



For Roads & Streets, summer means paving. First, outside temperature is crucial, so asphalt plants are only open May to mid-December. A key to paving is compaction of the mix with a roller to create proper density. Cold air and soil can cause the mix to cure too quickly, becoming too stiff for good compaction. But dry weather is also essential, making summer even better. Wet soil is a less stable surface for new roads, plus paving mixtures contain oil. Since oil and water don't mix, rain can bring oil to surfaces, also effecting curing. Rain doesn't always delay work though, it depends on volume + timing. Paving is a complex science!

The FOUR STEPS to PAVING

PHASE 1: To provide a good paving surface, a contractor "reclaims" (or grinds up) the existing asphalt into a gravel base, and grades — or levels — the road. This first step leaves catch basins and manholes exposed, so they are painted a bright color for visibility. Road surfaces at that point are rough but travelable.

PHASE 2: Next, Town crews— or contractors— pave by applying two layers of asphalt and doing the compaction, or rolling. This is called resurfacing. An inspector or project manager regularly visits any contractors to be sure work proceeds according to plan.

PHASE 3: Crews then install curbs where needed, and may resurface driveway 'aprons,' also called the approach (the 2-6' closest to the road) *see photo at right*

PHASE 4: Finally, crews backfill areas behind curbs with loam. This is a mix of topsoil, sand, silt, & clay. Loam is important for its ability to hold moisture which allows grass to take root. Then comes "hydro-seeding" or spraying the loam with a water, grass seed, and fertilizer mix. The last task is usually the striping — or painting of the lines.

July '22 Resurfacing:

- ▶ Hemlock, Lemont, & Stonecrest Roads
- ▶ Military Highway



Photos: Tom Gavitt, Engineering Inspector, and Joe Curioso, Roads & Streets Foreman



PROJECT UPDATE: The Goss Cove Pump Station improvements are nearing completion. Work began in Feb. 2021 but supply chain issues plus discovery of added sewage pipes in need of replacement caused delays. Contractor, All State Construction, now plans to start the new pumps in August. Remaining tasks include startup & testing of the improved system, removal of temporary bypass pumps, and final punch-list items such as painting, paving, & clean-up — for an expected Fall finish.



Photos: PWD Engineering Inspector Tom Gavitt