



CITY OF ELY

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CITY OF ELY STREET IMPROVEMENTS 2021

It's been a summer of road construction in our community. While road construction always comes with its inconveniences, the finished product is worth the mess. By far the largest and most notable work has been taking place on the State highways through town on Great Basin Boulevard and Aultman Street; this work has been overseen and funded by the State of Nevada Department of Transportation. While the finished road work is what everyone will see when this project is finished, the City of Ely took advantage of the opportunity to replace the aging water and sewer infrastructure below these portions of the State Highway. All in all, the City of Ely will spend nearly \$1,250,000.00 for the water and sewer infrastructure upgrade underneath NDOT's road project this summer. Doing this work in conjunction with the State allowed the City to get the work done at lower cost and avoid costly repairs in the future.

In addition to the work taking place on State roads, you may have noticed work taking place on various surface streets in neighborhoods around town this summer. Repaving roads is an expensive business. In order to make our local road tax dollars go as far as possible, the City has been doing the following:

- Pooling manpower and equipment resources together with the White Pine Road Department to accomplish projects. Some days the City Road Department will go help the County with projects out in McGill or Lund for example. Other days the County crew will come to Ely to help our road department get a project done. Road projects take manpower and lots of it. Both the County and City Departments are small and working together helps get some of our respective larger projects done at a lower cost.
- Recently the White Pine County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) has begun budgeting for the purchase and maintenance of shared equipment. Road equipment is expensive to buy and maintain. By sharing equipment between the two departments, we make the best use of our tax dollars to the benefit of our community.
- The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) purchased the Bear Cat oil distribution truck for \$238,659.00. The cost to hire a similar truck can run up to \$4,000.00 per day depending on what type of oil is being applied and if the weather turns bad during the project, the daily rate still applies. The Georgetown Road Project was completed at a

cost of \$68,000.00; the distance covered was nearly one mile and the process included mixing asphalt emulsion with the existing base material to create a stabilized surface. Once stabilization was complete, the roadway was then completed with a chip seal. This road stabilization process requires less manpower, equipment, and is a substantial savings compared to traditional asphalt paving. A similar road, start to finish at a much higher specification standard, would cost an estimated \$750,000.00. The City worked with the County to also do this stabilization treatment on the upper portion of Mill Street, Belfort Street and roads in Cross Timbers.

- The City of Ely purchased a Dura Patching machine for patching potholes for \$72,000.00 which has not only been used in Ely, but in Ruth, McGill and on the road going towards the Bald Mountain mine area. The RTC purchased oil holding tanks that allows the oil to be kept longer, to be transported easier, and to load it much safer than before. The City road crew assists the County in crack sealing and dura patching County roads prior to slurry sealing and other large-scale road projects.
- The Regional Planning Commission purchased a used grader from the County Road Department for the City of Ely to use, saving taxpayers a substantial amount of money.
- An additional purchase of equipment by the Regional Transportation Commission was the Broom Bear mechanical sweeper; it has already shown its usefulness prepping streets for work as well as cleaning up chips after chip seal jobs.
- Working with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) to expend tax dollars on projects of highest priority in the City and County. The road work currently taking place on Murry Street is being funded through the RTC.
- On roads that may not be as new as they used to be but are still serviceable, the City Road Department is employing a variety of practices to extend the usable life of our streets. Streets we have completed this summer are Avenue C, Lyons Avenue and High Street. The City Road Department has laid down a chip seal on the travel lanes of the street; after the chip seal is complete, they then lay down an oil coat on the whole street, curb to curb. This practice allows the City to service more roads than it would otherwise.
- A big concern of the RTC board was the streets in Central Ely. Some of the streets were so far beyond repair that they were given up on and turned to dirt roads. In addition to the three roads mentioned earlier, there has also been extensive cold mix overlay work

leveling roads in Central Ely including parts of Orson, Parker, Crawford, Strandman, Stevens, Ely Street, and North Street and Avenue C. There was also an overlay on South First Street filling in a huge hole at the belly of two hills. The RTC grader with City operators made all this possible.

- Working with local Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) personnel, who have been a big asset to the City and White Pine County by providing knowledge, experience and training. As a result, the City has made positive changes in their maintenance procedures to try and stretch their limited dollars.

The City of Ely Street Department looks forward to continuing the great working relationship it has with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) and White Pine County for the benefit of all.