

**Town of Watertown**  
**Town Council**  
**PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting Agenda**

**Date: April 13, 2026**

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Watertown Town Hall

Town Council Chambers

61 Echo Lake Road

Watertown, CT 06795

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call**
- 4. Public Participation**
- 5. Minutes**
  - A. Approval of October 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes
  - B. Approval of March 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- 6. Correspondence**
  - A. None
- 7. Old Business**
  - A. RRFB – 3/3 Installed one on Davis and two on Main St – COMPLETED
  - B. Highway Garage Renovation - COMPLETED
  - C. Paving Program – (See Attachment)
  - D. Steele Brook Greenway #2 – Construction Started – Tree Removal/Submittals/Eversource
  - E. St. John Wall – Design Being Submitted to DOT for Approval
  - F. Main St Watertown – T & B at 65% Desing /// Coordinating w/ Property Owners
- 8. New Business**
  - A. Spring Work – Highway Superintendent
  - B. Steele Brook Greenway #3 – Low Bid Contractor will use schedule of values
  - C. PFOS/PFAS – Testing of Monitoring Wells at the Transfer Station
  - D. 18 APR – Household Hazardous Waste Day – Crosby High School, Waterbury
  - E. 28 MAY – Road Safety Audit (RSA) Training w/ UCONN T2 and NVCOG – Watertown FH
  - F. 11 MAY – PW Sub-Committee
- 9. Transfers and Appropriations**
  - A. None
- 10. Adjournment**

cc: Paul Bunevich, Town Engineer  
Dan Cocchiola, Town Council  
Lisa Dalton, Town Clerk  
Ken Demirs, PW Subcommittee  
Robert Desena, PW Subcommittee Vice Chair  
Michele McHugh, Vice Chair

Rachael Ryan, PW Subcommittee  
Mark A. Raimo, Town Manager  
Jonathan Ramsay, Town Council Chair  
Robert Retallick, PW Subcommittee Chair  
Mary Ann Rosa, Town Council  
Carina Noyd, Town Council

**Town of Watertown**  
**Town Council**  
**PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

Date: October 14, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Watertown Town Hall  
Planning & Zoning Conference Room  
61 Echo Lake Road  
Watertown, CT 06795

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Subcommittee Chairperson, Robert Retallick.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Roll Call**

**Present:** Robert Retallick, Robert Desena, Rachael Ryan, Ken Demirs, Gary Lafferty

**Also Present:** Jerry Lukowski, Joe Millette, Carissa Plourde

**Absent:**

**4. Public Participation**

None

**5. Minutes**

Robert Retallick asked for an approval motion for the August 11, 2025 meeting minutes. Robert Desena makes a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded, by Gary Lafferty. All in favor.

**6. Correspondence**

A. Civil Dispute – 08/22/2025

B. Civil Dispute – 09/22/2025

The meeting was called to order after resolving technical issues with the online connection. It was noted for the record that the meeting had already proceeded through Public Participation and Correspondence prior to recording being established.

**7. Old Business**

**A. Paving Program – \$10M Bond & Highway Paving Complete 2025**

Discussion focused on ongoing roadway maintenance efforts and funding implementation.

- The department has been addressing potholes continuously since March, exceeding typical seasonal repair durations.
- The recently approved \$10M bond will be implemented in phases, with approximately \$6M initially and \$4M requested in 18–24 months.
- Funding may be applied to drainage and pipe lining work in addition to paving.
- Planned inspections include video assessment of 10–20 miles of underground piping to prevent failures after resurfacing.
- Alternative resurfacing approaches (hot-in-place recycling and rubber-modified treatments) are being evaluated for cost efficiency.
- Staff reported resurfacing over 400,000 sq. ft. of roadway in three months using 3,700+ tons of asphalt (approx. 7 miles equivalent).
- Repairing paving equipment for \$2,600 enabled continuation of the paving program.
- Positive feedback was expressed regarding roadway rehabilitation results and crew performance.

**B. Main St – Tighe & Bond/FHI Public Info Meeting – Thursday Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- A public information meeting was scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup> featuring open house review and formal presentations.
- Project includes improvements supported by a \$3M federal grant.
- Design concepts include sidewalk bump-outs to improve pedestrian visibility and crossing distance.
- Stakeholder outreach included consultation with local officials, veterans groups, and public safety leadership.
- Traffic signal flow changes were discussed and generally supported after evaluation.
- Parking visibility and pedestrian safety concerns were raised and identified for further review with designers

**C. Steele Brook Greenway – 100% Design – Special Town Meeting Monday Oct 20<sup>th</sup>**

- Final design completed; special town meeting scheduled to approve funding.
- Total project cost slightly over \$3M with approximately 80% federal reimbursement (net local share approx. \$600K).
- Acquisition of six rights-of-way underway.
- Bidding targeted for November with award in January.
- Tree removal required before April 15 due to environmental permitting restrictions.
- Project includes new pedestrian bridge connections to expand recreational corridor access.

