



*The Town of Leesburg*  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

TO: John Wells, Town Manager

FROM: Thomas A. Mason, P.E., Director of Public Works

DATE: December 5, 2012

SUBJECT: Royal Street Flooding (between South King Street and Church Street)

**Recommendation:** The Department of Public Works with assistance from the Capital Projects Management Department has designed a plan to mill and repave a section of Royal Street S.E. that will increase the capacity of the street gutter on the north side of the street. This will help prevent stormwater runoff during heaving rain from flowing across the street into the driveway at 3 Royal Street S.E. The work is estimated to cost approximately \$12,000. The Public Works Department plans to perform the work in the Spring of 2013 using operating funds from the FY2013 budget.

**Issue:** During heavy rainfall stormwater from the north side of Royal Street S.E. in the block between South King Street and Church Street flows across the street and onto the sidewalk on the south side and into the driveway and yard at 3 Royal Street S.E. causing temporary flooding.

**Background:** The property owner at 3 Royal Street S.E. sent a video recording to the Town last spring showing stormwater flowing across Royal Street onto her property. This section of Royal Street (between South King Street and Church Street S.E.) does not have a standard cross-section and the gutter on the north side is very shallow. During heavy rain the capacity of the gutter is exceeded and the stormwater flows across the street to the south side and onto the sidewalk and into the driveway and yard at 3 Royal Street S.E. causing temporary flooding.

There are no storm drainage inlets or pipes on this street. Stormwater flows in the gutter in an easterly direction to Church Street. The gutter on the north side is very shallow and has limited capacity. The curb on the south side is low and allows stormwater flow from across the street to pass over the sidewalk. Preventing the flow of stormwater from crossing the street will greatly reduce the temporary flooding at 3 Royal Street S.E.

The owner of 3 Royal Street S.E. requested a capital project to improve the drainage system on this street. A project to provide a permanent solution to this problem would include new storm drainage pipes and inlets, reconstruction of the curbs and sidewalks on both sides of the street and complete milling and repaving of the entire street. This would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and no such project is in the current CIP or list of future projects.

An interim solution to improve the drainage condition was investigated. We obtained more detailed survey information and had core samples drilled to measure pavement thickness. A plan has been prepared to increase the gutter capacity on the north side of the street to help convey the stormwater to Church Street. It requires milling out the existing pavement between the curb and the road center line for a length of about 200 feet. The area will be repaved so that the pavement will be lower at the curb. This creates more gutter capacity and helps prevent the stormwater from flowing across the street during heavy rain.

The milling, paving and minor concrete work is estimated to cost \$12,000. Sufficient funds are available in the FY2013 Public Works operating budget to fund this work. We plan to perform this work in the Spring of 2013.

This interim work will improve the situation and reduce the occurrence of stormwater flow across the street. To provide a more comprehensive and reliable solution, the street will need to be reconstructed to comply with current street standards which includes a drainage system that will capture the stormwater to prevent future flooding. A future capital project will be needed for this comprehensive project.

cc: Tom Brandon, P.E., Deputy Director, CPM  
Mike Armstrong, EIT, LSIT, Engineer, DPW