

# Memorandum

## Department of Public Works



**TO:** Michael O. Geisel, P.E.  
City Administrator

**FROM:** James A. Eckrich, P.E. *JAE*  
Public Works Director / City Engineer

**DATE:** April 20, 2023

**RE:** 2023 Concrete Slab Replacement Project C

As you know, we are experiencing historically high vacancies in our Street Maintenance Division. We currently have an approved staffing level of 22 Maintenance Workers / Senior Maintenance Workers, with twelve vacancies. The impact of these vacancies is significant in both reduced work output and morale. The Street Maintenance Division has had to discontinue important street maintenance operations which is directly leading to the degradation of our public infrastructure. Specific examples are as follows:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2022</u>
Concrete Slab Replacement	155 slabs	0 slabs
Concrete Partial Depth Replacement	3,700 lineal feet	0 lineal feet
Curb Repair / Replacement	86 lineal feet	131 lineal feet
Asphalt Joint Repair	5,180 lineal feet	19,980 lineal feet
Tree Trimming	2 snow maps	2 snow maps

As you can see we are completing the work that absolutely needs to be done (snow removal, joint repair, curb repair/replacement, tree trimming for clearance) but we cannot complete the work that actually improves our infrastructure. The result is an increase from 120 slabs with a rating of four or below in 2019 to 688 slabs with a rating of four or below in 2023. The reduction of in-house street maintenance is the primary contributing factor to the degradation of our street infrastructure, demonstrated by our composite street rating falling from 8.23 in 2019 to 7.81 in 2023.

One of the street maintenance operations we have been unable to perform is in-house concrete slab replacement. Our previous practice has been to contract for large-scale slab replacement but to replace smaller groupings of slabs (generally ten or less) using in-house street maintenance personnel. Our inability to complete that work is

contributing to the above-described problems and leading to complaints from some residents due to asphalt patching that is not being promptly replaced with concrete.

When positions remain vacant the money budgeted for those positions is unspent and lapses into General Fund – Fund Reserves. The savings associated with vacancies associated with street maintenance workers, including benefits, ranges from \$304,500 for five vacant positions to \$609,000 for ten vacant positions. I am proposing that we utilize these “savings” to construct a third concrete slab replacement project in 2023. The intent of this project is to have the selected contractor replace the slabs we typically would have replaced with in-house maintenance personnel if we were fully staffed.

To determine whether such a project is feasible, and if a contractor would even bid on such a project, I contacted Amcon Municipal Paving. As you know Amcon has successfully completed myriad concrete slab projects for the City in the past, and does excellent work. Amcon is also currently constructing Sidewalk Project B for the City. Amcon is interested in this project, specifically because I have stipulated that the City would be very flexible regarding the timing of the work. Accordingly, Amcon has submitted unit prices associated with slab replacement, which I have reviewed and found to be very fair.

It is my recommendation that the City of Chesterfield construct a third concrete slab replacement project in 2023 utilizing unspent funding dedicated to personnel within the Street Maintenance Division of the Department of Public Works. **Specifically, I am recommending that the City execute a change order to Amcon Municipal Paving within Sidewalk Project B in an amount of \$500,000 for selective concrete slab replacement. The project will be financed with existing budgeted funds, accomplished via a \$500,000 transfer from 001-072-5111 (Personnel) to 001-072-5251 (Contractual).** Constructing a project in this manner will allow us to address a number of deficient concrete slabs which would otherwise be postponed to future years.

Concurrence:   
Jeannette Kelly, Finance Director

**Action Recommended**

This matter should be forwarded to the Planning and Public Works Committee of City Council for consideration. Should PPW concur with my recommendation they should forward the following recommendation to the full City Council:

1. Authorize an internal Budget Transfer of \$500,000 from 001-072-5211 to 001-072-5251 to fund a \$500,000 concrete slab replacement project.
2. Authorize the City Administrator to execute a \$500,000 Change order to Amcon Municipal Paving within Sidewalk Project B for construction of concrete slab replacement at unit prices submitted by Amcon and approved by the Director of Public Works.

Forward to PPW for review and further direction. Please know that this will not offset the degradation but will nominally reduce the rate of degradation.

 2023-4-20