

## \$8 million in Vineland road upgrades planned

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Road Improvements to Becker Drive between Maple Ave. and Oak Road in Vineland will be handled by the city.

VINELAND - The city expects to be in full swing on \$8 million in road upgrades by July.

Vineland engineer Brian Myers said city officials are in the process of setting up a pre-construction meeting with R.E. Pierson Construction of Pilesgrove, which was awarded a \$1.6 million contract to handle the bulk of the projects. That conference should take place in June, with work starting shortly thereafter, according to Myers.

Vineland has established a list of road and drainage projects for 2018 deemed the most in need of attention. R.E. Pierson will be responsible for 21 roads. The order in which they are completed will be settled in the pre-construction meeting, Myers said.

Those roads are:

- Barbara Drive from Sycamore Lane to Brewster Road
- Barry Drive from Redwood Drive to Wynnewood Drive
- Beechwood Drive from the dead end to Brewster Road
- Brookfield Drive from Dante Avenue to Whispering Woods Way
- Bryant Street from Brewster Road to matchline 200 feet to east
- Catherine Street from Seventh Street to East Avenue
- Eastwood Drive from Landis Avenue to Beechwood Drive
- Eighth Street from Virano Lane to Humbert Street
- Gilmore Street from Park Avenue to Cambridge Place
- Hamilton Drive from East Avenue to Broadlawn Terrace
- Harvard Street from Park Avenue to Cambridge Place
- Holmes Avenue from Magnolia Road to Chestnut Avenue
- Humbert Street from Seventh Street to East Avenue
- Iris Avenue from Magnolia Road to Wisteria Avenue
- Jefferson Avenue to bulb of cul-de-sac
- East Pear Street from N.E. Boulevard to East Avenue
- Redwood Drive from Barry Drive to Wynnewood Drive
- Sawyer Avenue from Virginia Avenue to Valley Avenue
- Sycamore Lane from Barbara Drive to Beechwood Drive

- Virano Lane from Eighth Street to East Avenue
- Wisteria Avenue from Iris Avenue to Holmes Avenue

The majority of the work on those roads will be mill and overlay, where two inches of the surface are removed then freshly paved with a new two-inch layer. Curb and sidewalk work will be done as needed along with driveway alterations that are required, according to Myers.

Vineland works with the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization, which performs 360-degree scans of pavement to determine which roads are in the worst shape.

That helps determine which roads make Vineland's project list for a given year.



East Pear Street between NE Boulevard and East Avenue where road improvements are slated for June.

Vineland's road department is expected to handle Becker Drive from Maple Avenue to East Oak Road and Wexley Way from Sanford Drive to Conley Drive.

"My administration has made road maintenance and other infrastructure needs a major focus of our short-term and long-term budget planning," Mayor Anthony Fanucci said. "We are thrilled that the winter weather is

finally behind us and these construction projects are getting underway."

Vineland Chief Financial Officer Sue Baldosaro said \$5.46 million of the funding for the project comes from federal and state aid with the remaining \$2.6 million taken from the city budget and capital ordinances.

Federal and state aid is covering stretches of Landis Avenue from South West Boulevard to West Avenue and Moyer Street to Orchard Road. Panther Road from Rita Avenue to Dante Avenue and West Avenue from Chestnut Avenue to Landis Avenue also are covered by federal and state funding, according to the 2018 road plan.

Drainage projects on Barry Drive and Cavallo Drive, and traffic signal upgrades for six Landis Avenue intersections are included in this plan.

Fanucci sees these projects as long overdue for city residents and a crucial step in the effort to continue attracting new businesses to Vineland.

"In addition to the benefits for residents of the city, these improvements are also important because as company executives and site selectors look at Vineland as a place to locate or expand, a key element of their selection process is the reliability of our roads and utility infrastructure," Fanucci said. "Companies are more likely to want to be here and make large capital investments because we are also investing in ourselves and our future."

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