

The Citizen

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Sunday, March 29, 2026

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INFRASTRUCTURE

SMOOTHER STREETS



KEVIN RIVOLI, THE CITIZEN

Lake Avenue, between Swift Street and the city line, will be paved as part of Auburn's 2026 road program.

Auburn's road program to include repaving major street

ROBERT HARDING
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AUBURN — The city's \$2.4 million road program for 2026 includes repaving a major street.

The list of projects, which was revealed at the Auburn City Council meeting on Thursday, is headlined by a stretch of Lake Avenue between Swift Street and the city line. The road work will complement the Lake Avenue bridge rehabilitation project that is scheduled to begin this spring.

Since 2020, the city has used a quadrant-based system for its road program. This year, the focus will be on streets in the northeastern neighborhoods. The list includes Capitol Street, between Cayuga Street and North Seward Avenue; Paul Street, between Lansing and Seymour streets; Seymour Street, between Nelson and North Fulton streets; Standart Avenue, between Murray and Vista streets; and Sumner Street, between Adams and Elm streets.

Lake Avenue is not in the northeast quadrant. Scott McIntyre, assistant civil engineer for the city of Auburn, told the council that Lake Avenue is "an essential route that needs to be fixed."

McIntyre displayed a map of city streets and how they were graded based on a 2025 evaluation. Lake Avenue is among the streets with a failing mark.

The city's engineering department will be completing an updated evaluation this spring, according to McIntyre.

"Roads have been falling apart because of

the last few winters," he said. "We've had severe winters that have affected the roads quite a bit."

The \$2.4 million road project includes \$1.7 million for repaving projects. Depending on how much funding the city receives for transportation infrastructure projects in the 2026-27 state budget, more streets could be paved.

An alternate list shared by McIntyre identifies several streets that could be paved if the state provides enough funding. The streets include: North Fulton Street, between Lansing Street and Standart Avenue; Franklin Street, between Cayuga and Foot streets; North Lewis Street, between Lansing and Seymour streets; North Hunter Avenue, between Charles Street and Hurd Circle; Beach Avenue, between Grant Avenue and Franklin Street; Nelson Street, between Lansing and Seymour streets; Park Avenue, between Nelson and North streets; and North Hoopes Avenue, between Capitol and Franklin streets.

Additional projects that could be part of the road program include patching, sidewalk safety improvements and the repair of the Hoopes Park walking path.

The road program is entirely funded by the state Department of Transportation through various programs. In 2015-16, the city received \$683,733 in state funding for its road program. A decade later, it received more than \$3.5 million.

McIntyre is projecting the city will receive \$3.5 million again this year, but it won't be official until the state budget is

adopted.

"This has been integral in fixing our streets," he said. "It also has made it so we do not ask for bonding at all anymore for the road program."

The city has about \$438,000 left over from the 2025 road program, according to McIntyre. The funds will be used to repave Van Anden Street, between Cross and Washington streets, and the stretch of Lake Avenue between Osborne and Swift streets.

McIntyre also provided an update on state projects in the city, namely the upcoming \$19 million Arterial project. Although the work will begin this year, a bulk of the paving will be completed in 2027.

Auburn Mayor Jimmy Giannettino asked if the state plans to make any temporary fixes to the Arterial, which is another city street with a failing grade and numerous potholes, before the project ramps up next year. McIntyre confirmed there will be temporary patching, but it won't happen until a contractor has been selected this summer.

Once the state budget is adopted, McIntyre plans to return to the council with a road program update. The new state fiscal year begins on April 1, but it's unlikely the budget will be approved before that deadline.

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HOUSING

Auburn launches vacant rental rehabilitation program

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AUBURN — The city is accepting applications for its state-backed vacant rental rehabilitation program.

The city of Auburn received a \$757,000 grant from New York State Homes and Community Renewal to reimburse property owners who fix vacant homes. Auburn City Manager Jenny Haines previously said the city aims to fund the rehabilitation of

at least nine vacant units. Eligible property owners can get up to \$75,000 per apartment.

Thoma Development Consultants has been hired to administer the program.

An information session will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, at Memorial City Hall. The deadline for the first round of applications is 4 p.m. Thursday, April 9.

Applications can be emailed to kate@

thomadevelopment.com or mailed to Thoma Development Consultants, 34 Tompkins St., Cortland, NY 13045. Applicants may also submit their documents in person at the city's Office of Planning and Economic Development on the second floor of Memorial City Hall.

The applications will be reviewed and scored to determine who will be awarded funding. If there are leftover funds, the city will have a second application period.

More information about the program can be found on the city's website, auburnny.gov.

Auburn is one of 11 local governments and nonprofits that were awarded funding through the state vacant rental program.

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