**D. Main Street / Davis St RRFB Update & DOT Future RRFB**

- Adjustments required due to state inspection review; beacon heights must be raised and control boxes repositioned.
- Retrofit costs on Main Street estimated at \$7,500 but covered by funding.
- Davis Street work funded separately with no additional cost impact.
- Additional beacon installations approved at multiple locations near schools and pedestrian routes, funded by the state.
- Parking visibility, enforcement concerns, and speed-related safety issues were discussed.
- Coordination with police and future traffic enforcement measures (including camera programs) noted as separate jurisdiction.

**E. Highway Garage Renovation Update**

- Roof replacement, window installation, HVAC upgrades, and new emergency exit door completed.
- Office addition exterior substantially complete; interior finishing underway.
- Electrical panel replacements scheduled.
- Security gate and site paving improvements installed.
- Guardrail added to protect office occupants from vehicle hazards.
- Project supported by combined local and state funding.
- Committee acknowledged improved staff morale and operational benefits.

**F. Detention Basin**

- Cleaning of approximately 50 municipal detention basins nearing completion ahead of initial schedule.
- FEMA-related funding supported accelerated progress.
- Work expected to reduce flooding and sediment impacts.
- Coordination with commercial property owners ongoing regarding basin maintenance responsibilities.
- Clarification provided distinguishing catch basins from detention basins and overall system scope.

**8. New Business**

**A. Veterans Day Conflict – Cancel or Reschedule?**

**Alternative Dates: Nov 17<sup>th</sup> before TC 6:00pm OR Nov 24<sup>th</sup>**

- Meeting date conflict discussed.
- Tentative plan to cancel original date and provisionally hold November 17th meeting if required, depending on pending business needs.

**B. Bid Waiver Pavement Manager BETA**

- Proposal presented to waive bid process and continue with consultant performing prior road study.
- Expanded scope includes 360° roadway imagery, sign inventory, pavement marking inventory, and guiderail evaluation.
- Motion approved to forward bid waiver recommendation to Town Council.

**C. 2026 Public Works Subcommittee Meeting Dates**

- Dates previously approved; informational review only.
- Future planning to include scheduling of 2027 calendar to avoid special meetings.

**D. Public Works Citizen Academy – Tuesday Oct 28<sup>th</sup> @ Highway Garage**

- Program scheduled at Highway Garage rather than council chambers.
- Members invited to attend and review renovation progress.

**E. First Responder Recognition**

- Public Works recognized alongside police and fire departments by community foundation.
- Recognition acknowledged and documentation displayed.

**F. DOT Direct Funded Projects**

- Overview of state-managed transportation projects including signal upgrades, crosswalk improvements, and pedestrian accommodations.
- Noted that projects remain in planning/design phases and are managed by state district offices rather than town staff.

**9. Transfers and Appropriations**

A. None

**10. Adjournment**

Robert Retallick makes a motion to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Robert Retallick, Chairperson

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Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works

**Town of Watertown**  
**Town Council**  
**PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting Agenda**

**Date: March 09, 2026**

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Watertown Town Hall

Town Council Chambers

61 Echo Lake Road

Watertown, CT 06795

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Subcommittee Vice Chairperson, Robert Desena.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Roll Call**

**Present:** Robert Desena, Ken Demirs, Dan Cocchiola

**Also Present:** Jerry Lukowski, Joe Millette, Bob Grandpre, Carissa Plourde

**Absent:** Robert Retallick, Rachael Ryan

**4. Public Participation**

None

**5. Minutes**

Approval of October 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes

- Discussion noted lack of quorum and new member attendance
- Motion made to table approval, Seconded
- Vote: Approved to table

**6. Correspondence**

None

Jerry Lukowski states department receives regular public communication, but nothing required escalation to the subcommittee

**7. Old Business**

**A. DPW Update – Positive Work**

- Significant accomplishments highlighted:
  - Approximately 54 miles of paving completed over 3 years
  - 100% of town detention basins cleaned
  - Ongoing coordination with Planning & Zoning and Inland/Wetlands
  - Continued work on major drainage areas (e.g., Stop & Shop basin restoration)
  - Completion of highway garage renovations with state funding support
- Emphasis on proactive infrastructure maintenance and stormwater management

