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## CHIP SEAL PROJECT ON HIGGINS, BROOKS, AND MOUNT BEGINS JULY 29 Work Protects Asphalt, Extends Pavement Life

City of Missoula's Street Operations & Maintenance Division crews will be hard at work chip sealing, which involves applying liquid asphalt and rock chips, on three main city streets from July 29 until around Aug. 2, weather permitting. The crews will be working on Brooks St. from Mount Ave. to Higgins Ave., on Higgins Ave. from Brooks St. to Mount Ave., and on Mount Ave. from Higgins Ave. to Brooks St., as well as the block of Hill St. between Mount Ave. and W. Beckwith Ave. E.

To see a map of the work locations, see our flyer at [www.ci.missoula.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/72807/Project-Map-for-Brooks-Higgins-Mount-Chip-Seal-7-29-2024](http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/72807/Project-Map-for-Brooks-Higgins-Mount-Chip-Seal-7-29-2024).

Drivers and bicyclists in the area can expect the following:

- All streets will remain open to two-way traffic, but travel lanes will be shifted to allow room for equipment. Watch for flaggers and other traffic control devices.
- There may be minor traffic delays, including short, intermittent detours along these streets.
- Loose rock chips will remain on the treated streets for two to three weeks so that they can embed in the asphalt. Street sweepers will then clean up the chips.

All street users, including motorcyclists and bicyclists, should go slowly while the rock chips settle to avoid sliding and to prevent hitting others with rock chips. The street will have a rough surface for about a year due to the rock chips and some loose rock may remain but will be swept up when streets are cleaned.

The liquid asphalt (oil) and chip application process seals the pavement surface from weather deterioration and extends its life the same way as painting a house protects it. Sealing streets delays reconstruction, reduces the number of potholes, saves money, and reduces disruption for Missoula's residents. The City initiated this annual program in 1987. Since then, the City has sealed most of the eligible streets and has started the next phase of street preservation by returning to many of the streets sealed and protected early in the program. The City also chip seals new asphalt a year or two after installation to start the preservation process. This is the case for the streets being chip sealed this year because these street sections were recently repaved.

### **Questions?**

Visit the City's website at [www.ci.missoula.mt.us/500/Chip-Seal](http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/500/Chip-Seal), or contact Brian Hensel, Deputy Public Works Director for Streets, at 406-240-2742 or [HenselB@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:HenselB@ci.missoula.mt.us).

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