

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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“Many Factors in Calculating Street Repair Costs”

Street conditions have been a concern since the horse and buggy days. It’s an ongoing project in every community that takes a lot of time, money and good planning.



It took all three of those elements to complete the 25th Street project in Norfolk that extends from Highway 275 to Benjamin Avenue. From the beginning of the process of applying for federal government funding to removing the last barricade from the new concrete streets, it was a five year, \$6 million street project that involved much collaboration between federal, state and local officials.

New street projects like 25th Street qualify for state and federal funds that pay for the majority of the project. The city paid just 20% of the costs for rebuilding 25th Street. With those state and federal dollars also come

more stringent regulations and additional environmental reviews which may be costly and take months to procure.

The cost for developing the Highway 35 and Victory Road Intersection is \$4,264,000 with the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) and federal highway dollars funding most of the construction. The City will pick up \$720,000 of those costs.

The Northeast Industrial Highway is a project in which the City partners with Madison County and the NDOR. It will require \$950,000 of the 2013-2014 fiscal year street dollars.

The Council uses a City Street Plan as required by the NDOR that details street projects in the city for the next six years.

The Council recently approved street reconstruction in other areas of Norfolk that may not be as high profile as the 25th Street project but will still require time, money and good planning and local tax money. Each year \$650,000 is allocated for miscellaneous street maintenance work. An example of a street project this year is the work to be done on Michigan Avenue. It’s been estimated that concrete costs about \$75 per cubic yard not including costs for grading, sub-base, concrete forms or reinforcement.

With 146 miles of pavement in Norfolk, the condition of the street and the traffic load must be taken into account when assigning priority to street repair projects.

In the absence of available state and federal highway funds, local tax money pays for city street projects-necessary improvements that never go away.