



CITY OF  
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES

**CITY MANAGER'S CORNER**

September 12, 2016

Summer 2016 Capital Projects

With the summer of 2016 now behind us, I would like to offer my appreciation to the community for its patience and cooperation as we were able to undertake a number of street improvement projects throughout the City over the past several months. We certainly know how disruptive such projects can be especially on a major arterial like Palos Verdes Drive North. One of the reasons we schedule these public works projects in the summer is because traffic is typically lighter at this time of year. Even so, try as we might to minimize it, there will always be disruption.

At the start of summer, we were able to apply slurry seal (essentially a mixture of oil and sand) to approximately six miles of residential streets plus a section of Silver Spur Road. This prolongs the life of the streets and restores the appearance of the pavement. Once applied, a slurry seal can take about a month to completely cure. Because of this, driving on recently slurried streets, particularly at the end of cul-de-sacs, may result in tire tracks or gouges from turning your wheels when the car is not moving. Over time, the pavement will usually even itself out.

Construction has also been taking place at the intersection of Palos Verdes Drive North and Rolling Hills Road/Portuguese Bend Road to install new traffic signal poles. This project will allow for a "protected/permissive" left-turn signal. Drivers turning left onto either Rolling Hills Road or Portuguese Bend Road from Palos Verdes Drive North will be able to make the turn on a green arrow (the protected phase) while still being able to turn left when the light is green and the arrow is not displayed (the permissive phase). Unfortunately, a manufacturer's defect was detected while the customized poles were being installed, which has delayed completion of the project. To minimize the impact on traffic, we have scheduled nighttime installation when the corrected poles arrive sometime around mid- to late-September.

Also over the summer, Southern California Edison installed an underground utility vault on Palos Verdes Drive North in the merge lane just east of Dobbin Lane which added to traffic congestion. Edison's contractors have completed the work, and we are now waiting for them to repave that section of roadway.

Further east, a stretch Palos Verdes Drive North from Dapplegray Lane to Palos Verdes Drive East has been resurfaced, along with several residential streets in that area. The off-road multi-use pathway on Palos Verdes Drive North was also repaved from

Crenshaw Boulevard to Palos Verdes Drive East just in time for the start of the new school year. Similar work was undertaken on a section of pathway along Silver Spur Road.

While all this work was going on, the City also had to contend with a malfunctioning signal controller at Palos Verdes Drive North and Hawthorne Boulevard which added unnecessarily to traffic delays. After several attempts at correcting the problem, we believe that our signal maintenance contractor has been able to identify and solve the problem. We apologize for the inconvenience that this troublesome intersection caused motorists.

Street pavement is one of the major capital investments of the City and is one of its most important assets. We undertake a triennial review of our entire street system and prioritize maintenance efforts based on pavement condition and available funding. With budget surpluses projected over the next three years, the City expects to ramp up its capital improvement program to catch up on our street maintenance backlog and further enhance the quality of life for our residents.