



BORAD DISCUSSION TIME
Public Works – October 31 2012
Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER)

TO: Board of County Commissioners
COPY: Joe Kirby, County Manager
FROM: Jim Davis, Doyle Villers
SUBJECT: Pavement Assessment
DATE: October 30, 2012

Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER)

Background (1): The PASER system is a process used to evaluate the surface condition of asphalt pavement. It describes types of surface defects and provides a simple system to visually rate pavement condition. The rating system uses a scale of one (1) to ten (10) to ranging from “Failed” at one to Excellent at ten.

The four major categories of common asphalt pavement surface distress include:

- **Surface defects;** raveling, flushing, polishing
- **Surface deformation;** rutting, distortion-ripping and shoving, settling, frost heave
- **Cracks;** transverse, reflection, slippage, longitudinal, block, and alligator cracks
- **Patches and potholes**

Deterioration has two general causes:

1. environmental due to weathering and aging
2. structural caused by repeated traffic loadings

La Plata County Public Works completed our 2012 Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) during the months of August and September this year. This required driving the 222 miles of paved county roads to complete a visual evaluation of the surface condition, documenting sections of each road where there are significant changes in the surface conditions, and reviewing the records of past paving and capital projects. To build a digital data base the roads we also located using GPS data collection, and representative sections of the roads were photographed to document the current surface condition.

(1) Some background information provided by the PASER Manual for Asphalt Roads prepared by the Transportation Information Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The 2012 PASER report is used to provide a snapshot in time of the surface condition of our paved county roads, and can be used to assist in scheduling future projects and potentially future budgetary needs.

TABLE A – CONDITION SUMMARY OF 222 MILES OF PAVED COUNTY ROADS				
Condition	EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD - GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Miles of road	8.5	165.2	45.8	2.5
Percent of total	3.8%	74.4%	20.6%	1.2%

In brief, currently 78.2% of our 222 miles of paved county roads are in good to excellent condition and 21.8% are in fair to poor condition.

Using this information to look ahead and project our future maintenance and capital projects will help us to determine what level of funding may be required to keep our roads at their existing level or potentially what they may look like over time if the investment is not made.

The maintenance typically includes chip seal and asphalt overlays, while the capital projects include conventional reconstruction or full depth reclamation.

