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Two Nokomis neighborhoods slated for micro-surfacing

Starting next week, about 20 lane miles of Nokomis roads will be resurfaced using a micro-surfacing process that is expected to extend the life of the roadways by up to 10 years at less cost than traditional hot-mix asphalt. Work is expected to be complete by early April in the Sorrento Shores and Sorrento South neighborhoods in Nokomis.

The Sarasota County Commission this month awarded the \$560,882 resurfacing contract to Florida Highway Products Inc., the Bartow-based company that also did the last major micro-surfacing project in Sarasota County in 2005.

Unlike hot-mix asphalt, micro-surfacing uses a polymer-modified, cold-mixture paving process that does not require a petroleum solvent and, in most cases, can be used without additional heat. The process requires less energy and the asphalt emulsions in micro-surfacing produce little or no hydrocarbon emissions, helping to reduce pollution and the demand for non-renewable resources.

Micro-surfacing is most successful on relatively newer roads that have minor or no structural damage. The cold-mixture system extends the useful life of those roads by seven to 10 years in a cost-effective way, allowing a larger portion of the funds annually allocated for resurfacing to be used on more heavily damaged roads that are better candidates for the traditional hot-mix asphalt, said Sarasota County Project Manager Robbin Levar.

Among other benefits of micro-surfacing are resistance to skidding and pavement rutting and shoving, according to Florida Highway Products Inc.'s Web site. It also can be applied with continuous load pavers, minimizing traffic delays during construction.

Residents will be notified via door hangers a few days before work begins on their street. Funding for the micro-surfacing project is provided by the penny sales tax.

For more information about micro-surfacing, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for Road Program Construction.