

Road Resilience: Crack Sealing for Preventative Maintenance

Crack sealing is a routine and important process that preserves street conditions and helps prevent the formation of cracks and potholes that result from the winter freeze/thaw cycle.

Lincoln Transportation and Utilities (LTU) uses a hot pour rubber sealant to seal cracks and prevent moisture and debris from causing damage. By extending street life and thwarting the formation of potholes, it protects our streets against deterioration and ensures a safer travel experience.

Crack Sealing...

- Contributes to the pavement maintenance program;
- Extends the life of the road network; and
- Reduces the severity of surface deterioration and potholes.

How Does Crack Sealing Work?



CLEAN

Use air compressor and heat lance to remove debris and moisture from the crack.



Fill cracks with hot pour rubber sealant.



BAND

Push material into the crack with a squeegee to create a protective band.



COVER

Cover with biodegradable toilet paper to protect traffic and preserve material.

Criteria For Crack Sealing

Sealing cracks proves equally effective for asphalt and concrete streets. Cracks up to one inch wide can be sealed, while larger cracks may need alternative material repairs.

Lane Blocks* Sealed Per Fiscal Year (FY)

FY 17-18	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23
471.5	478	1,507	2,099	4,569	2,626

*A lane block refers to the width of a single traffic lane. A mild winter contributed to increased crack sealing efforts in FY 21-22.

Crack sealing is funded by the Street Improvement Vehicle Tax (wheel tax). For a typical four-door car, a driver pays \$74 per year in wheel tax. Of that \$74, \$17.33 is dedicated to LTU's Operations and Maintenance division. These funds provide essential services like crack sealing, pothole filling, and snow removal. To learn more about how your wheel tax funds are invested, go to lincoln.ne.gov/wheeltax.



