

Albany's New Pavement Preservation Program

Will new tech make them a thing of the past? City will use new 3D mapping program and paving technique to address the pothole problem

Contact Frank Zeoli, Deputy Commissioner, City of Albany | (Press Release: Posted October 25, 2021, <https://www.albanyny.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=351>) | email: fzeoli@albanyny.gov

Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan announced a new street pavement preservation program for the city that includes the use of brine in place of salt crystals, undertaking a 3D assessment of every street and implementing a new road micro-surfacing technique.

As part of a historic \$14 million investment via Mayor Sheehan's 2021 City Budget and 2022 Proposed City Budget to revitalize streets and sidewalks across Albany, Mayor Kathy Sheehan and DGS Commissioner Sergio Panunzio joined 7th Ward Councilmember Cathy Fahey, DGS Deputy Commissioner Frank Zeoli, and representatives from RoadBotics to announce the City's new street pavement preservation program.

These new operations include the use of brine in place of salt crystals on streets to melt snow and ice, utilizing RoadBotics to undertake a 3D assessment of every street to collect data and evaluate street surface conditions to make objective maintenance and replacement decisions, and the launch of a new micro-surfacing program to extend the life of street surfaces.

RoadBotics - Using the power of artificial intelligence (AI), DGS will complete an assessment of all City streets, evaluating and collecting data regarding surface conditions to make maintenance and paving decisions. RoadBotics uses an advanced AI platform called RoadWay that automates road assessments and provides a web-based program that allows DGS to build a virtual replica of every street in Albany with visual data for collaboration, engagement, and evaluation.

Brine - The Department of General Services will become one of the first local municipalities to use Brine in place of salt crystals to melt snow and ice on streets beginning this winter. Salt brine is a solution of salt and water that helps separate snow and ice from road surfaces. Not only will the use of Brine make our streets safer during the inclement

weather, but will also mitigate the environmental concerns of using salt.

Micro-Surfacing – DGS has micro-surfaced three streets in Albany: Summit Avenue, Barclay Street, and Marinello Terrace. Micro-surfacing (also referred to as 'micro asphalt') is a treatment laid over the top of the existing surface designed to seal, protect, and extend the life of asphalt surfaces. The treatment consists of a water-based mixture of stones and bitumen. In 2022, DGS will micro-surface at least 9 streets using this technology.

Mayor Sheehan and Commissioner Panunzio also announced the substantial completion of nearly 50 streets across Albany in 2021 — part of more than \$6 million in revitalized street and sidewalk infrastructure.

"My administration has invested more than \$40 million in street and sidewalk revitalization since taking office, however we know we must invest even more to ensure our streets are in optimal condition. These three new initiatives will not only help us strengthen our investments in streets but also help extend the life of our newly revitalized infrastructure and help protect the environment. Thank you to Commissioner Panunzio and the Department of General Services for engaging in these innovative solutions to decades-long problems."

- Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan

"The changes to our street pavement operations are going to ensure our streets are maintained in the most cost effective and environmentally sound way."

- Sergio Panunzio, Department of General Services Commissioner

"Albany's DGS is to be commended for its forward thinking in bring new technologies and environment-friendly materials to improve street maintenance in the 7th Ward and across the City to make our roads safer and winter ready."

- 7th Ward Councilmember Cathy Fahey

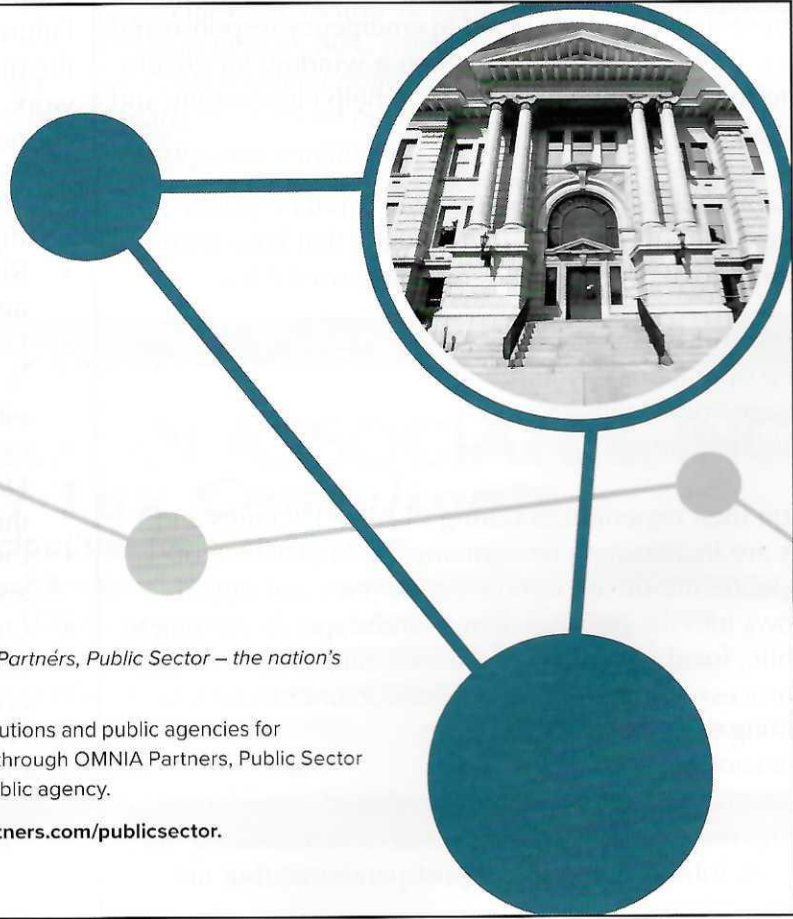


"Our platform allows communities to collect their visual road data using a smartphone. All of the imagery is then fed through our artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms, which have been precisely tuned to deliver objective, color-coded road ratings on a scale from 1 (no or minor surface distresses) to 5 (major surface damage and/or critical fatigue issues) and actionable data.

The road images and ratings appear on an online, interactive map with customizable views. This data provides users with the insight needed to create short and long-term maintenance and repair plans."

- RoadBotics (www.roadbotics.com)

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