



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

Telephone
(617) 796-1100
Fax
(617) 796-1113
TDD/TTY
(617) 796-1089
Email
rfuller@newtonma.gov

Accelerated Neighborhood Road Paving - \$10,352,000

In the City of Newton's FY2021 Budget, developed in the early months of the pandemic in May 2022 when the economy shut down, we cut \$4 million dollars of spending out of our DPW paving budget. In May 2021, I used \$2.5 million of ARPA funds to restore partially the road repair and paving investments as our streets need so much work.

In the Fall of 2022, I designated an additional \$4 million in ARPA funds to supplement the City's accelerated road repair program. The funds will allow us to repave those roads in our neighborhoods which are in the poorest condition along their full length.

The City's Pavement Condition Index (PCI) program rates all roadways in Newton on a 0-100 scoring system (0 being a poor roadway, 100 being a new one). The scores are based on data obtained from a sophisticated truck-based road radar system conducted City-wide every other year; the scores determine the prioritization of the street repairs. We expect this funding to allow us to repair the full length of those neighborhood roads which currently stand under a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of 50 in the next two years. (We also have segments of roads that fall below a PCI of 50; we expect to make a lot of progress on these in the next few years as well.) Please know that following our protocols, the decisions on timing may be influenced by underground utility infrastructure improvements.

In late 2022, we identified approximately 80 neighborhood roads spread across the City that met the under 50 PCI classification. Some required a maintenance overlay while others needed more substantial rehabilitation. The repairs were conducted over the next two construction seasons in 2023 and 2024.

The goal of the repairs on these roads and segments was to create a good riding surface and extend the useful life of the roadways for 10+ years. Roadways were resurfaced with 1.5"-2" of new asphalt pavement. Utility structures in the roadway were brought flush to the new pavement surface and driveway aprons were blended. These repairs allowed users to travel the roads by vehicle, bicycle or other means of transportation without having to worry about bumps and potholes. Some roads also required sidewalk repairs or replacement.

In May 2023 I provided an additional \$2 million to begin addressing streets with PCIs in the 50-55 range, which are also in poor condition. These efforts were focused on elevating the overall pavement condition index to help us transition from reactive to preventative maintenance. DPW was able to pave dozens of roads during the 2023-2024 period in every section of the City using these additional funds.

This focus on smaller neighborhood roads compliments the City's larger road repair program that is addressing the major thoroughfares. In 2023 portions of Walnut, Lowell, Wheeler, Homer and the Commonwealth Avenue Carriageway were paved. In 2024 and 2025 portions of Austin, Valentine, Auburndale, Hammond, Waltham and Albemarle are in the process of being paved.

In October 2024 I am providing an additional \$1.7 million to continue paving residential roads in poor condition. These funds will allow the City to pave approximately 7.6 miles of roads. The focus will continue to be roads with PCI ratings in the 50s. A new PCI rating review is being conducted this fall with results to be published, and used for prioritization, this coming winter.