March 18, 2004

RE: Interim Policy Letter

To Whom It May Concern:

Due to numerous problems recently incurred with the inferiority of streets constructed for maintenance by the City of Mobile (COM), the COM has determined it is necessary to implement a more fiscally responsible policy. The rapid deterioration of these streets has cost the citizens of Mobile significant tax dollars for engineering, maintenance, and repair. Therefore, in addition to the existing requirements, the following items shall be required.

Beginning May 1, 2004 the following will be required for all new Subdivision street construction submittals:

♦ Base material for the roadway and curb & gutter shall be 6” of crushed limestone unless the geotechnical investigation requires more substantial section.

♦ Roadbed processing will be required to one foot behind the curb and gutter.

♦ All typical sections shall show base material of compacted select material extending under the curb and gutter.

♦ A geotechnical report will be required upon submittal of construction plans. The report shall be certified by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in the State of Alabama. At a minimum, the report shall include soil boring results and recommendations for roadway, drainage pipe and under-drain construction.

♦ Address energy reduction at drainage outfalls. Engineer to design the outfall and specify the appropriate outfall energy dissipation. The soil material at the outfall location and adequacy of the construction materials shall be evaluated by the engineer. All calculations associated shall be submitted with the construction plans.

♦ The residential street wearing surface mix shall be from the ALDOT 1992 Specification 416 and shall be a minimum of 1.5” thick.

♦ Except for the item listed above, all other items shall be constructed according to the ALDOT 2001 Specifications.
It is the opinion of the COM that many problems could be avoided if the design engineer were more involved with inspection of all aspects of roadway and drainage construction. In addition to the items specified below, a copy of the engineer’s and engineer’s representative’s field notes, including any applicable digital photos, will be required upon completion of the construction activities.

- The finished elevation of the sub-base, base, and wearing surface shall be included in the field notes that will be submitted to the COM. These should be measured and recorded at every 100 feet along the roadway.

- During construction the design engineer will coordinate joint project site meetings with the geotechnical engineer, design engineer, contractor, and City Engineering representative. The engineer shall give the COM a 3 business day notice of when the meetings will occur. The meetings shall be at the following specified times or as directed by the City Engineer:
  1) completion of sub-base preparation
  2) completion of base installation
  3) completion of wearing surface placement

Upon completion of construction of the roadway and drainage portions of the Subdivision asphalt core samples shall be taken from the finished roadway surface. The core sampling program shall be as follows:

- Two (2) core samples will be required in each cul-de-sac. One in the center and one along the edge at locations agreed upon by the City Engineer or their representative.

- One core sample will be required every 200' in a center, right, center, left pattern along non-cul-de-sac sections of roadway. There shall be a minimum of three (3) core samples per street, not including any cul-de-sac area.

- When a core sample fails due to compaction or density, one (1) additional sample will be taken on each side of the failed sample per geotechnical recommendations. Failure of one or both of these additional cores will require additional cores every ten (10) feet in the direction of the failure(s) until a successful core is obtained. The failed areas will require removal and reconstruction according to the current COM ROW Ordinance.

Upon acceptance of the roadway for maintenance by the COM, a two (2) year bond for repairs to the roadway, storm drain, and utilities will be required from the contractor/developer. As noted on the new Land Disturbance Permit Applications, all Land Disturbance Permits shall expire at the end of one year. The Permit can be renewed at no additional cost by calling the COM Engineering Department and making a formal request.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 208-7457.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Vogtner, PE
City Engineer

Cc:  John Bell
     Janic Terry
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