



7.7 ROAD CONSTRUCTION



Road under construction

ISSUE:

The biggest demand for road infrastructure and services, e.g. curbs, gutters, asphalt, and sidewalks, is to support cars, trucks, cyclists, and pedestrian activities. City streets are our main public places. Approximately 20% of the developed land base of Richmond is committed to these activities. To meet the demands of growth, new road and sidewalk construction or upgrading must be planned and built, but in ways that minimize social and environmental effects. To make a difference, new road development and improvements needs to make the best use of the City's limited street capacity, and seek a balance between competing demands and interests.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Protect the City's capital investment in roads and public rights-of-way through continuing high-quality maintenance and improvement programs, and carry out road improvements in accordance with identified needs, balancing limited resources among residences, businesses and industry.

POLICIES:

- a) Provide high priority for the maintenance of the existing road system, and those streets that function as transit corridors;
- b) Give high priority to road and sidewalk network improvements that service higher-density areas and link higher-density commercial and residential areas;
- c) Ensure that street designs promote efficient vehicle and pedestrian movements and do not compromise a safe, convenient, and aesthetically pleasing environment for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit-users;
- d) Design and construct new streets of high-quality structural materials to minimize future maintenance costs;
- e) Construct local streets in accordance with existing and planned land use patterns and accepted engineering standards, including the provision of sidewalks on most streets;
- f) Investigate the development of alternative street standards that will result in greater environmental benefits.