

Town Board Memorandum

To: Town Chair and Board Members
From: Cara Geheren – Township Engineer
Date: June 22, 2020
Item: Workshop – Road Improvements

Town Board Action Requested:

Discuss Street Inventory and Financing for Road Improvements (for paved Town Roads).

Background Information:

Many of the paved roads in the Township are approaching their useful life. It is necessary for the Board to review funding needs and develop strategies and policies for moving forward with the necessary investment in order to maintain the Town's paved roads. Engineering staff recommend that the ***following items be reviewed and discussed*** as part of the workshop:

1. **Inventory:** The engineering team maintains a detailed listing of all street segments in the Township (see Street Inventory) including historical improvement and maintenance data.
2. **Programmed Improvements:** Each segment has been identified as needing a capital improvement such as a reclaim and overlay or routine maintenance (crack sealing/seal coating) based on a field review of pavement conditions and discussions with the Town Board regarding maintenance strategies. These segments are also depicted in the attached Street Inventory Map. Gravel roads appear in the inventory but are not highlighted on the map as the focus for the workshop pertains to paved roads. A timeframe for improvement or maintenance has also been depicted based on pavement condition; however, the actual recommended timing for specific projects should only be determined ***after*** a funding plan is developed.
3. **Projected Costs:** Planning level costs have been assigned to each category. Please note that these costs are developed based on averages for similar types of projects. The actual costs for any specific project or neighborhood are going to vary from the cost projections in this spreadsheet depending on the actual scope of improvements. For the segments recommended for reclaim, the spreadsheet currently has a conservative cost projection. As noted at the bottom of the spreadsheet, we anticipate the funding need for the identified reclaim projects to range from ***\$5.5 million to \$8 million***. Maintenance costs are projected to be approximately ***\$300,000*** in the next 5-7 years.

Financial Impact:

Prior to providing recommendations for any specific project by year, we recommend that the Town Board first determine a funding strategy and develop any necessary policies in support of those strategies. The Town Board should discuss the following funding strategies and identify any additional information that is needed to explore these options.

- Property Taxes - Pay as you go, levy for improvements.
- Special Assessments – Follow/modify recently adopted policy.
- Bonding – Chapter 429 Bonds, Street Reconstruction Bonds, Others?

Next Steps:

Once the Town Board is comfortable with the information provided, we recommend that the Board engage the services of a financial consultant to model scenarios for providing the necessary funding.

In order to move forward with a project in 2021, we recommend that the Board continue to move this discussion forward monthly. It is recommended that design work for projects should be started in the year prior to constructing the improvement. For a project such as Eagles Watch, which will include geotechnical investigations and topographic surveying, it is recommended that these initial steps are completed prior to snowfall.

Attachments:

- Denmark Street Inventory (including projections)
- Denmark Street Inventory Map