



City Manager's Update

March, 2018

Last month I provided a Top Ten list of the major projects the City will be working on in 2018 (although there are significantly more than ten projects in progress). I've received many questions regarding our Measure V program so this month I will provide more detail on one of the most significant projects the City has embarked upon and the progress the citizens can expect to see over the next year or so.

Measure V Update

Measure V, the 1% transactions and use tax, was passed by 68.8% of the voters in November of 2016. However, due to the notifications and other details that had to be dealt with, collection of the tax by the state did not begin until April 1st of 2017 and the City of Clearlake did not begin to receive revenues from the state until approximately July 1st 2017.

Measure V funding, as approved by the voters, can be used for a variety of efforts surrounding improving and maintaining the roads. Unfortunately, citizens tend to notice only when the surface of the road is improved either by grading or resurfacing; however, there are many other aspects to maintaining a road, including cleaning out culverts and drain inlets; removing trees, branches, and vegetation from the side of the road or over the road; tree trimming; pothole patching; and sign maintenance.

In the spring and summer of 2017 we began staffing up and worked primarily on the "other aspects of road maintenance" due to staff and equipment availability and the funding lag, but there was also a significant amount of grading done. Grading was performed on a number of streets, primarily focused in areas near the Public Works Corps yard (Spruce, Highland, Victor, etc.). We were also able to use a limited amount of Measure V funds to take advantage of some additional work on the 18th and Phillips road project that commenced last summer. That particular project was one of the biggest road projects the City of Clearlake has done in many years and was almost entirely grant funded.

We had barely finished the 18th and Phillips project when the Sulphur Fire hit on October 9th and all personnel were needed in the fire area for erosion control, road preservation, drain cleaning, etc. Public Works crews were focused on that area for most of October thru December, but have since gotten back to their road maintenance work, primarily focusing on service requests. There

has been a significant amount of grading in the Avenues and other areas with much, much more to come.

One note about grading. There is a lot more to it than you might think. In most areas it has been quite a few years since the City has done any grading and there is a great deal of road erosion and a large number of potholes to be dealt with. Crews need to ensure that fire hydrants, water lines, sewer manholes, and other obstacles are identified and avoided. Crews will also typically do tree and vegetation trimming, culvert and ditch cleaning, sign repair, and other road maintenance activities in areas where they are doing the grading. Flaggers are mandatory in order to warn motorists and keep the crews safe. Water trucks are used to keep dust down. Loaders and dump trucks are used to remove materials and/or bring in additional road base or asphalt grindings. Asphalt grindings are the remnants of pavement projects that the City has been stockpiling for many years. This used asphalt is ground up into small pieces that crews haul in and incorporate into the roadway to make it sturdier and is a fairly unique process that we are using to extend the life of the dirt roads. Rollers are used to smooth out the road after the grindings have been worked in and a binding agent is applied that locks the asphalt grindings into place.



On February 22nd, 2018 the City held a Measure V Oversight Committee public meeting to go over the revenues and expenses to date for the Measure V funds. On a cash basis, the City has received approximately \$1.27M in revenues from Measure V thus far and we have spent \$272K, leaving a net of approximately \$1M in the account for road improvements. All Measure V funds are held in a separate account and are not co-mingled with other city funding or used for purposes other than road maintenance and improvement. The Measure V Oversight Committee approved Resolution No. OC 2018-01 declaring compliance with the Measure V ordinance. If you are interested in the details of the expenditures, you can find it on our Measure V website located here: <http://www.clearlake.ca.us/341/Measure-V>

Additionally, at the same meeting city staff discussed the plans for the \$1M currently in the Measure V account, as well as the expected revenues for the year. These plans include the purchase of approximately \$530,000 of road equipment to replace the 20-year-old equipment that crews have been using. This includes a new roller, new dump truck, new backhoe, etc. This new equipment will significantly improve the crew's efficiency as a lot of time has been lost due to disabled equipment. Plans also include increasing personnel since the current crew size is insufficient to perform the work efficiently and grading work is often delayed if someone calls in sick or misses work for other reasons. Once the larger crews and new equipment is in place, there will be a very concentrated effort to focus on grading projects through the spring, summer, and fall of this year to grade most, if not all, of the public dirt roads in the city.

