



## NEWS RELEASE

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May 3, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE #05.03.2017

**Subject: City of Martinez Measure D Pavement Repair Program**

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MARTINEZ – The streets in the City of Martinez are an important asset and the core of the City's transportation network. They vary in their age and condition due to natural wear and tear, as well as exposure to varying weather conditions. In 2015, the condition of our roads was assigned an overall Pavement Condition Index (PCI) level of 51, ranking it among the worst in Contra Costa County based on the Pavement Management Program (PMP) assessment funded by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. The assessment estimated that the City would need \$24 million over 5 years (\$4.8-million annually) to improve our roads to a PCI level of 56.

Due to significant declines in State Gas Tax revenues over the last five years and the limited availability of paving grants, the City's projected average pavement funding level from recurring annual sources (e.g. Measure J and Gas Tax funding) available for street repair (including both improvement and maintenance) is only approximately \$920,000 per year.

Facing a continued reduction in road funding and further decline of our streets, the City Council placed a revenue measure on last November's ballot. Measure D proposed to raise the City's sales and transaction tax by an additional one-half percent (0.50%) for 15 years to exclusively fund roadway rehabilitation and maintenance projects. On November 8, 2016, a notable seventy-two percent (72%) of the residents of Martinez voters approved Measure D.

This Measure is anticipated to add \$2 million dollars annually to our paving budget. Though this would still fall short of the estimated \$4.8 million needed annually to bring all our roads to a PCI level of 56, it will stop further deterioration and give the City a chance to begin addressing some serious needs in our residential areas. Fortunately, the state recently approved increases in the gas tax and other vehicle related fees. It is anticipated that the City's gas tax revenue will increase \$8.48 million within the next 10 years. Over the next several years, with the tripling of our street repair funding, residents should begin to see noticeable improvement to the condition of our roads.

Although the City's full annual allotment of Measure D funds will not be received until July 2018, the City is now taking steps to integrate this new funding source into its ongoing paving program. At their April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Council authorized purchase of additional street maintenance equipment. This purchase, when combined with the incremental advances of Measure D funding, will allow City crews to increase their pothole and minor street repair activities. Residents and business owners should begin to see some of these improvements early this summer.

Additionally, the City Council adopted the Measure D Street Selection Policy and subsequently established the Measure D Citizens' Oversight Committee appointing Stephen Fretz, Peter Kappelhof, Satinder Malhi, and Marta Van Loan. This committee will meet at least once per year to provide enhanced accountability and ensure the proceeds from Measure D are only used for authorized purposes.

For additional information about Measure D, please contact Rica Guidry, Executive Assistant to the City Manager at (925) 372-3505.

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