
CITY OF BIDDEFORD, MAINE

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City Seeking Nominations for Worst Road in Biddeford

Residents asked to nominate a road to be repaved if voters grant approval for November 3 bond referendums.

BIDDEFORD (October 1, 2020) — Think your road is the worst road in Biddeford? City officials want to hear from you.

At the November 3, 2020 Election, Biddeford voters will be asked to support two General Obligation Bonds totaling \$17.5 million to address longstanding maintenance needs for City facilities, sewer systems, and streets throughout the community. If voters approve Municipal Referendum Question 2, there will be \$3.75 million in funds available to improve roads, sidewalks, and drainage systems in Biddeford. At least half of this \$3.75 million in road improvement funding would be dedicated to addressing the longstanding paving needs on residential streets.

“There is a limited amount of capital improvements that can be budgeted for each year, and for the past several years many of the annual paving projects were to improve Biddeford’s main roads. We’ve asked voters to support this bond so that we can begin to address less-traveled streets that are now in need of significant attention,” Mayor Alan Casavant said.

As one way to select which street improvements should be prioritized, the City will be running an online contest to find Biddeford’s worst road. Residents who think they live or travel on the “worst road in Biddeford” are asked to nominate the road on the City website at www.biddefordmaine.org/2020bonds by Thursday, October 15. Staff will review the nominations and create a poll allowing residents to select their top choice out of five of the worst roads. The road with the most votes in the poll by November 3 will be named "Biddeford's Worst Road" and will be guaranteed to be paved if voters approve Municipal Referendum Question 2.

Findings from a 2019 assessment by StreetScan, a software tool that assesses the condition of roads and sidewalks, show that it would take \$33 million to appropriately update all of the City’s roads and an additional \$12 million to address sidewalk needs.

“We are very aware that even if this bond passes, we still won’t be able to immediately fix every street in the community that needs attention,” Mayor Casavant said. “This contest is a great way to hear directly from our residents about the problems they would most like to see fixed with the limited funding we would have available.”

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For more information, please visit www.biddefordmaine.org/2020bonds or contact the City Manager's Office at 207-284-9313.

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