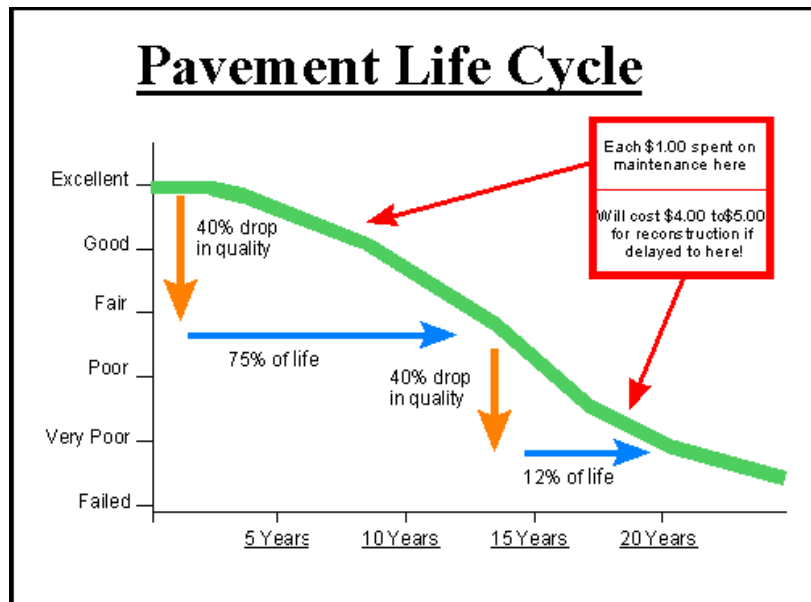


Why is it done?

Mesa County's overlay program is used to restore paved road surfaces as part of routine maintenance. An overlay adds structural capacity, riding comfort and skid resistance, which add to the road's safety. Smooth road surfaces also decrease vehicle maintenance costs and improve fuel economy. Pavement overlays help reduce traffic noise, which is important in urban developments. While newly overlaid roads are aesthetically pleasing, roads are not overlaid to improve appearance.

Pavement deterioration is cumulative. Pavements generally deteriorate at an ever increasing rate. Factors including, weather, traffic impacts, frequency of maintenance, etc. all contribute to a road's longevity. The average life of a paved road in Mesa County is between 18 and 20 years (that is from the time the road is newly paved to a point where reconstruction becomes necessary).



Routine maintenance . . . is essential. When a paved road reaches about 75% of its service life (18 to 20 years), deterioration accelerates. If routine maintenance is not performed restoration costs are four to five times higher. Once the 75% threshold is reached, reconstruction costs are constant.

