

Diane Becker
Communications Director

dbecker@ci.norfolk.ne.us

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"Cartographers inspecting every street in Norfolk"



Cartegraph Systems, Inc. field technician Ryan Bennett shows City of Norfolk Public Works Director Dennis Smith the equipment used to collect data on the City's streets.

A slow moving black pickup will be collecting data on every Norfolk street for the next week or so. Cartegraph Systems, Inc., based in Dubuque, Iowa, has been contracted by the City of Norfolk to do pavement inspections and collect data on Norfolk streets as part of the City's street maintenance program.

Ryan Bennett and Milo Stephens, field technicians with Cartegraph Systems, drove to Norfolk from Colorado Springs Monday night to begin collecting and cataloging any cracks, potholes or other distresses in 215 lane miles in the City and in its two mile extraterritorial jurisdiction.

The pickup they use is clearly marked "Cartegraph Data Collection" and is notable because of the large profile bar that replaces the

front bumper. The bar has three lasers on it that get the depth of the pavement surface and send that information to a computer system in the cab.

As one technician drives slowly down the street, looking for pavement irregularities on their side, another technician enters information into a computer from the other side.

A distance measuring instrument is installed on the back left tire of the vehicle to mark how many feet they've traveled. A GPS instrument marks their exact location. Each day from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm the technicians will gather the information that is sent to the main office in the evening. It is expected to take about a week to gather the information although they can't drive the streets if it rains as water distorts what the lasers "see".

Bennett and Stephens travel across the United States doing the data collection having recently catalogued every street in San Diego, Pittsburg and a few cities in New Hampshire and Washington.

"We travel every street of a town. It's an interesting way to see America," Stephens said.

Norfolk drivers are encouraged to be aware of the data collecting vehicle that moves 10-25 miles per hour and may stop unexpectedly.

The public is invited to a demonstration of the Cartegraph Data Collection vehicle at 8:30 am Thursday, September 22 in the parking lot at Veterans Memorial Field. For more information contact John Heine, City of Norfolk Staff Engineer, at 402-844-2020