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CONTACT: Brian Hensel, Street Superintendent

PHONE: 552-6361

E-MAIL: bhensel@ci.missoula.mt.us

MISSOULA'S ANNUAL CHIP SEAL PROGRAM BEGINS

City continues 22 years of proactive street program

Expect to see City of Missoula Street Division crews out applying oil and chips to Missoula streets beginning Monday, July 18.

It's the start of the City's annual Chip Seal Street Maintenance Program. Each year, about 100 blocks of street surface get the sealing treatment using the chip seal method. The combination of oil and chip – clean, crushed stone of a uniform size -- seals the asphalt surface from weather erosion and extends the life of the pavement in the same way as painting a home. This helps prevent the development of potholes. Sealing streets delays reconstruction and saves dollars and disruption for Missoula's residents. The effects were especially easy to see after the unusually severe conditions of the past winter.

“The streets we sealed most recently held up best last winter and spring and were less likely to develop potholes,” said Brian Hensel, Street Superintendent.

The City initiated the annual program in 1987. In the 22 years of this street-sealing maintenance program, the City has sealed a majority of the streets, many of them multiple times.

The chip seal project is expected to finish around Aug 11. The loose “chip” rock will be left on the street for an additional two to three weeks until street sweepers can clean up the chips. For the next year, the treated street will have a rough surface due to the rock chips and will also have some loose chip rock, which will eventually be cleaned up. The streets benefiting from this year’s chip seal surfacing are listed below in a tentative order in which they will be completed. Weather and/or workload could change the scheduling.

Madison Street: Fifth Street to Bridge
Arthur Avenue: Sixth Street to Fifth Street
Maurice Avenue: Sixth Street to Fifth Street
Sixth Street: Arthur Avenue to Maurice Avenue
Brooks Street: Higgins Avenue to Mount Avenue
Stephens Avenue: Mount Avenue to Brooks Street
Kent Avenue: Oxford Street to Brooks Street
Regent Street: Kent Avenue to North Avenue
Park Street: Mount Avenue to South Avenue
Central Avenue: Bancroft Street to Park Street
Sussex Avenue: Bancroft Street to Park Street
Livingston Avenue: Bancroft Street to Higgins Avenue
Dearborn Avenue: Bancroft Street to Higgins Avenue
Fairview Avenue: Bancroft Street to Higgins Avenue
Benton Avenue: Bancroft Street to Higgins Avenue
Queen Street: South Avenue to Benton Avenue
Hollis Street: South Avenue to Benton Avenue
Park Street: South Avenue to Benton Avenue
Thames Street: South Avenue to Agnes Avenue
Lester Street: South Avenue to Agnes Avenue
Mary Avenue: Park Street to Higgins Avenue
Agnes Avenue: Park Street to Higgins Avenue
Park Street: Agnes Avenue to Pattee Creek
Pattee Creek Drive: Elm Park to Higgins Avenue

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