



CITY OF CORSICANA, TEXAS

March 30, 2012

I promised in my last letter there would be more street talk soon. There have been many questions about why the streets in Corsicana are so bad. Corsicana is located on the Texas Blackland Prairie. This specific region is characterized as well suited for crop agriculture. The attributes that make the area suitable for farming are that the land is flat and the soil is black clay that retains moisture very well. This causes two problems; the water is slow to run off and during the dry summer months the clay ground shrinks. This is apparent in the cracks seen during extremely dry times. During the winter, the soil expands and no cracks are visible. The change in volume can be as much as 30 percent or more. These two things make construction of roads and home foundations difficult and more expensive than in other regions.

For many years streets were constructed the most inexpensive way with a life expectancy of 10 to 15 years. There was no plan to reconstruct these streets and most of the work done during the 70's is now in need of major repair. The city's cost to hire a contractor to build an average 31 foot wide curb and gutter concrete street is between \$250 to \$300 per foot with an average life of 30 to 40 years. The cost to build an asphalt street is between \$150 and \$210 per foot and has a life expectancy of 20 years. There are 161 miles of street in the City of Corsicana. To rebuild all of the streets in Corsicana could cost upwards of \$125 million not including the cost to relocate utilities or the purchase of right of way. As you can see it is a large project and the Council has approached it with a two phase strategy.

The first phase is to address high traffic streets or thoroughfares. In 2007, the citizens voted to spend \$17 million on the reconstruction of major thoroughfares in the city. The first debt was issued in 2008. Approximately \$5 million has been issued to date and two projects have been completed and two are underway. East 13th from Business 45 to Lago de Plata and East 12th Avenue from Business 45 to 12th Street have been reconstructed. The widening of Navarro Road to the airport and Forest Lanes are under construction. Approximately \$4 million will be issued this year to fund three additional projects. These projects will include Dobbins Road from Forrest Lane to 26th, Collin from South 20th to South 31st, South 15th from the Railroad to IH 45. Future street reconstruction projects include West Park Row from 37th to 45th, North 24th from 7th Avenue to Bowie Drive, West 13th from South 15th to 31st, West 2nd Avenue from Hwy 22 to 45th Street and Roane Road from IH 45 to Business 45. This bond issue represents the first major investment in the street infrastructure since 1990.

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The second phase is the ongoing investment from the city budget made on a yearly basis in each precinct. The Street Department is funded in the General Fund which primarily derives revenue from property tax and sales tax. Besides regular pothole patching and repairs, a five year plan is developed annually to address street concerns by precinct. This plan is prepared by the Public Works Department with Council input. Each precinct is allocated the same amount for reconstruction of streets. The Mayor is allocated funding for a special project each year. In addition to the reconstruction program, there is an annual crack seal and seal coat program developed by the City. Continuous pothole patching and full depth repair programs are ongoing throughout the city. The history of expenditures is listed below:

Year	Expenditures
2007	\$ 1,940,981
2008	\$2,100,396
2009	\$2,044,621
2010	\$1,830,412
2011	\$2,448,387
2012	\$2,873,394 Proposed

Citizens on the northwest side of town can celebrate. The work on North 37th Street is complete and hopefully will offer the travelers in the area an alternate route to the west side of town. If you see Don Denbow, thank him for this investment. The street crew will move to East Park in Councilwoman Ruby Williams' Precinct 2. Next, work will progress to Tom Wilson's Precinct 1 to reconstruct Churchill. The work will then move back to John McClung's Precinct 3 to work on South 30th from West 4th to West Collin.

Most cities in the State of Texas struggle with aging infrastructure and the lack of revenues to fund reconstruction. While we are no exception to this, the city council is dedicated to the task of improving the streets in Corsicana. It will be a slow costly journey. We have a plan and a goal to make things better.

We need your help to identify potholes that need repair and other street maintenance needs. You can call 903-654-4884 or access the City web site at www.cityofcorsicana.com . Please go to the red square labeled **CITIZENS ACTION CENTER** and report your concerns. Also, to join the Mayor's email, go to the city web site and click on "Join the Mayors email". You will get the latest information first!!

Sincerely,

Chuck McClanahan
Mayor