

Frequently Asked Questions – Resurfacing

What is resurfacing?

Resurfacing is the process of removing a portion of the asphalt pavement on a street and overlaying it with a new layer of asphalt. Its purpose is to extend the life of the street, delaying more expensive roadway fixes in future years.

Why do I have to pay an assessment for road resurfacing? Don't my property taxes already pay for it?

Many residents ask why the City does not just pay for road resurfacing. The simple answer is: Property taxes pay for street maintenance, pothole patching, street sweeping, snow and ice control but not paving projects. City ordinances allow these projects to be paid for by assessing benefitted property owners adjacent to the streets being improved. The assessments are calculated based on the square footage of your lot. Property owners only pay a portion of the cost of the project, with remaining costs paid for by the city selling municipal bonds.

Most residents prefer to pay the assessment with their taxes. For those that want to pay their assessment instead of having it automatically payable with property taxes please contact the Public Works Special Assessments office at 612-673-2401.

Why is the street I live on being resurfaced?

City of Minneapolis Public Works Department evaluates the condition all of the city streets on an ongoing basis. The department also keeps track of citizen complaint calls and tracks where maintenance dollars are being spent. Considering all these factors, streets are selected for resurfacing. Without doing this type of work, it is likely that a more expensive and disruptive street project would need to be performed in the not too distant future.

Why do I have to pay for resurfacing the street when it was damaged by others?

Regardless of the cause of the defect, it is the affected property owner's responsibility, as per City ordinance, to be assessed for a portion of the cost of street resurfacing.

Will the road be closed during this work?

For safety reasons the roadway is generally closed to thru traffic during resurfacing work. Some of the busier streets may remain partially open to aide with traffic flow. The City of Minneapolis is cognizant of the fact that citizens need access to their homes and businesses and therefore does its best to minimize disruption on each project.

How long will resurfacing work take in front of my home or business?

It usually takes about 2-3 days depending on the number of layers of asphalt going back on the roadway. The first day will be for milling or grinding away the existing pavement. The second and possibly 3rd days would be for installation of each new layer of asphalt. The days may or may not be consecutive.

The city also provides private utility companies the opportunity to upgrade their infrastructure prior to the city resurfacing a street. Private utility companies may independently work in a project area several days or weeks ahead of the City of Minneapolis crews who perform the resurfacing of the street. The city affords utility companies this opportunity ahead of time in order to avoid the utility companies removing freshly placed pavement.

How will I know when resurfacing on my street is going to be done?

The Public Works Department hosts community engagement meetings prior to the start of each project. In addition, a letter is sent to the occupants of the properties in the project area about a week before work starts. Streets are posted "No Parking" at least 24 hours in advance of construction. In residential areas property owners with "land line" telephones a call goes out 24 hours in advance of the start of work via the Cities of Minneapolis calling system.

The city also maintains a web site with information about current street projects.

*Private utilities may send out their own notifications and maintain their own web sites independent of the city.

Will the city be fixing the water ponding areas in the concrete curb and gutter and / or overlay the bus pads in front of my home or business?

The answer is no. Resurfacing is designed to extend the life of the asphalt roadway only, and the asphalt pavement resurfacing is intended to last approximately 10 years. Replacement of the entire street pavement and the curb and gutter falls under the classification of a "reconstruction project", which is much more expensive, disruptive to residents and time consuming.

Concrete bus pads are not overlaid with asphalt in resurfacing projects due to bonding problems between asphalt and the existing concrete bus pad.

There is “No Parking” Posting on my street and nobody is working. What is going on?

First check the name and phone number written on the bottom of the no parking sign. “No Parking” signs are often placed by private contractors. Please contact the Traffic and Parking Services division of Public Works, at 612-673-5319, between 8 AM and 3:30 PM and ask them for any information about what work may be planned for your street.

The City of Minneapolis Public Works Department always places a phone number on the bottom of the no parking signs they post, so persons can call if they have questions.

My yard was damaged during the resurfacing project when is it going to get fixed?

City resurfacing work is generally confined to the asphalt portion of the roadway. Occasionally concrete curb and gutter is also replaced. If your yard or sidewalk was damaged it may have been the result of some other work that took place ahead of the resurfacing project. If it was a private utility company they should be contacted directly regarding the completion of any restoration work or damage claims you may have.

Will my solid waste and recycle be picked up when the city is resurfacing the street?

If solid waste and recycle is picked up within the Public Works department follow any special instructions provided by Solid Waste and Recycling.

If your solid waste and recycle is picked up by a private contractor, it will be your responsibility to coordinate pickup alternate pickup times with your solid waste contractor.

I am going to be out of town for the weekend and my car is parked on the street. Is my street going to be posted “No Parking” while I am gone?

If you know that a resurfacing project is scheduled for your area it is not a good idea to leave your vehicle parked on the street while you are away from home. Resurfacing projects are subject to delays for a variety of reasons, with weather being the primary cause. To keep projects on track work often takes place on weekends.

I take the bus to work and my street is closed for resurfacing what do I do?

Metro Transit posts alternate stop locations as needed. The City works with Metro Transit on detours; however, temporary bus stop locations are chosen by Metro Transit. Contact the bus company directly if you have questions.