Why Highway District 4 Chip Seals Roadways

Why & How

- As part of the maintenance program, crews chip seal road surfaces (including new pavements) to protect from water and weather damage and to keep them in good condition. A chip seal application to a road has many positive benefits:
  a. Chip Seal oil protects the underlying asphalt by sealing any cracks thereby preventing moisture from damaging the base of the road.
  b. Extends the existing pavement life by delaying further aging due to water and sun - this is equally important to new pavements
  c. Changes the texture of the road for skid resistance
  d. Provides a moisture barrier
  e. Gives better resistance to studded tires
  f. Corrects existing pavement problems by sealing cracks
- **Steps:** Liquid asphalt is sprayed onto the roadway and then immediately aggregate chips are spread and set with rollers. Lastly, several days later, any excess or loose chips are swept off the roadway.

What Residents Can Do to Help

- **Watch for the Signs:** “No Parking” signs and traffic control signs will only be placed in sub-divisions 24-48 hours in advance of Chip Sealing operations.
  - Please remove vehicles as needed between 6 am and 6 pm on the scheduled day.
  - Pay attention to flagger’s direction, detours and plan ahead.
- **Manage Irrigation:** Adjust sprinklers, Hand Lines, Wheel Lines and Pivots to ensure the roadways are dry. Water on the pavement prevents the liquid asphalt from sticking to the roads.
- **Mainline Roadways:** Collectors and Arterials are not signed as on-street parking is not allowed.

Safety Tips & What to Expect

- **SLOW DOWN:** Loose chips are temporary, but driving over 35 mph can spray the chips and damage windshields and paint.
- **Allow for Construction:** While traffic is allowed, follow construction signs and flaggers directions, expect short delays.
- **Wait for Sweeping:** Loose chips will be swept from the roadways a few days following the Chip Seal application.