



Marlboro Township

From the Desk of Mayor Jon Hornik

MAYOR HORNİK'S ROAD REPAIR INITIATIVE

Marlboro Township Council Approves First Reading of \$5 Million Road Improvement Plan

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY (February 5, 2018) –At the Township Council meeting held on February 1, 2018, the Marlboro Township Council reviewed and unanimously approved the first reading of the Bond Ordinance for Capital improvements; including \$5 million for road repair.

Last week, Mayor Jon Hornik announced a 4-prong Road Repair Initiative Program. The initiative components are:

- Five (\$5) million dollars for local road repair and reconstruction as a part of the 2018 capital plan.
- On-going communication with the County and State to address the roads not under local jurisdiction.
- Launch of a Road Repair website section to update and inform residents on road repair process and status.
- A redesigned on-line Pothole Portal which facilitates for more efficient response to resident reports of roads in need of repair.

This is an 87.5% increase in the Capital Improvement Fund appropriation as compared with 2017. Mayor Hornik referenced weather patterns coupled with the Township's improved financial position behind the timing of this proposal.

Mayor Hornik stated, "Changing weather patterns have brought more severe weather over the last several years. Snow and freezing temperatures have accelerated the wear and tear on our roadways and aggressive snow removal activities have taken a toll." He continued, "With interest rates at historic lows, Marlboro's debt load well below statutory limits, and a AAA S&P bond rating, now is the ideal time to invest in our infrastructure."

"When I first took office in 2008, the US economy was in deep recession. Like every government across the country, our primary concern was with maintaining basic services. It was a time of very difficult choices. Complicating matters, prior administrations made capital improvements on a piecemeal basis," said Mayor Hornik. "Once the economy began to recover, our first order of business was shoring up the Township's finances and formulating a comprehensive capital improvement program with a focus on road projects."

"The Township's annual commitment to road reconstruction has averaged between \$1.5 and \$3 million and we have worked hard to obtain Federal and State grants for additional road work when funds are made available", said Mayor Hornik. "But with a price tag averaging half million dollars to reconstruct one mile of road and more than 200 miles of Township roads across 32.5 square miles, it has been an understandably slow and frustrating process."

Since 2009, Marlboro Township has repaved 29 miles of local, township streets. This does not include many of Marlboro's busiest roads and intersections such as Routes 9, 520 and 79 and Tennent Road which are under the jurisdictions of the State or County. The Township continues to work with the appropriate authority to address the State and County intersections and roads that are of concern.

A list of ongoing State and County intersections improvement projects and the status of each will be found on the Road Reconstruction Section of the Township website along with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), links to the Traffic Advisory Committee (TrAC) page, the Pothole Portal, traffic updates and road construction notices, and project bid specifications.

A redesigned Pothole Portal can be found on the Township homepage. Originally launched in 2014, it allows the residents who drive the streets every day to help direct Township resources to those areas most in need. The update places the user-entered complaint directly into the internal Township tracking system, allowing for more efficient response. Well over 1,000 potholes have been reported on line and thousands have been filled throughout Marlboro.

The Township's 2018 proposed annual budget is approximately \$37.4 million, including an 87.5% increase in the Capital Improvement Fund appropriation as compared with 2017. A sum of \$375,000 has been proposed in order to fund the required 5% cash down payment on the capital ordinance which includes road reconstruction.

The second reading and public comment will take place at the Council meeting scheduled for February 15, 2018 at 7:00 pm in Town Hall located at 1979 Township Drive. The list of local roads to be included on the bid will be finalized after the Council authorization is in place, the engineering design contract is authorized, and the bid specifications are completed.