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headline:

A Tale of Two Cities

**City's Largest Paving Effort Ever
Is Also Good Neighbor Story**

body copy:

It's like a "good neighbor" policy, and if it's not cast in stone, it's cast in street paving materials like asphalt and concrete that are just about as permanent.

That's the effect of a cooperative agreement between the cities of National City and Chula Vista as part of National City's \$8 million street resurfacing program which got underway in June. For National City, it's the biggest street overhaul ever and, to help accomplish it, the city struck a cooperative agreement with next-door neighbor, Chula Vista, which has allowed the project to advance quickly and economically. Chula Vista, which faced staff cutbacks due to budget constraints, made some of its repair staff available to National City, keeping them employed while allowing the National City work to be accomplished at competitive rates with experienced road crews.

"There seems to be a special relationship between Chula Vista and National City," explained Carlos Melendez, a senior construction inspector, as he broke briefly from overseeing a road crew and a small fleet of heavy equipment near 18th and Highland. "Chula Vista was more than happy to help National City get this resurfacing work done, and I really enjoy working with people here in National City."

City Engineer Maryam Babaki, P.E., couldn't be happier with the arrangement which is proceeding quickly toward completion in November, despite being fully eight times as large as National City's usual annual budget for street repair. The program came about partly to lower the costs of future annual repairs when an assessment determined that many city streets were at a stage where simple resurfacing could significantly lengthen their useful lives . . .

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