

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WARD 2 LETTER

10/26/20

Planning for Capital Improvements

In any city with a rich history like Providence, work to upgrade municipal infrastructure is an ongoing priority. Maintaining roads, bridges, water mains, school buildings and other facilities is a challenge locally, across Rhode Island, and throughout the United States.

To maximize our limited financial resources, the City of Providence developed the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which charts five years of planned improvements based on submissions from all city departments. The CIP allows Providence to better coordinate work with outside agencies like utility companies and align with other municipal priorities including emergency management, plans for our parks, and the long-term plans outlined in Providence Tomorrow.

The current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) covers FY2020-24, and you can read it here: <https://www.providenceri.gov/pvdcip/>

Road Paving

How is road paving planned?

Road paving is led by the Department of Public Works (DPW) and they prioritize projects based on factors including the condition of the road, the volume of traffic, and proximity to public facilities such as schools, hospitals or libraries.

The CIP has enabled DPW to work closely with utility companies and Providence Water to ensure that road paving happens *after* any planned utility repair or changes, not before.

Road improvements are also dependent on the weather – some repairs can only take place when temperatures are above a certain threshold.

What is the state of Providence's roads?

In October 2017, StreetScan was contracted to perform a city-wide roadway analysis. StreetScan utilized specialized vehicles with sensors to collect data on road conditions and used the [Pavement Condition Index \(PCI\)](#) to score road conditions on a scale from 0 to 100, where 100 is the best. The table below summarizes their findings. Roads with a rating of 70 or above are considered as needing maintenance and those with a rating of 69 or below as needing repair. The complete analysis in the [2018 Roadway Conditions Report](#).

Providence Road Condition Summary
2018 Roadway Conditions Report

Rating	PCI Range	% of Roads	Miles of Roads
Excellent	PCI 85-100	21%	86.5 miles
Good	PCI 70-85	33%	135 miles
Fair	PCI 55-70	34%	139.4 miles
Poor	PCI 40-55	9%	37.4 miles
Very Poor	PCI 25-40	2%	7.8 miles

What about roads in Ward 2?

Wards 1 and 2 have more miles of road than other wards in the city; 37.2 and 34.2 miles respectively. These two wards also have many streets that serve as principal arteries.

Ward 2 also generally has a lower average PCI rating for our roads, as shown in the chart below from the [2018 Roadway Conditions Report](#).

The average PCI for each ward is shown in Figure 16. Note that the calculation is weighted based on road lengths.

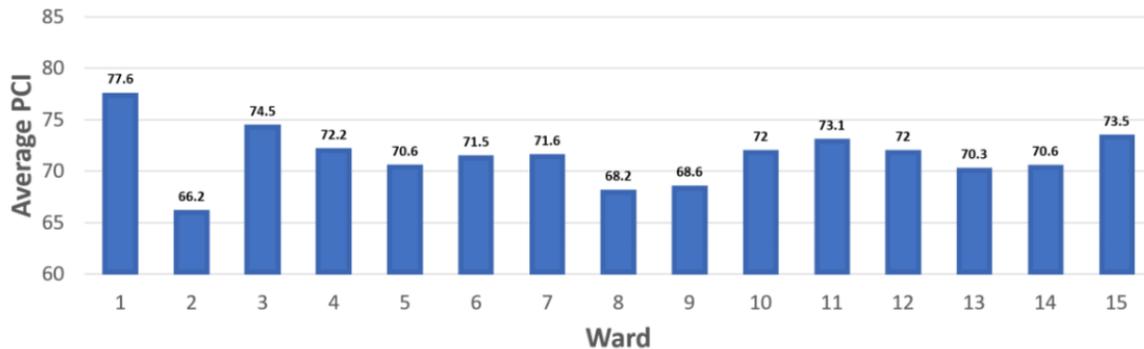


Figure 16. Average PCI for each ward

There are projects identified in the city's current Capital Improvement Plan for road paving in Ward 2. Some of these projects have been funded and others are awaiting future funding.

In the fall of 2020, the DPW moved forward with a paving project in Ward 2 near Congdon Street Baptist Church that they felt they could address before it gets too cold. The project requires minimal curbing, utility casting and drainage issues, as lead time for those materials is 4-6 weeks. If weather and supplies cooperate, they hope to address the list below in the coming weeks:

- Angell St. from Benefit St. to Prospect St.
- Congdon St. from Angell St. to Meeting St.
- Defoe Pl from Congdon St. to Angell St.
- Congdon St. from Angell St. to Meeting St.

Road paving is incremental, ongoing, and limited by the funds available to perform needed repairs. Please continue to report areas that need attention to the city's 311 service. I know questions will continue to arise about how best to meet the needs for road repair in our Ward and throughout the city.

To receive regular updates from City Councilwoman Helen Anthony, [sign up for the Ward 2 Letter here](#)