

How much is spent on maintaining roads every year, and who pays for it?

Our roads are now in a good condition, thanks to Measure D

The Town spends between \$3 to 4 million every year on road-related maintenance and rehabilitation. The Town follows a 7-year plan Capital Improvement Plan, which includes an annual program for road maintenance. Each year, roads are prioritized to maximize the benefit of routine maintenance, and also a portion of roads in the worst condition are brought up to current standards.

Over the past few years the overall average condition of roads has improved, largely due to the additional \$900,000 annually (in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019) added by the Measure D ½ cent sales tax approved by Town voters in 2013. Without Measure D, the Town would have spent about 20-30 percent less on road maintenance.

Pavement conditions are measured by a Pavement Condition Index, or PCI. In 2011 before Measure D the Town's overall average PCI was "59" on a scale of 0 to 100.¹ A "59" is considered "Fair", but without increased expenditures, conditions would have declined over time. After increased maintenance due to Measure D, the Town's PCI improved to a "69" in 2019,² almost achieving a "Good" rating of 70 and above.

Town voters approved Measure D in 2013 which increased local sales taxes by ½ cent per dollar of taxable sales; in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 this tax generated about \$900,000 in revenue.

Measure D may be used for any purpose, however, its stated intent is to increase maintenance of roads and other capital facilities. The Town's Capital Program Monitoring Committee (CPMC) annually reviews and affirms the expenditure of Measure D funds for their intended purpose. A description of road funds and other capital maintenance can be found in the report from the Dept. of Public Works to the CPMC.^[1]³

Measure D is about to expire

Measure D expires March 31, 2024; its loss will significantly reduce funding for roads resulting in declining road conditions. To extend the tax will require Council action and approval by a majority of voters.

In addition to Measure D, road maintenance is funded by a combination of General Fund revenues, gas taxes and other regional transportation revenues.

¹ Staff Report to CPMC from Sean Condry for the meeting of January 26, 2015.

² Staff Report to CPMC from Sean Condry for the meeting of March 4, 2020.

³ Staff report and attachments from Sean Condry, Public Works Director, to the CPMC for the Meeting of March 4, 2019.