal is applied there to maintain the integrity of the roads.

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