



**TOWN OF MERRIMAC
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
2 School St. Merrimac, MA 01860
978-346-0525**

The Merrimac DPW is asking for your support with regard to improving the road conditions throughout our Town. These improvements will enhance public safety as well as property values. Support for these improvements will be via a Proposition 2 ½ override ballot question, and approval of the article at the Annual Town Meeting this April.

As noted in our handout at last year's Town Meeting "Merrimac, MA Roadway Conditions", we are in the process of losing more road miles to deteriorating conditions of our public roads than we have the ability to improve and/or maintain.

Currently we receive just shy of \$200,000 per year from the state through Chapter 90 funding, plus an additional \$125,000 in the Town's budget. From the town's appropriation we have obligations outside of pavement projects of about \$30,000. The current cost of full road restoration is about \$500,000 per road mile, plus additional costs for sidewalks and ADA improvements. With the town's 40+ miles of roadway, at the current budget we are at a constant disadvantage.

This override would be for the amount of \$250,000, with an average home value of \$428,433 it is estimated that the additional tax would be approximately \$117/per year.

While this request is for about half the funding actually needed, we understand the impact residents are feeling from other ongoing projects. We feel the \$250,000 will allow the DPW to tackle crucial paving projects, as well as preserve and maintain these roadways once complete- therefore extending the life of the roadway which in turn saves money in the future.

I would greatly appreciate it if everyone could take the time to review our Pavement Management Plan Report, which is available on the Town website. A hard copy of the report is also available to the public at Town Hall Inspectional Services, on the lower level of the Town Hall.

The DPW understands the current conditions of our roadways and is trying to present a proposal that would allow us to start to make a real difference to our infrastructure, while also being mindful of current commitments. We urge you to please support and approve the override at the Annual Spring Town Meeting and the follow-up ballot vote at the polls in May of 2020.

Thank you,

Robert Sinibaldi
DPW Director

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