



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Amanda Dorman | (317) 873-1585 | www.zionsville-in.gov | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

For Immediate Release:

Sept. 27, 2016

Street & Stormwater Department new milling machine creates smoother roads

A new machine in the Zionsville Street & Stormwater Department will allow for roads to be repaired much faster and more efficiently. Purchased this summer, the Department's new milling machine is the first of its kind for the town.

The Street Department has always been able to address deep pot hole repairs through a process that involves cutting out a piece of roadway and fully reconstructing it from the subgrade up to the surface. With the new machine, the Department can more efficiently repair roads with surface imperfections only one or two inches deep, creating uniformity along the paving surface and a smoother riding surface.

"We encounter a lot of areas that have surface imperfections only an inch or so deep," said Lance Lantz, Superintendent of the Street & Stormwater Department. "Being so shallow, these imperfections do not hold asphalt well. When we attempt to place asphalt, it creates a lunar-like surface that is bumpy and looks like a bunch of potholes repaired in close proximity."

The machine works on small repair areas with surface imperfections, grinding up one or two inches of existing asphalt surface. Asphalt is placed over the area and rolled using a small compactor roller. The asphalt is left to cool and the road is open to the public in a quick turnaround time, depending on the size of the repair area.

For the Street Department, this machine has already proved to be an efficient way to repair roads. Since purchasing the machine, the Department has repaired sections of Pine Street, 5th and 3rd Streets, as well as several areas in neighborhoods including Spring Knoll, Raintree, Colony Woods, The Woodlands at Irishman's Run, Austin Oaks at Summer Glen and Willow Glen.

In 2015, the Street Department also purchased an Asphalt Hotbox which can hold two cubic yards of asphalt and keep it at operating temperature. This not only allows the Department to use hot asphalt year-round, but the equipment stores hot asphalt for future use.

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