



**For Immediate Release**

October 5, 2016

**Quality Issue Delays Dracup South Completion**

Completion of the section of Dracup Avenue South from Smith Street to Broadway Street has been postponed to Spring, 2017, due to roadbed gravel supplied not meeting base material specifications.

This last portion of Dracup Avenue South was ready to have concrete applied on Tuesday September 27<sup>th</sup>, with a completion date of October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The project was halted early last week when the granular base material, a critical constructional component of the roadway, failed because locally supplied gravel did not meet roadbed specifications.

“It is important to build with the highest quality standards for lasting results, and the granular base material is a final step to ensure that the roadbed will stand up over time,” said City Manager Lonnie Kaal. Part of the issue relates to the amount of water the base material will adsorb or retain during wet conditions. Drainage has been found to be of major importance in proper roadbed preparation in Yorkton due to high water tables and soil conditions. “Testing indicated that the granular base material needs to be removed and new material re-applied. The company that provided the material has agreed to fix the problem and will commence work as soon as weather permits,” said Kaal.

“This delay means that the surface cannot be completed this year due to both the risk and added premium costs of placing concrete in cooler, late fall temperatures,” said Kaal. A gravel surface will be added until Spring when the project will be completed.

The removal and applying of the granular road base material will take approximately six days, and laying of the top layer of gravel an additional two days. Given the weather forecast, the removal and replacement is expected to begin on October 11<sup>th</sup> and the gravel roadway to be open prior to October 21<sup>st</sup>. The Smith Street and Dracup Street intersection will also remain graveled until Spring.

Businesses affected by the delay have been notified and the City is making every effort to ensure the roadway is reopened as soon as possible.

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**For further information contact:**

**Roy Lanaway,**

Manager of Communications

City of Yorkton

**Phone: 306-828-2424**

Mobile: 306-621-2510