

# Pothole Repair, LMC Model Policy

*League staff thoughtfully develops models for your city's consideration. Models should be customized as appropriate for an individual city's circumstances in consultation with the city's attorney. Helpful background information on this model may be found in the Information Memo "[Acquisition and Maintenance of City Streets](#)."*

## City of \_\_\_\_\_, Minnesota Pothole Repair Policy

### 1. Introduction

The city of \_\_\_\_\_, Minnesota finds that it is in the best interest of the residents for the city to do the maintenance of its city streets. An important part of street maintenance is the repair of potholes. The city will repair potholes in a safe and cost effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel and environmental concerns. The city will use city employees, equipment and/or private contractors to provide this service. Pothole repair is part of the city's overall pavement management program.

### 2. Application

This policy applies to city streets. It does not apply to other governmental unit's roads that go through the city unless there is a specific agreement between the city and that other governmental unit.

### 3. When will the City Repair Potholes?

The Street Superintendent will decide when to conduct pothole repairs. Repairs will consist of two elements:

#### ***Crew Repair***

A crew will be assigned an area to inspect. It will repair any potholes it finds in that area. Each street will be inspected at a minimum of once a year depending on available resources and factors such as weather and other street work that needs to be done. The timing for the repairs will also be based upon those factors.

#### ***Response to Complaint or Accident***

A crew will be sent out to inspect any street when the city receives a complaint or notice of an accident or damage involving a pothole.

### 4. Criteria for Pothole Repair

Not every imperfection in a street surface is necessarily considered to be a pothole in need of repair. The general criteria for repair will be a pothole that is two (2) inches or more deep and over five (5) inches in diameter. The Street Superintendent or his or her designated employee will have discretion to decide if a condition is a pothole in need of repair.

### 5. How will Potholes be Repaired?

Potholes will be repaired temporarily during cold weather with a cold asphalt mix or other means. During cold weather, the repairs will be limited to those determined to be hazardous

for motor vehicles. In warmer weather and when hot asphalt mix is available, potholes will be filled with the hot asphalt mix or other means for a more permanent repair.

6. **Priorities and Schedule for which Streets' Potholes will be Repaired**

The city has classified city streets based on the street function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community. The city will repair those streets first that are high volume and high speed routes that connect major sections of the city and provide access for emergency fire, police, and medical services.

The second priority streets are those streets providing access to schools and commercial businesses. The third priority streets are low volume residential streets. The fourth priority areas are alleys and city parking lots.

7. **Weather Conditions**

Pothole repairs will be conducted only when weather conditions do not limit the ability to perform the work or when such work would not endanger the safety of city employees and equipment. Factors that may delay repairs are cold temperatures, rain, snow, and ice conditions.

8. **Documentation**

Workers will document all street repairs to potholes that are made under this policy. Records will not necessarily identify each individual pothole, but may show the general street location where repairs were made.

9. **Warning Signs or Devices**

If the city knows of a pothole in a street and it is not able to repair it, it will consider whether it should use warning signs or devices. Factors that will be examined will be the location of the pothole, how dangerous it is, and whether a warning sign or device would be effective.

10. **Review and Modification of Policy**

The Street Superintendent shall keep on file all comments and complaints received regarding this policy. The policy will be reviewed periodically. Any review will consider comments and complaints since the last review and any other factors affecting the policy or its implementation.