



City Manager's Report

June 15, 2026

This report provides a general update on various projects we have underway, plus upcoming projects and items the Council could find as useful.

Paving Projects

Alcove Avenue

The Alcove Avenue paving project remains on schedule. Work on the railroad crossing is scheduled to be completed within the next two weeks.

Donald Preston Drive

The Donald Preston Drive project also remains on schedule. After the existing pavement was removed, engineers observed that a significant portion of the subgrade appeared to be in solid condition. Additional testing and proof-rolling were recommended, and it was determined that only portions of the subgrade would require reconstruction.

This determination is expected to result in both time savings and cost savings estimated in the range of \$80,000.

Traffic Signal Coordination

Traffic signal coordination has been corrected to the best of my knowledge. If any issues are observed, please pass them along. As previously explained by email, the City contracts out the operation and maintenance of the signal at Cambridge, which is generally operated as part of Lubbock's traffic control system. This arrangement has been successful and historically beneficial.

Sealcoating 2026

The 2026 sealcoating work is ahead of the typical schedule. Council awarded the bid to a new contractor this year, and the contractor will perform the work in a different sequence than has been used in previous years. The work is currently scheduled for June 23–24.

Water Supply

During the week of June 1, the City opened the valve on the second Lubbock water connection. The City will take its full allotment of 750,000 gallons per day from both

connections and plans to continue doing so. This will allow the City to rest its wells and reduce dependence on the EDR treatment plant.

Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant

In May, staff from the MPO contacted me regarding the possibility of applying for a Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant. MPO staff indicated they would complete the application, but the work would need to be done quickly because the deadline was June 8. As the application process began, the City of Lubbock also became involved due to interest in eliminating a railroad crossing within Lubbock.

Ultimately, staff learned that the grant amount was \$7 million and would require an estimated local match of approximately \$1.4 million between the Cities of Lubbock and Wolfforth. Due to the short timeline, the lack of formal Council action in support from either city, and questions about the expected scope and outcomes of a \$7 million project, the decision was made not to pursue the grant at this time. I believe there will be future opportunities to revisit this effort with adequate time and better information.

Fiber Optic Contractors and Damages

Fiber optic installation contractors are currently active throughout town, as is occurring in many other communities. Based on information provided, federal broadband funding may be nearing expiration, and providers are moving quickly to install as much fiber optic infrastructure as possible, particularly given the current demand associated with data centers. Contractors are required to obtain permits from the City and are obligated to repair all damages to pre-construction conditions.

On April 29, FiberTex, working for Vexus, now T-Fiber, struck and shattered a section of 10-inch water main at Harvest Avenue and 34th Street. The damages appeared to be extensive. At my direction, OJD performed a detailed study and analysis of the damages and prepared an estimated cost. The estimated cost is not less than \$230,000. Working with Mike, I sent a letter to Vexus providing official notice of the damages. As of the date of this report, I have not received any objections from Vexus.

This incident is not the only damage the City has experienced. There have been numerous strikes involving service lines, gas lines, sewer lines, and private lines. As a result, Randy H and I recently met with representatives of T-Fiber and FiberTex to discuss the City's concerns. Both companies were cooperative, and T-Fiber representatives asked that we contact them with any concerns.

Due to the number of strikes and the associated cost to the City, I instructed staff to develop a methodology for managing and tracking these damage costs. That methodology has been completed, and the costs will be billed to FiberTex in full.

As reflected in previous correspondence with concerned citizens, the City has limited authority regarding telecommunications providers. The City may regulate their activities,

but the providers operate under a State franchise, and the City cannot prohibit the installation of fiber. The City's available remedy is to repair the damages and bill the responsible party for the cost.