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Lancaster to Adopt New Road Resurfacing Technique

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Lancaster city officials have approved a new road resurfacing process they say is better for the environment, saves time and will save the city money.

The new process, known as Recycled Hot Emulsified Asphalt Treatment, or Re-HEAT, will allow Lancaster to “get the absolute best value for every construction and maintenance dollar” the city spends, city officials said in a release.

Lancaster is the first city in California to adopt the pavement preservation technique, said city officials, who approved a contract to use the method at a public meeting Tuesday.

Unlike traditional roadway repaving, which typically involves removing the top two inches of a street surface and replacing it with new asphalt, the Re-HEAT process recycles existing asphalt, according to the statement. The asphalt is heated, ground up, and then transferred into a mixing drum on the Re-HEAT machine, where it is blended with “with engineered rejuvenating emulsion” before being laid as a new surface, according to the statement.

The efficiency, cost-effectiveness and eco-friendly nature of the process were key selling points in the city’s decision to use Re-HEAT, officials said.

“With this kind of technology, residents can leave for work in the morning before we start the roadwork and come home to an entirely new street by that evening,” Ray Hunt, Lancaster’s capital engineering manager, said in a written statement.

Resurfacing using the Re-HEAT process runs \$9 to \$11 per square yard, compared to conventional resurfacing methods, which typically cost \$12 to \$15 per square yard, and could reduce the carbon footprint of roadway projects by up to 65%, city officials said. The repaved streets are also expected to last longer.