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(Above)The IMAP page, which shows active and upcoming permitted projects around Harrisonburg.

Public Works builds a 'more connected community' with IMAP creation

HARRISONBURG, Va. – A new tool from Harrisonburg Public Works is now available to make public right-of-way activities information more accessible to all in The Friendly City – making community members, business owners and visitors more aware of permitted activities taking place around them and giving them an avenue to get their questions answered.

The IMAP, or Infrastructure Maintenance and Activity Portal, is an interactive tool that lets users look up Public Works-approved Public Access Permits taking place on or within City property or public right-of-way. These types of activities may include work from utility companies on gas or telecommunications lines, for instance, in addition to some City department efforts.

Using the free online tool, community members will be able to see what is currently happening or scheduled to take place in the near future and look up available details about activities such as when work is planned and who the contact person or organization is for an activity.

Harrisonburg City staff hopes the tool will get more information out to the community about work being done by the City or other organizations along streets and rights-of-way.

"We know there is a need to get more information out to our community about work that might impact their property or business so they can plan ahead for those impacts," Harrisonburg Public Works Support Services Manager Harsit Patel said. "Likewise, it's very common for someone in our community to see activities happening and want to learn more – especially if the work is happening near their home or business – and we want them to be able to get the information they need as quickly as possible. The IMAP allows us to create a more connected community by presenting relevant information more quicky and efficiently to anyone wishing to access it 24/7 online."

IMAP features include:
- Permit Number
- Address in which the work is to take place
- Timeframe in which work is expected to take place (permits are valid for a six-month window)
- Status of the activity
- Permit applicant and their contact number
- Brief description of the activity

The City plans to continue enhancing the IMAP with the addition of City-approved special event road closures – such as for street festivals – and Public Works-planned transportation projects. Additionally, some urgent activities or emergency work may move forward before the IMAP can be updated, depending on the urgency of the situation. The IMAP is regularly updated once a week. The IMAP also will list completed or expired activities for anyone who wishes to search past efforts.

The IMAP will be promoted through local media, flyers and digital promotion through City E-newsletters and social media in hopes of getting the resource in front of as many people as possible to spread awareness.

For more information about the IMAP, visit www.harrisonburgva.gov/imap. For questions, contact Brittany.Clem-Hott@harrisonburgva.gov.

*The **City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,700 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is available online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.*

You can also follow **Harrisonburg Public Works** on Facebook.