



Fall 2019

Volume 8

Paving the Way to Better Roads at Lower Costs

Pavement Preservation Projects Benefit New Jersey Taxpayers and Commuters



Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti

The last Commitment to Communities newsletter highlighted some of the wonderful volunteerism of New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) employees. In this volume, I will share how the NJDOT achieves consistent progress through focused investments that keep our infrastructure in a state of good repair. Not only does the NJDOT

prioritize improving the quality of life for our residents, but we also take great pride in the preservation and maintenance of our transportation system for the benefit of all New Jerseyans.

Within the last decade, NJDOT has significantly increased our use of pavement preservation treatments and preventive maintenance. Instead of waiting until pavements deteriorate to poor conditions requiring conventional, more costly resurfacing or rehabilitation treatments, preventive maintenance treatments are being applied at a **fraction of the cost** to sections of roadway in good or fair condition.

The purpose of these treatments is to renew and seal the pavement surface and **extend the functional life of the pavement** by six to twelve years depending on the preservation method. Sealing the roadway prior to deterioration reduces the chances for water to infiltrate the pavement and therefore prevents the opportunity for potholes to form. Since preservation treatments are **less expensive** than traditional resurfacing (one third to one half of the cost) preservation becomes a more cost effective life cycle treatment strategy while also minimizing the opportunity for potholes to develop throughout the life of the pavement.



Pictured: Slurry Seal treatment being applied to the Route 33, CR 527 to Howell Road Pavement Preservation Project in Monmouth County.

In addition to providing **cost savings** to the state (and in turn, the tax payer), these methods can be implemented without major traffic disruptions and with minimal lane closures—**saving commuters time and frustration.**

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Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 23rd - 2019 Research Showcase at Mercer County College

Thursday, October 31st - Contractor Venture Forum at NJDOT Ewing Headquarters

Thursday, November 14th - Transit Village Anniversary at Rutgers New Brunswick



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Furthermore, these projects have an accelerated design and construction phase, with most projects completed in one year.

The method of pavement preservation is not an idea unique to NJDOT. This method is nationally accepted as a cost effective treatment in pavement life cycle strategy. As a Department, we participate in the North East Pavement Preservation Partnership (NEPPP), a regional component of the national pavement preservation initiative facilitated by the National Center for Pavement Preservation.

System preservation is a requirement under federal legislation MAP-21, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act. MAP-21 offers much needed funds in transportation investment.

Because these preventive techniques are so beneficial, we have substantially increased our annual investment in pavement preservation projects from \$3 million in 2013 to \$50 million in the 2020 program. Over the last two years, we have successfully designed or delivered 22 projects. They reflect our commitment to be responsible stewards of the 27-cent gas tax increase.



Pictured: Completed Route 33, CR 527 to Howell Road Pavement Preservation Project in Monmouth County.

We look forward to increasing our investment levels in future years.

Pavement preservation is just one example among many of how NJDOT is committed to keeping New Jersey's roadways in a state of good repair and by doing so, improving the lives of our residents. I strongly believe that any opportunity where we can take a **proactive approach** and in turn **save the state and taxpayer time, money and disruption** is an opportunity worth investing in.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to read this and please feel free to share it with your colleagues. If you have any questions about any of the information in the newsletter please feel free to contact NJDOT's Office of Constituent Relations at 609-963-1982.

Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti
Commissioner

2019 Pavement Preservation Projects

In Progress:

Middlesex County: Route 18, Route 27 to Buckingham Drive

Monmouth County: Route 33, CR 527 to Howell Road

Middlesex County: Route 35, CR 4 (Holmdel Rd/Main St) to Rt 9

Burlington/Ocean Counties: Route 72, Route 70 to Savoy Blvd & Stevens Rd to Ash

Upcoming:

Bergen/Morris Counties: Route I-80, Fox Hill Road to Route 46 EB/Route I-280 & CR 57 (Summit Avenue) to Route I-95

Essex/Union Counties: Route I-78, Union Avenue to NJ Turnpike, Exit 58

Cumberland/Salem/Gloucester Counties: Route 55 MP 25.0 to 48.40

Awarded Pavement Preservation Projects as of June 30, 2019 - \$60,113,476*

**Approximately 10% of the award amount is allocated to design and funded by the Transportation Trust Fund.*