**B. Paving Program – \$10M Bond & Highway Paving Complete 2025**

- Current road surface rating improved to ~67 (up from low 60s)
- Total unfunded road need estimated at \$37.2 million
- Full reconstruction across town estimated near \$150–200 million
- Strategy focuses on:
  - Maintaining good roads to avoid higher long-term costs
  - Addressing worst roads simultaneously
- Noted:
  - Delay in repairs can increase costs 10–15x
  - Annual loss of road value even with investment
- Coordination with utility companies (e.g., gas) to avoid repaving conflicts

**C. Steele Brook Greenway – Precon Completed – NTP March 1<sup>st</sup>**

- Preconstruction completed

**D. St. John Wall**

- This project is an \$800,000 Community Connectivity Grant funded 100% by the Department of Transportation. The town has already approved \$90,000 for the design which is being completed by SLR. Easements—both temporary construction and permanent—have been prepared and signed by the town manager, with assistance from Mr. Jessel, and are currently awaiting final approval from St. John’s Archdiocese in Hartford. Once finalized, the project will move into DOT approvals, permitting, and the bidding phase. The work involves demolishing a historic stone wall near the former rectory site (dating back to before 1912) and constructing a new retaining wall set 10–15 feet farther back. Improvements will include a new sidewalk, a grass strip designed to help manage snow storage, and updated crosswalks and pedestrian signals at the nearby intersection by Woodruff, the post office, and the bank, enhancing safety and accessibility in the area.

**8. New Business**

The following New Business topics were presented through a slide presentation, refer to YouTube video dated PW Subcommittee 3/9/26 to see in depth details on the following topics.

**A. Winter 2026**

- Winter operations overview:
  - Use of treated vs untreated salt depending on temperature thresholds
  - Supplemental use of solar salt (higher cost) when needed
- Department expects minimal major storms remaining
- Recognition of staff efforts, including part-time retiree support:
  - Example: Ray Aubin praised for dedication and reliability
- Operational challenges:
  - Aging equipment impacts efficiency
  - Increased workload during storms

**B. 2026 Public Works Subcommittee Meeting Dates Reminder**

- Next meeting scheduled for April 13, 2026

- Discussion about potentially moving meetings to 5:30 PM for convenience
- Chair to follow up with members regarding availability

### **C. CIP Book**

Discussion Highlights:

- Overview of capital projects, infrastructure planning, and long-term needs
- Identified upcoming retirements of key senior staff, resulting in:
  - Loss of institutional knowledge
  - Need for transition planning and training
- Infrastructure improvements include:
  - Road projects
  - Drainage improvements
  - Safety enhancements (crosswalks, signage)
  - State-supported paving projects (several miles planned)

Motion:

- Motion made to approve the CIP Book for FY 2026–2027
- Second received
- Vote: Approved (all in favor)

### **D. Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget**

Key Points:

- Highway department budget includes:
  - ~\$1.3M in employee wages (contractual increases ~5.44%)
  - Adjustments for role-based pay differences
  - Temporary and seasonal staffing considerations
- Equipment & vehicles:
  - Significant cost increases (e.g., plow trucks rising from \$200K → \$350K+)
  - Many vehicles are aging and require replacement
  - Current replacement cycle lags industry standards
- Discussion on:
  - Building a cash reserve for equipment purchases to avoid interest costs
  - Potential bonding vs budget funding strategies
  - Long lead times (2–3 years) for ordering vehicles

