Annual Pavement Maintenance
Frequently Asked Questions

The City of Santa Barbara Pavement Maintenance Program includes annual contracts for asphalt repair/overlay/reconstruction and slurry seal.

The City is divided into six Pavement Maintenance Zones, 1 through 6. The City generally schedules pavement maintenance projects in each successive maintenance zone on a five- to eight-year cycle and selects streets based on pavement condition, traffic volumes, and available funds. The zone scheduled for 2013 is Zone 6 located in the Downtown area.

Occasionally you may see contract construction crews performing the pavement maintenance in your neighborhood with oversight by City inspectors and engineers. Each street takes approximately one to two weeks to perform asphalt repair, overlay, or reconstruction. The slurry sealing and initial traffic stripe painting of each street will then be independently scheduled and completed within a week. Two additional coats of paint striping will follow. You are invited to scroll through the pictures below to see how pavement maintenance is completed.

How Is Pavement Maintenance Completed?

One technique is asphalt patching and/or overlay:

The areas of failing asphalt pavement are identified and marked with white paint. This step may be completed months prior to the beginning of actual construction so that the City may quantify the amount of asphalt required for the repairs.

You may see temporary traffic disruptions including parking restrictions, road closures, and detours during pavement maintenance activities.

The photo above shows the cutting, grinding, and removal of a failed section of asphalt concrete pavement.

The crew "tack coats" the edges of the existing asphalt concrete so that it bonds with the new asphalt.

The crews place the hot asphalt concrete and compact with roller.

Another technique is slurry sealing:

Crews clean and fill existing cracks in the pavement with an asphalt sealant.

The crew then places asphalt slurry seal to rejuvenate the pavement and seal the road surface.

After the slurry seal is applied, the road is closed to traffic,
and no parking is allowed.

As a last step, the three coats of traffic stripe painting are applied.

Following the completed asphalt pavement maintenance,
streets are ready for vehicular and bicycle use for years to come.