

# PUBLIC WORKS: WORKING FOR YOU 24/7

Annual Report 2008



# ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Public Works continued its commitment to meeting its mission: To provide public service on its highest standard of maintenance and constructive change in the public's interest.

The Department of Public Works takes pride in providing the residents of Pharr with:

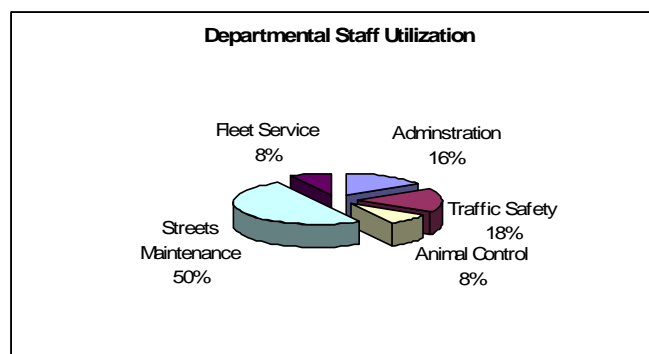
- Street Maintenance- Services provide the planning, design, and project management efforts to provide the best life cycle maintenance for our streets.
- Traffic Safety- Services provide the installation, maintenance, upgrades of traffic signs, pavement markings and the operation of the City's traffic signal system.
- Stormwater Management- The objective is to provide an effective tool for local government and development community to reduce both stormwater quality and quantity impacts, and protect downstream areas and receiving waters.
- Animal Control- Primary function is to ensure public protection from dangerous animals and from diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans.
- Fleet Service Center- Services provide preventive maintenance on all city owned vehicles.



Left to right: Claudia Castillo- Secretary, Gilbert Pedraza- Admin. Aide, Rene Saenz- Asst. Director, Rogelio Palacios- Animal Control supervisor



Left to right: Jesus Garza- Stormwater Supervisor, Epi Macias- Streets Supervisor, Robert Vela- Service Supervisor, Robert Leal- Traffic Safety Supervisor



# STREETS DIVISION

## Overview

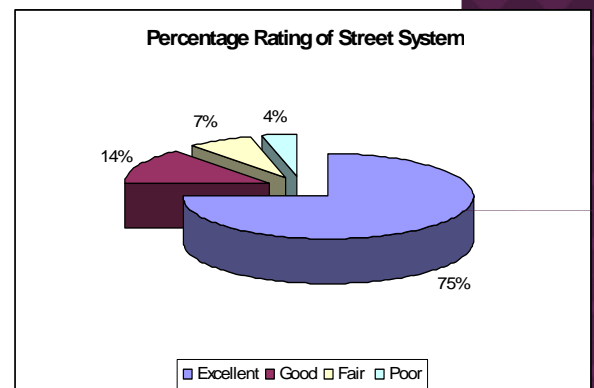
The City of Pharr has over 200 miles of roadway that is periodically inspected and maintained. Due to the magnitude of street maintenance for Pharr, not everything can be maintained or repaired simultaneously. That is why DPW has developed a comprehensive strategy program known as Repair And Maintenance Program (R.A.M.P.) to preserve a clean and safe environment. The RAMP is designed to maintain high quality streets, while spending the least amount of money on the most effective treatments. The typical asphalt road surface has over 20 year lifespan. If the road is not periodically maintained over its life it will fail. Too often, the prevailing philosophy in road maintenance is "take care of the worst first." Addressing our worst roads first usually ensures that all of the maintenance funds will be spent before any preventive maintenance projects can be addressed. The reason is that these "worst" roads are more expensive to repair a "like-new" condition than would be the roads that only require a preventive maintenance treatment periodically to keep them in the "good" category. Consequently, without preventive treatment, our "good" roads will deteriorate at a more rapid rate, and join the "worst" category at a premature time. The answer is to allocate a substantial portion of the road maintenance budget to preventive maintenance. Then, over time, the overall condition of the entire road system will gradually increase to the point where each year very few roads will require repair or reconstruction.

