

COUNCILMEMBER SEAN ELO-RIVERA
NINTH COUNCIL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 2, 2021
TO: Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer
FROM: Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera
SUBJECT: District 9 Capital Improvement Program Priorities for Fiscal Years 2023 through 2027

Our office appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the prioritization of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects for FY2023-2027. The Capital Improvement Program are a series of large and long-term investments the City of San Diego makes to improve the quality of life and safety for everyone throughout our city. Our priorities today will create a future where cyclists feel safe and protected when traveling, families and youth feel safe to wait for public transportation at their neighborhood bus stop, and neighbors have spaces to gather in community.

This memo highlights a series of CIP priorities that would simultaneously increase safety in our communities, align with the Mayor's proposed Climate Action Plan goals and be an important step toward achieving environmental justice, especially as it relates to investing in the resiliency of underserved neighborhoods. We must continue to prioritize infrastructure and transportation equity if we want to truly achieve a world-class city for all.

The following are recommendations for CIP Project priorities for Council District 9:

Safety: Invest in a More Comprehensive Vision of Safety and Justice for All

Our duty as a City is first and foremost to protect the welfare, safety, and health of the public. Everyone deserves to feel safe. While firefighters, lifeguards, and police play a critical role in providing public safety, there are additional measures that ensure a full sense of public safety. Traffic and pedestrian safety are equally important to ensuring all communities feel and are safe.

Transportation & Mobility

- ***El Cajon Permanent & Extended Rapid Transit Lanes:*** The El Cajon Boulevard Rapid Bus Lane has been successful in decreasing commute times for MTS riders, slowing vehicles on a historically deadly corridor, and has not significantly impacted traffic flow. This project should be made permanent with red paint and extended to San Diego State University.
- ***El Cajon Protected Bike Lanes:*** As part of the Complete Boulevard Planning Study, bicycle tracks are a component of the long-term vision for the Boulevard corridor. These protected bike lanes will ensure safe travel within the public right-of-way for all, while also connecting our neighborhoods. This project is recommended in the planning study and aligns with the City's goal for Complete Streets.
- ***Chollas Creek Multi-Use Path:*** The Chollas Creek Multi-Use Path would connect Chollas Creek to the upcoming Bayshore Bikeway SANDAG project. Completing the Chollas Creek project and investing in the other planned projects along Chollas Creek will provide access to downtown and San Diego Bay for communities in Districts 4, 8 and 9, and provide active transportation improvements to communities long lacking investments such as these.
- ***Mt. Hope to City Heights Trail:*** It is time consuming and dangerous residents of Southwest City Heights area to get to Downtown, Barrio Logan, Golden Hill, Southeast, South Bay, and other urban communities while biking or walking. Similarly, Mt. Hope is isolated from the neighborhoods that sit directly to its North. The SR-94 reduces multi-modal community mobility by acting as a physical barrier. CalTrans has longer term plans for a bike path from Federal/Home to Market St. In the short term, implementing a formal trail (with adequate infrastructure) along the existing canyon would offer an opportunity to connect these communities.

Lighting

- ***Solar Street Lights:*** The lack of streetlights is a long-standing safety and quality of life issue for many of our community members. It is unacceptable for San Diego to continue to ask residents of underinvested communities to continue to endure long stretches before a light is repaired. Solar-powered light towers, frequently used on construction sites, are semi-temporary options to provide lighting until permanent solutions are provided. In order to provide a solution that will address the lack of lighting, I propose exploring the feasibility of purchasing light towers for communities of concern.
- ***Lighting on National Ave:*** Residents are requesting additional lighting in this area, on and around National Ave between 33rd and 35th streets. They fear for

their safety due to insufficient lighting on National Ave as this is a major street. This project would reduce potential hazards to the public, property, and environment.

- **Lighting on Rigel:** An increase in illegal activity is a concern for residents in the Southcrest neighborhood and are requesting additional lighting. This project would reduce potential hazards to the public, property, and environment.
- **Lighting at Bus Stops:** Residents deserve to feel safe to take public transportation in the evening and early morning. We must ensure bus stops are well lit with working streetlights, for transit riders and pedestrians alike, at every bus stop in the City.

Fire Station Improvements

- **Fire Station #19 Expansion:** In order to meet the community's needs, an expansion/renovation of Fire Station #19 in Mountain View is needed. This station is a historical Black fire station that has been neglected and is in need of improvements to address community and Planning Groups concerns. Needed improvements include painting, building repairs, roofing, preservation fund, and historical resources.