## **9. Transfers and Appropriations**

A. None

## **10. Adjournment**

Dan Cocchiola makes a motion to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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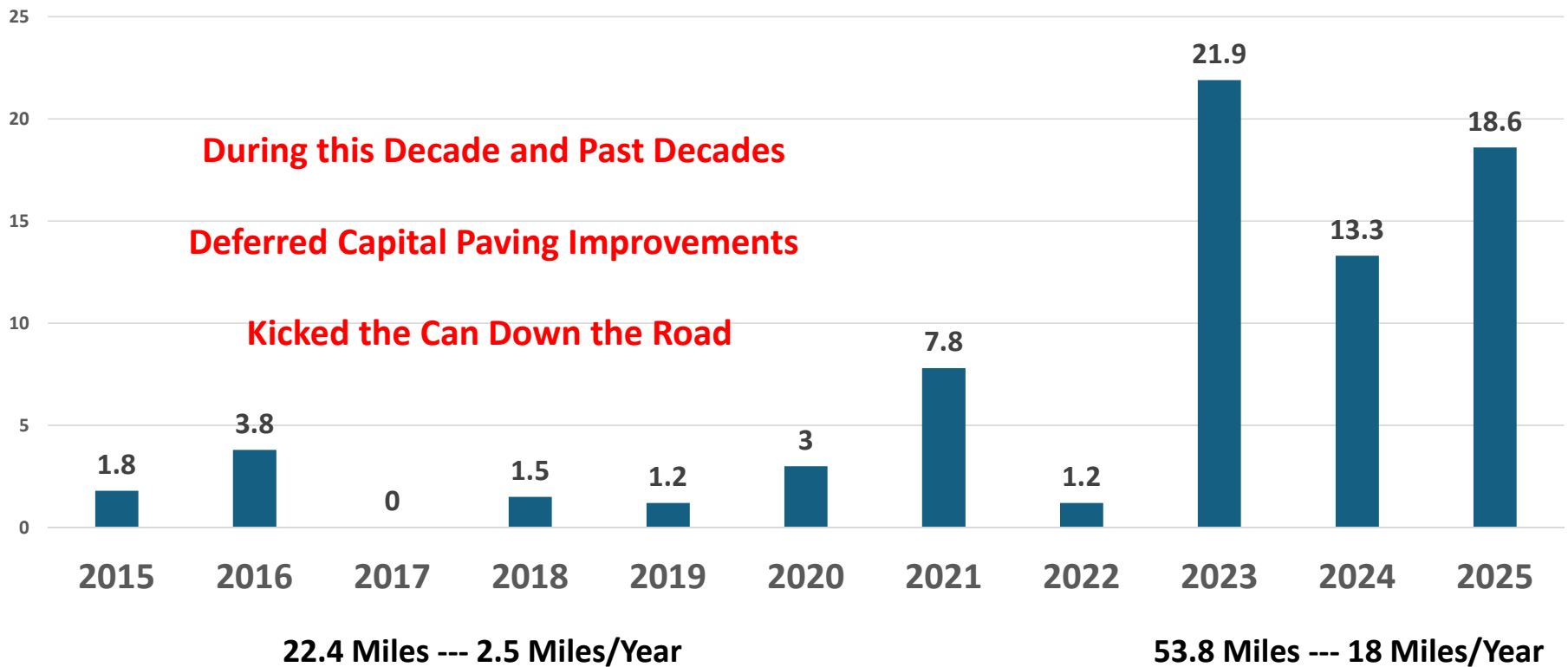
Robert Retallick, Chairperson

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Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works

# Watertown DPW Miles (Road Treatment)

|                 |         |         |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
|                 | 2024    | 2025    |
| RSR             | 64.3    | 67.7    |
| UFR             | \$40.4M | \$37.2M |
| Dated 2 JAN 202 |         |         |





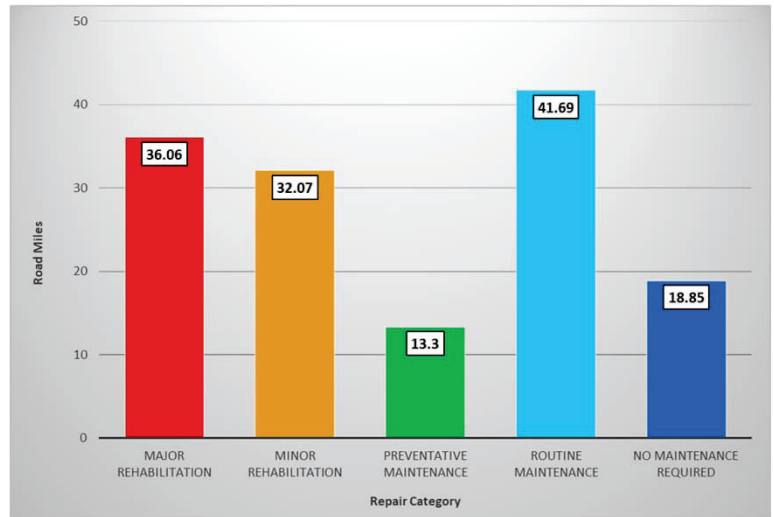
# Summary of Findings



Based on the inspections completed in the summer of 2022, and the most recent updates, the **overall RSR for Watertown’s Town-maintained roadway network was 67.67**. The overall RSR indicates a benchmark for performance measuring of the Town’s PMP moving forward. If the overall RSR were to drop in the years to come, this would be a sign that the program may need to be adjusted or funding for the program may need to be re-evaluated.

