



# Looking After Our City

As homeowners we maintain our homes to keep unexpected repairs at bay, but why don't we do that for our city?

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Every Spring the list gets made at my home of projects that need to be done around the house. Big ticket items like replacing windows, or repairing a driveway add up fast! Neglecting them doesn't avoid the expense, it can actually end up costing you more in the long run. A home owner who has the advantage of shopping for the best deal and prepares for the expense comes out ahead.

Repairs that are needed in our city may not be as visible as the ones on your home but they exist. Just like in the picture above city water, sewer and storm pipes are hidden under our roads. Those pipes age and need repair. If you recall, we had one pipe burst on a frigid weekend day in January. Not the most ideal time to repair a pipe in Minnesota.

To avoid situations like this is just one reason why the Loretto City Council approved a city wide infrastructure study. This is our way of making a list of repairs that need to be made currently and in future years. The civil engineers from Wenck have been out in our city evaluating our streets, storm water ponds and sewer system. A detailed evaluation will be provided to the city by the middle of August. From

this report the city will create a Capital Improvement Plan to be carried out over the next 5, 10, 15, 20... years. I believe we will save the city money by attending to repairs proactively and in methodical manner. If a section of city streets needs to be repaired and the pipes under that same section also need repair you save resources by combining the projects.

Currently without the infrastructure study we have no idea if the road we are repairing today has pipes below that are on the verge of breaking. It would be a pity to repair that road only to destroy it to access broken pipes a month from now.

Please watch for more information about our Capital Improvement Plan in the coming months. If you have any questions please contact me at [mmarkham@ci.loretto.mn.us](mailto:mmarkham@ci.loretto.mn.us) or our Public Works Director, Jeff Leuer.