Whose responsibility?

August 3, 1974

Q: When an excavation, or cut, is made in a city street or a state highway running through the city, whose responsibility is it to replace the paving that was removed?

D. E. M.

Action Line Answer

City code requires that all trenches or other excavations made in any street, alley or other public way, shall be back-filled and graded with the backfilling procedures and specifications on file in the office of the city engineer.

According to engineering aide Don Brumbaugh, who is in charge of street work, the job consists of three basic steps:

1. The removal of the old pavement.
2. Back-filling the excavation with new pavement.
3. Compacting the new pavement to ensure a smooth, durable surface.

The responsibility for these activities falls on the Department of Transportation. Problems may arise if the work is not done properly, leading to future maintenance issues. City engineers work closely with the Department to ensure that all procedures are followed correctly, minimizing any potential issues for the future.