

## Technical Memorandum

To: Steve Gramm, SDDOT  
Study Advisory Team

From: Ben White, HR Green  
Rick Laughlin, HR Green

Date: April 27, 2020

Subject: Highway Pavement Policy Guidance

This memorandum provides recommended policy guidance for making the following highway decisions:

- Installing hard surface paving on an existing gravel road
- Removing hard surface paving from an existing paved road
- Changing jurisdiction of an existing county highway or stopping regular maintenance on an existing county highway

The framework for these decisions is provided by guidance from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and general principles of transportation planning.

### Installing hard surface paving:

Roadway segments should be screened based on the following criteria:

- Traffic volume greater than or equal to one of the following:
  - 400 vehicles per day
  - 200 vehicles per day on a route serving a state recreation site
  - 50 trucks per day, or route provides access across the county to a major freight destination
- Maintenance cost exceeds \$15,000/mile over a six year period
- Public opinion in favor of paving

When these screening criteria are satisfied, a detailed engineering study and preliminary design should be prepared to evaluate the technical and financial feasibility of a paving project. If a project is accepted and programmed by the County Commission, proceed to final design, funding and construction.

### Removing hard surface paving:

Roadway segments should be screened based on the following criteria:

- Traffic volume less than 100 vehicles per day and less than 30 trucks per day
- Maintenance cost exceeds \$30,000/mile over a six year period

- Public opinion in favor of removing pavement

When these screening criteria are satisfied, an engineering study and preliminary design should be prepared to evaluate the technical and financial feasibility of a pavement removal project. If a project is accepted and programmed by the County Commission, proceed to final design, funding and construction.

Transferring jurisdiction or stopping regular maintenance:

Roadway segments should be screened based on the following criteria:

- Traffic volume less than 20 vehicles per day
- Public opinion in favor of changing jurisdiction or maintenance
- Roadway segment is not the only access to a residence or business

When these screening criteria are satisfied, a resolution should be prepared to transfer jurisdiction to a township, road district, or individual (by agreement), or to suspend roadway maintenance. The County Commission should officially act on the resolution following a public hearing.