**67.67**  
**Current Town Accepted network roadway surface rating (RSR) (December 2025)**

As part of the pavement management process, repair strategies and associated unit costs were defined (as shown below) to develop the Town’s Estimated Roadway Improvement Costs Summary. This analysis summarizes the mileage of roadways that fall within each suggested repair category as well as the estimated cost to complete the recommended maintenance or repair. **The current improvement summary for the Town’s public roadway network is approximately \$37.19 million based on current market trends.** This budgetary dollar figure represents a snapshot of the funding it would take to perform all outstanding maintenance for the Town’s road network within the next year. While this is not typically feasible, this analysis acts as another benchmark for the magnitude of work necessary at the time of inspections.



| Repair Method            | RSR Range | Unit Price (s/y) |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Major Rehabilitation     | 0-50      | \$48.00          |
| Minor Rehabilitation     | 50-65     | \$19.20          |
| Preventative Maintenance | 65-80     | \$9.60           |
| Routine Maintenance      | 80-92     | \$0.75           |
| No Maintenance Required  | 92-100    | \$0.00           |

| Estimated Roadway Improvement Costs |                |                  |             |                     |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Repair Method                       | Length (Miles) | Square Yards     | % Repair    | Estimated Cost      |
| Major Rehabilitation                | 36.06          | 528,544          | 25.40%      | \$25,370,124        |
| Minor Rehabilitation                | 32.07          | 485,437          | 22.59%      | \$9,320,390         |
| Preventative Maintenance            | 13.3           | 210,378          | 9.37%       | \$2,019,632         |
| Routine Maintenance                 | 41.69          | 641,311          | 29.37%      | \$480,983           |
| No Maintenance Required             | 18.85          | 274,710          | 13.28%      | \$0                 |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>141.97</b>  | <b>2,140,380</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>\$37,191,129</b> |

| <u>Road</u>                                       | <u>Treatment</u>        | <u>Length ft</u> | <u>SYs</u> |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|------------|
| BASSETT RD  | Rubber Chip             | 7,512.00         | 18,528.00  |
| CHIMNEY RD  | Rubber Chip             | 2,804.00         | 10,242.00  |
| LINKFIELD RD                                      | Rubber Chip             | 11,200.00        | 27,477.00  |
| NOVA SCOTIA HILL RD - Buckingham St to Chimney St | Rubber Chip             | 3,095.00         | 8,047.00   |
| FERN HILL RD                                      | Crack Sealing & Mastic  | 3,601.00         | 10,437.00  |
| LEDGEWOOD RD                                      | Cold in place recycling | 3,750.00         | 9,166.00   |
| WILSON ST   | Mill & Fill 2"          | 799.00           | 2,221.00   |
| HAMILTON AVE -Old Baird Rd to Quassapaug Rd       | Rubber Chip             | 5,110.00         | 14,903.00  |
| Guernseytown Rd                                   | Micro old Sections      | 14,221.00        | 41,122.00  |
| FRENCH ST   | Mircro                  | 7,838.00         | 30,558.00  |
| SKILTON RD  | PPSFDR                  | 3,614.00         | 8,516.00   |
| AUBREY CT   | Reclaim                 | 395.00           | 1,275.00   |
| BROOKVIEW CIR                                     | Cold in place recycling | 1,819.00         | 3,699.00   |
| CHARTER OAK DR                                    | PPSFDR                  | 2,805.00         | 9,264.00   |
| ECHO LAKE RD                                      | Cold in place recycling | 7,493.00         | 27,498.00  |
| FARM CIRCLE                                       | Reclaim                 | 935.00           | 2,909.00   |
| FARVIEW CIR                                       | Cold in place recycling | 2,194.00         | 5,946.00   |
| HINMAN RD   | Reclaim                 | 6,491.00         | 13,351.00  |
| ICE HOUSE RD                                      | Cold in place recycling | 3,620.00         | 8,982.00   |
| WHEELER FARM RD                                   | Cold in place recycling | 2,522.00         | 8,407.00   |
| HOPKINS RD  | SKIMCOAT HIGHWAY        | 2,401.00         | 4,002.00   |
| MEADOWCREST LN                                    | SKIMCOAT HIGHWAY        | 1,589.00         | 4,236.00   |
| EDGEWOOD AVE                                      | SKIMCOAT HIGHWAY        | 955.00           | 1,991.00   |
| KIGHT ST  | SKIMCOAT HIGHWAY        | 854.00           | 2,279.00   |
| WILLIAMS AVE                                      | SKIMCOAT HIGHWAY        | 609.00           | 1,373.00   |
|   | Totals:                 | 98,226           | 276,429    |
|   | Miles:                  | 18.60            |            |

### Treatment Cost Echo Lake Rd