## In-House Improvements 2008

- Boy's and Girl's Club of Pharr- Parking Lot Overlay
- Las Milpas Road (281 to Drain Ditch)- Full Dept Reclamation
- Mid Cities Drive (Warren to FM 495)- Street Overlay
- City Road (281 to Dead End)- Constructed 18' EE Street
- Public Works Building- Constructed Parking Lot
- East Moore Road- Street Overlay
- San Patricia Acres Subdivision- Street Overlay
- Downtown- Constructed Public Parking Lot

## Contracted Improvements 2008

- Abby Heights Subdivision- Seal Coated Pavement
- Amistad Estates Subdivision- Pavement Restoration Rejuvenator Application
- Colony Estates Subdivision- Pavement Restoration Rejuvenator Application
- Rosewood Subdivision- Pavement Restoration Rejuvenator Application





# STREETS DIVISION



R.A.M.P. (West Park Street)



Epi Macias, Armando Cantu, Carlos Ayala, and Jesus De La Cruz- Operating Paving Machine



R.A.M.P. - Full Depth Reclamation West Las Milpas Road



R.A.M.P. (West Park Street)



New Downtown Parking Lot Constructed



Pavement Rejuvenation



R.A.M.P. - Midcities Drive Overlay



Boy's and Girl's Club- Parking Lot Improvements



Community Development Block Grant- Street Improvements ( East Moore Road from 281 to Veterans Blvd.



New 2008 Equipment Purchased- Motor grader Paving and Drainage Assessment Fund

# TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION

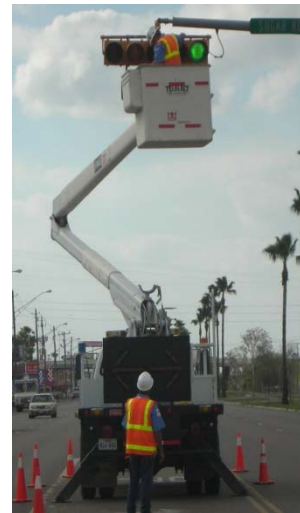
The **Traffic Operations Section** consists of nine employees. The division operates, maintains and monitors technical equipment and ensures a high level of public safety. Traffic Safety Division is divided into four sections: Signals, Signs, Pavement Markings, and PM (Preventive Maintenance). The purpose of traffic control devices, including traffic signals, is to “promoted highway safety and efficiency by providing for the orderly movement of all road users on streets and highways.”

The *Signals* section maintains 51 actuated signalized intersections within the city limits of Pharr. This includes the operation, placement, and efficiency of a signalized intersection. For 2008, we have responded to over 1,800 traffic signal malfunctions 24/7 that were caused by automobile accidents damaging traffic control devices, power shortages during a natural disaster or transformer blow out, and basic electrical failures in components such as light bulbs, relays, load switches, conflict monitors, and vehicle detection detectors.

The *Signs* section has continued to follow general provisions and standards in maintaining Regulatory Signs, Warning Signs, Conventional Signs, and Specific Service Signs during 2008. A 2008 highlight consists Board of Commissioners adopting an ordinance saluting and honoring all Veterans and designating our current “I” Road to Veterans Blvd (“I” Road).

The *Pavement Marking* section plays a major role for the safety of our community. It is a very important part of the communication system for road users since it really is the only effective way of providing positive guidance or communicating messages through a uniform system of colors, patterns, widths, symbols, and words. The Traffic Safety Team re-marks all school crossings yearly and all major thoroughfare roadways every 3 years within the city limits of Pharr.

The *PM* section has continued its efforts primarily to improve reliability of the signal system, which leads to increased motorist safety, a reduction in emergency repairs, after-hour calls, and great document tool for an unforeseen lawsuit to our agency. This systematic and scheduled inspection consists of cleaning, adjustment, lubrication, and basic operations of every electrical device within the traffic control cabinet so that it will operate at maximum capability.





# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

In January of 1998, the USEPA published proposed rules to control polluted runoff from municipal separate stormwater sewer systems of small (<100,000 population) municipal and county governments in urbanized areas. These proposed rules, finalized in March of 1999, constitute Phase II of EPA's NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) municipal stormwater program. Phase I rules governing all municipalities greater than 100,000 in population are already in effect. The City of Pharr is has partnered up with Texas A&M University Kingsville (TAMUK) along with other fifteen (15) Valley Phase II Cities to coordinate a regional strategy to address the stormwater permit requirements.

The Phase II Rules impacted entities to develop management programs to address stormwater impacts through the following six (6) minimum measures:

- Public involvement/participation
- Public education and outreach
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Construction site runoff pollution prevention
- Post-construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment
- Pollution prevention/good housekeeping for municipal operations

On August 2007, the TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) finally published the final permit. All Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) Plans were due on February of 2008. Currently TCEQ is reviewing the City of Pharr's Stormwater Management Plan that is proposed to be implemented within the next five years.

In the meantime, Public Works Department Stormwater Division has become a proactive division in minimizing the impacts of potential flooding by continuing to invest tax payers monies thru a created account titled "Paving And Drainage Assessment Fund" for equipment such as a 2009 Sterling Vactor by Kinloch. This Equipment is a powerful cleaning system specifically designed for sewer cleaning applications. The City of Pharr's first time preventative maintenance on stormwater sewers will be in effect early December of 2008.



# ANIMAL CONTROL

Pharr Animal Control continues to advance with training accomplishments and new challenges. In 2008, the city's Animal Control Officers (ACO) accomplished a "Euthanasia Certification", through the Department State Health Services aside from their 2006 "Certified ACO" certification. Obtaining both certifications, the city's ACO's will continue to provide professional, highly trained skills and operations to our community. They have also saved thousands of tax payers monies delivering services through euthanizing animals that are set to be considered pests (possums) and helped euthanize those pets that have received a high degree of injury. Other services includes of capturing and restraining over 5,670 animals through out 2008 consisting of dogs, cats, raccoons, skunks, snakes, possums, fowls, and a rare occasion of capturing two young alligators three feet in length.

Our major challenge is reducing the number of homeless animals and unwanted litters in our community. With every one of us committing to making Pharr a more pet-friendly community, we can give our companion animals the care they need.

## Pet Tips:

- Think carefully about getting a pet. Commit to provide a safe/forever home
- Protect your pet from diseases by keeping its vaccinations up to date
- Keep your pet on a leash in public or inside your house or enclosed yard when at home
- Provide suitable shelter and protection from extreme heat or cold
- Provide a nutritious and well-balanced diet and groom your pet regularly
- Teach children to property care for and handle pets
- Ensure your pet is sociable and well trained



# FLEET SERVICE CENTER

Over the course of 2008, the Fleet Service Center was responsible for the maintenance of 260 City vehicles and equipment. These vehicles are integral part of the daily operation of the city. This section does a vast majority of its work in-house and reduces costs associated with the private sector.





# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the dedicated professionals that make up the City of Pharr's Public Works Department, it is an honor to present the accomplishments of 2008 while outlining the activities and performance of each of the Department's six (6) operating divisions thru this annual report.

We have also faced our challenges. The recent energy, oil, fuel, and construction prices has had and will continue to have a significant impact on operations. Overall increases in fuel and oil prices have a direct impact on all operational areas, including but not limited to vehicle operating costs, asphalt and street rehabilitations costs, and related increased costs of third-party contractors. However, by improved strategic planning the Department has repeatedly modified its processes and procedures in an effort to cope with these rising costs by developing cost effective methods of preventative maintenance.

Increased regulatory requirements will also provide a challenge to the Department. For example, the newly division Stormwater Division and the existing Streets Division will work even more closely together to comply with the ongoing requirements of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality which requires the City to eliminate pollution in storm water runoff.

The Department's approach to and success in addressing these challenges will play a major role in the short- and long-term growth and development of the City. I am proud of the professionalism and work accomplished by the employees of the Pharr Public Works Department and look forward to even greater accomplishments in the future.



Roy Garcia  
Director of Public Works

