

Fleet Spotlight: DOT Roadway Repair and Maintenance (RRM)

By: Keith T. Kerman and Nate Koszer

The functioning of our City is incredibly intricate, with so many people living close to each other and relying on dense and complex infrastructure. Among that infrastructure, and ubiquitous in our daily lives, are our streets and roadways. Today's fleet spotlight discusses the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) division that keeps our streets, roads, and highways in good condition. DOT Roadway Repair and Maintenance (RRM) is quite literally where the rubber meets the road for our fleet program, with its 1,600 fleet pieces being among the most complex and specialized of the City of New York's fleet.

DOT Roadway Repair maintains over 19,000 street and highway lane miles. Their annual resurfacing target is 1150 lane miles of local and arterial roads. This is about the distance from NYC City Hall to Disney World in Florida. Over the last five years, since fiscal year 2019, RRM has resurfaced over 5,700 lane miles of roads and repaired over 900,000 potholes.

Most of this work takes place in the warmer months from March through November. RRM is also supporting snow operations, emergency towing, and other clean-ups in the winter when re-paving is slowed due to weather conditions.

RRM employs 1,300 staff performing strenuous work always under the time pressure to get roads back in service for each NYC neighborhood. Supporting these trained and dedicated teams are a fleet of 1,600 fleet pieces of every type and functionality. Automatic paving machines (APMs), milling machines, rollers, fuel and water trucks, light towers, tar kettles, forklifts, bucket trucks, chippers, post pounders, tractors, attenuator trucks, sign boards, heavy duty dump trucks, and sweepers are the core fleet units needed to repair and repave our streets and maintain the arterial highways, including the natural areas around them.



*NYC DOT RRM Executive Team with
DCAS Deputy Commissioner Keith T.
Kerman*



NYC DOT & United Soybean Board (Soy-Biobased Asphalt Demo September 2023)

At the most basic, dump truck operators deliver new asphalt to paving sites and haul old asphalt away, for recycling, on a continuous basis. Paving teams use asphalt paving machines to lay down the asphalt and rollers to compact it and keep it smooth and durable. Tractors and post pounders are used to maintain grass areas and guardrails surrounding roadways.

RRM uses over one million tons of asphalt material a year and manages two asphalt plants located at Hamilton Avenue in Brooklyn and Harper Street in Queens, as well as contracting for some asphalt. While asphalt is inherently not green, RRM is committed to sustainability in their operations. Over 35% of the asphalt used each year comes through DOT recycling processes, reducing costs and landfill needs. The scheduled construction of a new Harper Street Asphalt Plant will allow NYC DOT to increase its use of recycled asphalt (RAP) from 35% to 50%. DOT is also pursuing additional alternatives to reduce petroleum use in asphalt including mixing asphalt with recycled plastics and exploring the potential for soy based products to help rejuvenate asphalt and increase recycling rates.



Front End Loader removing old asphalt and placing into DOT Dump Truck.

DOT also cares for 2,400 natural areas adjacent to the City's 198 arterial miles. This landscaping work employs forestry and lawn maintenance equipment and gives DOT the chance to plant and maintain trees and not just roll asphalt.



NYC DOT Paving Crew in Brooklyn, New York.

DOT is also partnering with DCAS on sustainability and safety with their fleet. DOT's specialized equipment uses biodiesel and will be part of our increasing renewable fuel efforts. Hundreds of RRM trucks are equipped with surround camera safety systems that DCAS and DOT installed to help limit truck blind-spots for operators. The largest vehicle in the DCAS Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA) program is a class 8 DOT roadways tractor trailer, proving this technology can be deployed even in the most complex trucking operation. DCAS is also piloting backup sensors and pedestrian turn warning signals with DOT roadways trucks. As stated by Deputy Commissioner Irena Nedeljkovic who manages RRM, "Throughout the years, DOT RRM embraced innovations in asphalt technology, and we look forward to incorporating the latest advancements in Fleet as part of delivering our mission every day."



NYC DOT Roller used to compact asphalt on NYC street.

Behind the scenes supporting RRM are the teams at DOT and DCAS Fleet and Procurement who supply and maintain the City owned and rented equipment that enables these trained teams to do their critical work. Thanks to DOT Deputy Commissioner Irena Nedeljkovic, Assistant Commissioner Eric Brown, and their Roadways team for their critical and essential role in keeping NYC operating. Thanks also to Associate DOT Deputy Commissioner Eric Dorcean and the DOT Fleet team for servicing this complex and specialized fleet.

NYC's relies on dedicated, skilled and highly trained public servants to literally get down and dirty to keep this City safe and functioning. We should never take them for granted.



NYC DOT testing soy-bio based asphalt on NYC Street.

NYC Fleet Manual

The NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook has been updated. Please see the updated version at [NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook](#).

New York City Vision Zero Fleet Forum

VISION ZERO Building a Safer City

This year's New York City Vision Zero Fleet Forum will be held on Thursday November 2, at the Queens Theatre in Flushing Meadows Corona Park

This annual event co-hosted this year by *Together for Safer Roads* will highlight the power

and promise of building partnerships to solve our nation's roadway safety crisis, the safe system approach, and how vehicle design and technology plays a vital role in saving lives.

[View the event flyer](#) to learn more. Updated information like the event agenda and registration links will be posted on the DCAS Fleet Management webpage in the coming weeks. You can also [email fleet](#) for more information.



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Week In Review: October 7 - 13

Mayor Adams joins New York City's Jewish community to mourn the attacks in Israel, announces new public safety and climate initiatives and more this week in NYC.



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[NYC Fleet Newsletter 437, September 29, 2023](#): Electric Pickups Will Be NYC Work Truck of the Future

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 436, September 22, 2023](#): Fleet Sustainability Advances in the Mayor's Management Report (MMR)

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 435, September 18, 2023](#): Back to School, Back to Basics on Safe and Responsible Fleet Operation

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 434, August 28, 2023](#): Let's Talk About Electric Vehicles

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