



City of Dayton Public Works

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **CITY WIDE PAVEMENT PRESERVATION PROJECT**

As anyone driving around Dayton this summer will notice, the City recently will have completed a large-scale chip seal project. The intent of this project was to help preserve the City's aging streets by sealing cracks to prevent water from softening the road base, as well as to provide additional structural support to the streets. The chip seal process used is referred to as an Otta Seal, which differs slightly from the typical chip seal you may have seen around town in the past. The Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) selected the City of Dayton, along with a few other communities in the state, to complete the Otta Seal project under a special pilot program. This work completed over \$1 million in pavement preservation, 95% of which was funded by TIB and 5% by the City.

Otta Seals, when compared to a typical chip seal, are slightly less expensive but more effective at sealing cracks to preserve streets. While some asphalt patching was done before the chip sealing, the intent of the project was to slow further deterioration, not to smooth out every bump. However, as many of you have noticed, many of the streets are rough and have a gravel-like appearance. Please be patient, as the surface will smooth out over time as traffic passes over it. The contractor will also return in early October to complete additional sweeping to remove the loose rock. After which a small amount of striping will also take place.

The City is also working with TIB and the County to potentially apply a more traditional chip seal next summer over some areas treated with Otta Seal this year. However, not all streets sealed this summer would receive this additional treatment. The City will focus on streets near the downtown core and near the school. This additional chip seal would provide additional sealing, roadway structure, as well as smooth out the appearance of the streets.

We will continue to try and work with TIB and any other opportunities to obtain funding for work to continue on our City's infrastructure.

### **SOUTH 4TH STREET**

Over the next year, we will see some exciting improvements to South 4th Street. This fall, crews will begin working on sidewalks and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps at each corner along South 4th Street, from Main Street to Mustard Street. This project is 95% funded by TIB and 5% funded by the City of Dayton. These improvements will make the sidewalks accessible to all pedestrians and make the street eligible for new pavement. A federal requirement to repave a city street that has sidewalks is that the sidewalks must meet ADA compliance.

With help from Columbia County, the City was recently successful in obtaining over \$2 million in grant funding (with no City match) to repave 4th Street from Main Street to the southern City limits near Rocky Road Lane. In the summer of 2025, construction crews will grind off the upper 2 inches of asphalt and replace it with 2 inches of new, smooth asphalt, removing the old water trench bumps you currently feel when driving down the street. The few remaining ADA ramps from Mustard Street to McCall Street will also be replaced at this time.

Together, these two 4th Street projects are a major win for the City of Dayton, improving the City's longest and most heavily used street with new asphalt and repaired sidewalks. We would like to extend a huge thanks to Columbia County, WSDOT, TIB, and Anderson Perry for their assistance in making this project a reality.