You might have noticed I said "public dirt roads" above. For whatever reason, there are a large number of private dirt and paved roads within the city. It was that way before the city incorporated and is rather unusual. Staff is currently reviewing our legal options to enable us to maintain those roads that are private and will be coming to Council in the near future with those options in an effort to create a policy and a process that would allow the City to maintain some of those roads. There will be a lot more to come on that subject later this year as we continue to investigate this issue.

You should be aware that there is more money available than just Measure V and the City of Clearlake is working to get it. The State of California last year approved SB 1, otherwise known as the "Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017," or more typically known as the "gas tax." SB 1 is the state's answer to help repair our state's crumbling transportation infrastructure and is the first significant, stable, and on-going increase in state transportation funding in more than two decades.

The money collected under SB 1 is equally split between the state and local communities (cities and counties). The money for cities and counties is made up of funds allocated by population and competitively awarded funds. One of these competitively awarded funds is the Local Partnership Program. Funding through the Local Partnership Program is only available to communities that are considered "self-help," meaning that there is a local sales tax in place or other dedicated fee

structure that is specific to transportation improvements. The City of Clearlake was just awarded \$200,000 for the Burns Valley School/Civic Center – Bicycle/Pedestrian Enhancement project under the Local Partnership Program. This project will essentially build curb, gutter, and sidewalk improvements in the area of City Hall/Austin Park that we call the Civic Center. Without Measure V, the City would not have qualified for this funding, so we have received an immediate return on our community's investment with additional state funding. The City has several additional project applications that are being considered by the California Transportation Commission for potential funding by SB 1 and Public Works Director, Doug Herren, is working hard to make sure that we have strong applications for this funding. His efforts have been instrumental in getting previous projects (such as the 18th and Phillips road project we did last year) funded through grants and other outside sources.

I regularly get asked “when will my street get improved?” While it is a fair question, we don't have a definitive answer for you just yet. We have recently been awarded funds from the Area Planning Council to update our Pavement Management Plan which documents the conditions of every paved street. This will allow us to create a five-year capital improvement plan for the improvement of the streets in Clearlake that will at least allow us to plan for the improvement over the next 5 years or so for the roads that meet certain criteria that would make them priorities. We'll be working on that this year also.

With that being said, we do have a number of paved roadway projects that are in various stages of predevelopment throughout the city and are a combination of funding sources including Measure V, SB1, local bond funding, and potential Community Development Block Grants. The City has never had this number of road projects in our history as a city! These projects include the following:

- **Dam Road Extension** – This project will create a connector road between 18th Avenue (at Phillips) and Dam Road Extension providing an additional avenue of egress during emergencies and direct access to the college and Walmart area from the Avenues. This project is currently in design and is expected to be under construction this summer.
- **Country Club Drive/Kings Lane Pavement Rehab** – This project will follow up the installation of a new water main line in the Country Club Drive right of way. A Request for Proposals (RFP) is out for design services and is expected to be under construction this summer.
- **Pine Street Pavement Rehab** – This project will improve the road in front of Burns Valley School. A Request for Proposals (RFP) is out for design services and is expected to be under construction this summer.
- **Highlands Harbor Drive and Harbor Lane Pavement Rehab** – This project will improve the roads in the Highlands Harbor area due to significant deterioration of the roadway. A

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- **Highlands Park Frontage and Off-street Parking Improvements** – A Request for Proposals (RFP) is out for design services and is expected to be under construction this summer.
- **Burns Valley Civic Center** - A RFP will be out for design services soon.
- **Monterey and San Joaquin Extension** – Staff applied for FEMA funds to fix these residential streets that were damaged by the Sulphur Fire and clean-up efforts and received authorization from FEMA for repairs.

Sorry for the length of this update on Measure V, but I am hopeful this answers most questions concerning what the City of Clearlake is doing to improve the roads. It took a long time for the roads to get in the dire condition they are currently in and they won't be fixed overnight, but rest assured the funding is finally there to really make significant improvements to the roads over time. The voters want these improvements and our Public Works staff is excited to finally have the resources to make that happen. Thank you again for your support and we will do our best to make sure our roads go from amongst the worst in Lake County to the best!

Regards,

Greg Folsom

City Manager
City of Clearlake