



**TOWN OF MERRIMAC
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
2 School St.
Merrimac, MA 01860
978-346-0525**

Merrimac, MA Roadway Conditions

I have been asked by Capital Planning to put together a short one-page informational objective on the current status of Merrimac roadways.

The DPW Department has been aware for many years that at the current level of funding we are losing ground on repairing and/or saving our roadways. Prior to my tenure as DPW Director, both minimal and major road repairs had not been done from 2007 to 2014.

The available study which is quite comprehensive and available to review on the Town's website in short states two very important conclusions. First, at the current rate of funding Merrimac will lose more roads miles per year than can be replaced or renewed. Secondly, the study finds that if Merrimac brought their roads up to 90% the price tag would be in the range of \$11 million.

Currently Merrimac receives \$197,758 from the Commonwealth and \$80,000 for roads in the current highway budget, totaling \$277,758. Although this number at first consideration may appear to some to be a significant number, in actuality with forty miles of roads to maintain it works out to be slightly under \$7,000 per road mile. Currently a full road restoration has a price tag of about \$500,000 per road mile, and this number is constantly climbing.

The DPW Department is aware that, with all the current projects in the town that are either underway, commencing, or in the planning stages, Merrimac residents have and will continue to have to make some hard choices. However, because of the critical state of our roadways we nevertheless find it will be necessary to ask that Merrimac residents support a one-time override ballot question in the amount of \$500,000; this figure would add approximately \$250 per year to the average home tax rate. The average home value in town is \$375,000. This additional amount will allow us to start to making crucial and significant improvements to our streets, which will result in improved public and pedestrian safety as well as higher property values.

This request will be coming in the form of a Highway Road Article next April, followed by a proposition 2 ½ ballot override question in May of 2020.

I would greatly appreciate if everyone could take the time and review the report which is available on the town website. A hard copy of the report is also available to the public at Town Hall Inspectional Services, on the lower level of the Town Hall.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Sinibaldi
DPW Director