



City of
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California

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News from: **Oakland Dept. of Transportation**

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**Road Repair Blitz 2017 Reports Record Results
OakDOT Shifting Focus to Street Repaving, Bolstered by
New Resources Provided by Oakland Taxpayers**

Oakland, CA – Capping almost two months of street repair crews working overtime and through weekends, the Oakland Department of Transportation (OakDOT) announced today that this year’s annual Road Repair Blitz saw the patching of more than 5,200 potholes, continuing several years of growth in the program.

OakDOT has renamed the initiative, which was previously known as the Pothole Blitz, to reflect a more comprehensive effort to improve Oakland roads. Crews perform street maintenance and pothole patching every week of the year, but for seven weeks during the annual blitz a special focus of resources bolsters those efforts – one week each in the seven City Council districts. During the blitz, crews fill potholes and perform surface patching and crack sealing streets at an accelerated pace, and this year began including repaving efforts as well. From mid-June through the end of July, crews worked extended hours and on weekends, and blitz organizers redoubled efforts to increase the efficiency of the work with finite resources. The results:

- 5,208 potholes filled
- More than 7288 square feet of minor street repairs
- More than 1.6 miles of streets milled and paved
- More than 13 city blocks crack-sealed
- 1,650 square feet of base repair



To date in 2017, OakDOT pothole crews have repaired more than 15,000 potholes – that’s almost as many as in *all* of 2016. Crews are on pace to fill another 5,000 by the end of the year, toward a total goal of 20,000 this year.

While pothole repair work and other short-term repairs continue year-round, OakDOT is now shifting focus to reinforce that short-term work with the more expensive, long-term work of repaving Oakland’s roads.

“This year’s blitz provided record-breaking results, and it marks the latest step forward in a time of important changes for Oakland transportation,” OakDOT Director Ryan Russo said. “As a determined new department, we are working to turn the tide on our street conditions. OakDOT is bringing innovative tactics, new resources and the immense dedication of our growing street repair crews to the whole city, and we’re providing results. I’m grateful to the members of our team who sacrificed their weekends and evenings during this blitz to make that happen.”

Like many cities throughout California, Oakland has seen potholes and other road damage increase for many years as traditional state and federal sources of infrastructure maintenance funding stagnated or diminished; inflation drove up the cost of living and working in the Bay Area; and the cost of repaving materials skyrocketed. Pothole fills and surface patching are relatively inexpensive ways to address short-term problems, but as streets age, their deterioration increases exponentially -- as does the cost of repairs. Street repaving can avert this process, but is more expensive up front. Today, the backlog of these needed repairs is approximately \$443 million.

"This year, after decades of neglect, we took made major strides to reducing the nearly half-billion-dollar backlog of overdue road repairs across Oakland," Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf said. "While necessary in the short term, filling potholes is just a Band-Aid approach. Many Oakland roads need complete reconstruction or at least resurfacing, and thanks to the generosity of the voters who approved Measure KK by an overwhelming margin, OakDOT and the hardworking crews out doing this work every day, we're on our way to fulfilling our goal of filling 20,000 potholes this year and moving forward with the long-term work of repaving Oakland's roads."

In November, 82 percent of Oakland voters approved Measure KK, which over the next decade will provide \$350 million in bond funds to address this urgent backlog. OakDOT is currently ramping up its staff and resources to put that money to work, starting with **\$25 million in Measure KK spending approved in June by the City Council, which will nearly triple street repair spending over the next two years.** Those funds will be used to complete the current five-year paving plan, which was approved in 2014 by the City Council. Over the coming year, OakDOT will be developing the next five-year plan for the City Council’s review and approval.

OakDOT has been putting other new resources to work as well. New funding from state leaders’ recent passage of Senate Bill 1 are being used to hire 20 new workers dedicated to street maintenance, as well as acquiring the new equipment those workers will need.

The community is encouraged to report potholes and other infrastructure needs through any of these methods:

Call: (510) 615-5566

Email: callcenter@oaklandnet.com

Mobile app: [SeeClickFix](#)

For more information about OakDOT, please visit

<https://beta.oaklandca.gov/services/transportation>.

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