

Reveling in good roads!

By Suzanne Michaels



You may have noticed road improvements going on in Las Cruces. Everywhere! Seventy-four locations, to be specific, funded through the Community Investment Project (CIP) to include street reconstruction, pavement replacement, mill/overlay projects and street



micro surfacing. Put a dollar sign to the road work and the grand total is \$13.6 million dollars. And there are two additional non-road components to the CIP investment in our community aimed at reducing future energy costs.

The dollars paying for the CIP projects come from Hold Harmless Gross Receipts Taxes (HHGRT), a local tax increase of 3/8 of 1% that replaces funding once provided to cities and

counties by the State of New Mexico, but now being withheld. As City Manager Robert L. Garza, P.E., explained, “Through funding for the CIP projects we continue to invest public funds into projects that will reduce future costs or create additional economic development opportunities that help to create local jobs.”

You are already driving on many of the new pavement projects; have you noticed the upgraded beautiful new roads? No previous pavement repairs and no potholes to drive over. The city’s Public Works Department launched the road improvements this spring and some of the projects will take more than a year to complete. Major construction involving reconstructed streets continues through the summer of 2018.

“This is something good for the community,” noted Loretta M. Reyes, P.E., Public Works Director. “The City is now able to move forward with many street preservation, street reconstruction, and energy saving projects thanks to the CIP funding.”

But wait! CIP projects go beyond key road redevelopment, they also include a \$1.5 million dollar citywide LED streetlight retrofit to reduce the energy costs of lighting our streets and neighborhoods, and \$2.4 million dollars in solar photovoltaic projects at 5 locations around town, again, to take advantage of our abundant sunshine and lower electric bills.

Watch for future articles looking at the solar projects, jobs created through the CIP effort, how streets are rated to determine which ones get what kind of repairs, the streetlight retrofit, and different types of pavement upgrades.

Look for more information about the Community Investment Project (CIP) – including a complete list of street upgrades – at www.las-cruces.org. Click on Hot Topics.

CUTLINES:

PHOTO 1: The Community Investment Project (CIP) includes 74 road upgrade projects throughout the city of Las Cruces. One of those is micro surfacing on Lohman Avenue from Roadrunner Parkway west for 570 feet.