

Village of Head-of-the-Harbor



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Board of Trustees Road Paving and Improvement Plan

Head of the Harbor Trustees have agreed in principal to adopt a multi-year road improvement plan. The program includes approximately 60% of our Village roads and is broken into four phases. The rationale for the phases is to group roads by priority, by amount of use and by proximity to other roads. The program includes re-surfacing and drainage issues.

Why is a major program needed

Four years ago your current Board inherited a village with a majority of the roads last paved in 1997 when public water was brought into the village. Most of the roads were at, or nearing, the end of their useful life which is between 15 and 20 years.

Increased traffic on the major roads in the Village from construction vehicles and other oversized trucks have accelerated road deterioration. Our roads were never designed to stand up to oversized heavy trucks and the amount of traffic we have today.

Many of our roads handle stormwater runoff running towards Stony Brook Harbor. Recent major storms and unusual heavy rains have contributed to washouts of roadsides and road surfaces. The Trustees are quite aware of the damage that roadway stormwater can cause to both road surfaces and to Stony Brook Harbor water quality. The Trustees have a fiduciary duty to maintain the pristine conditions of the Harbor and in that regard Trustee Ogden is working with GEI Consultants. GEI specializes in protection of local water quality, coastal resiliency and habitat enhancement.

For the past four years we have re-paved individual roads each year utilizing the full extent of the road improvement funding (Chips) from New York State. Progress has been made but the Trustees deem that progress is too slow.

The Trustees want to restore our roads and do it at a faster pace. In this regard a master plan involving 60% of village roads has been adopted.

Why this is a good time for a Road Paving and Improvement Plan

The current federal and state political climate encourages infrastructure investment. Banks have been encouraged to finance infrastructure improvement projects. Our Village currently has no long term debt and has a bond rating that would allow obtaining sufficient debt for a fifteen year term to finance a major road program. Interest rates are relatively low.

Chips funding has been increased by New York State and is able to be used to pay the principal portion of the debt used for road re-paving.

The political climate in New York State, spearheaded by the Governor, also encourages municipal governments to consolidate services such as highway maintenance. The Town of Smithtown is very receptive to partnering with our Village to help meet the Governor's consolidation initiatives.

Working with the Town of Smithtown brings the village the capabilities of the Smithtown Highway Department including their engineering and approved contractors with lower cost structures. Also, the cost of paving materials is lower when a higher volume is procured rather than doing re-paving piecemeal.

Relationship with the Town of Smithtown

This Board has always acted in the best interest of our Village. If the Village has been better served by delegating or contracting for services with the Town of Smithtown, then that is what was done.

Examples of current shared services with Smithtown are:

- Code Enforcement
- Property Tax Assessment
- Storm Cost Submission to the State and Federal governments
- Planning for Storm and other Disasters
- Employee Background Checks

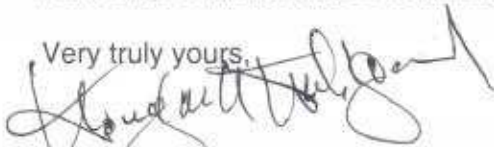
Our Highway Department shares the following services with the Town of Smithtown Highway Department:

- Road Re-Paving
- Basin Drain Cleaning
- Disposal of Street Sweeping Waste and Tree Debris
- Vehicle Repair
- Yard Surface Material
- Salt/Sand supplies during winter
- Fuel depot for discounted gas and diesel fuel
- Street Signs
- Removal of large trees from roads
- Safety training

Now that the Trustees have set the course the specific engineering and cost details of the road improvement plan are being determined.

Further information will be available at the monthly Trustee's public meeting.

Very truly yours,



Douglas A. Dahigard
Mayor