

ROADS & DRAINAGE, PUBLIC WORKS
DeKalb County
PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

Each year, between September 1st and August 31st, a DeKalb County road rating engineering technician inspects 2,115.25 miles of County roadway (consisting of more than 8,122 streets) using elements of the Georgia Department of Transportation's (DOT) pavement condition rating system to evaluate the structural condition of the roadways. Some of the longer streets are split into segments as they can have varying structural conditions over the length of the roadway. A Resurfacing Needs Rating Form is completed for each street or segment of street.

Twelve kinds of pavement distress are evaluated. They are transverse cracking, longitudinal cracking, alligator cracking, potholes, patching, rutting, edge raveling, depressions, oxidation, missing stone, and bleeding. The criteria is number based on scales that range from 0 – 4 up to 0 – 12. (Very Good to Very Poor). After the individual ratings are totaled, each road will have a score between 0 and 60.

Information from the Resurfacing Needs Rating Form is entered into a computer database, and each September a resurfacing list consisting of those streets with ratings of 30 or higher is produced for submission to the Georgia DOT for possible resurfacing under their Local Assistance Resurfacing Program (LARP). The Georgia DOT determines its funding level, inspects the roads to verify their ratings, and selects the roads they will fund to be resurfaced by a DOT contractor. Usually in March or April following submission of the paving list, LARP contracts are prepared and sent to the County for execution. DeKalb County Roads and Drainage Department personnel remove the roads selected by the Georgia DOT from the total resurfacing list, leaving a list of streets to be resurfaced with County funds. The funding level for County resurfacing in the next budget year is determined during the budget review process that takes place from September to February. Since funding levels are never high enough to resurface all streets on the list, roads with the highest ratings are selected in priority order until the budgeted regular County paving funds are exhausted. In addition, the highest rated roads (not funded under either the LARP or County funded program) are selected to be resurfaced under the Bond program when funds are available. The level of funding that is allocated to the DOT's LARP Program, the Bond program and the amount budgeted by the County for resurfacing will determine the actual number of streets that will be resurfaced during a given year.

In 2003, there were more than 1,230 streets rated 30 and above totaling about 400 miles. The Georgia DOT and County funded resurfacing for about 200 streets totaling around 76 miles. The remaining streets were not funded. In 2004, there were more than 1080 streets rated 30 and above totaling about 359 miles. The GDOT and the County funded resurfacing for about 125 streets totaling around 53 miles. The remaining streets were not funded. In 2005, there were more than 1200 streets rated 30 and above totaling about 409 miles. The Georgia DOT and County funded resurfacing for about 105 streets totaling around 47 miles. The remaining streets were not funded. In 2006, we estimate there will be more than 1025 streets rated 30 and above totaling about 350 miles. The Georgia DOT, County and the Bond program are likely to fund resurfacing for about 286 streets totaling around 88 miles.

The County's scarce resources are allocated to only the most cost effective maintenance activities. The available funds are utilized to extend the life of DeKalb County roads and reduce long-term pavement maintenance costs. Only structurally deficient streets can be resurfaced. Funding is not available to resurface streets for the sake of appearances.