Invest in Environmental Justice and Climate Resiliency

We want to call special attention to projects that will address the needs of historically underfunded neighborhoods and that would have a deep impact in the quality of life in our district. Since taking office residents have voiced the need for additional parks, park improvements, sidewalks, fire station upgrades, and repairs to our stormwater infrastructure. Many of these investments, especially in underinvested in and disinvested in communities, aligns with the City's Climate Action Plan and Climate Resilient SD Plan.

Increase Green Space, Expand Parks & Recreational Opportunity

- **Chollas Triangle Park:** The park will be developed on a triangular parcel surrounded by Chollas Parkway, 54th Street, and University Avenue. The project will vacate Chollas Parkway between University Ave and 54th Street to allow for development of the park. Park amenities are being determined through the community input process and may include active and passive uses such as children's play areas, walking paths, flexible turf areas, a community event space, and picnic areas.
- **Castana Street Acquisition for Park:** This project has been in the Chollas Valley Community Plan for over a decade. The three affected departments - Real Estate Assets, Public Utilities, and Parks and Rec - have been in conversation for some

time to assign a property value and determine a plan for acquiring the PUD ratepayer-purchased property and create a pocket park and control flooding.

- ***Chollas Creek Regional Park Masterplan Phase I:*** The Chollas Creek Coalition is proposing \$250,000 to quick-start the Chollas Creek Regional Park Equity Analysis per the PMP and the masterplan
- ***Mt Hope Recreational Center:*** The Mt. Hope Community is isolated from many park and recreational activities due to the 94 freeway to the North, 15 to the West, and the Mt Hope Cemetery to the South. Additionally, longstanding and worsening cross-neighborhood tension has left community members fearful to travel to other areas. Mt. Hope needs a recreational center to serve the community.

Stormwater

- ***Beta Street Alley Green Street/Flood Control:*** Beta St and S37th St Drainage Study and Concept Design is underway to evaluate the subwatershed holistically to determine the appropriate drainage improvements to address the localized flooding on Beta Street Alley and S37th Street. The drainage study encompasses approximately 60 acres upstream of Beta St Alley. The scope of the study is to evaluate the existing system capacity, assess adequacy of existing drainage structures and propose new design alternatives accordingly. The drainage study will result in a concept design to upsize and realign the existing storm drainpipes, install new inlets to capture run off and possibly relocate 2 outfalls.
- ***Chollas Lake stormwater repair:*** An evaluation of Chollas Lake identified stormwater drainage issues at 10 locations throughout the area. These 10 locations are in need of maintenance and repairs.
- ***Aldine Drive Storm Water Drainage & Roadway:*** Aldine Drive is subject to significant flooding events during the rainy season and subsequent deterioration of the roadway. Requesting for an analysis of the construction of storm drain infrastructure for this highly-trafficked corridor and for a comprehensive road repair.
- ***College West Improv 2 (S):*** Move the timeline forward for the construction of 7391 LF (1.4 miles) of 6-, 8-, 10-, and 12-inch sewer mains to replace existing sewer mains. Construction of 2,976 LF (0.56 miles) of new 8-, and 12-in sewer mains. Abandonment of 2,292 LF (0.43 miles) of existing sewer mains. Includes the construction of curb ramps and street resurfacing.
- ***College West Improv 2 (W):*** Move the timeline forward for the construction of 5863 linear feet (LF) (1.11 miles) of 8-inch water mains to replace existing water mains. Abandonment of 389 LF (0.07 miles) of existing water mains. Water improvements also include the replacement of all associated water services, fire

hydrants, valves, water meters and other appurtenances. Includes the construction of curb ramps and street resurfacing.

- **Green Infrastructure Project next to Harriet Tubman JUP:** This green infrastructure project would serve as both traffic calming and water recapture for the areas next to Harriet Tubman JUP. This includes bulbouts at the corner of 68th and Saranac.
- **Sidewalk Installations:** The following projects are identified on the Transportation and Storm Water Unfunded Needs List:
 - Broadway — 40th St to 41st St: This project proposes to install approximately 275 LF of new PCC sidewalk and curb & gutter on the south side of Broadway between 40th St to 41st St., as well as install two (2) new driveways.
 - Toyne St — F St to Hilltop Dr (both sides): This project proposes to install approximately 440 LF of new PCC sidewalk and curb & gutter on both sides of Toyne St from F St to Hilltop Dr.
 - Delta St — 43rd St to Delta Park Ln (north side): This project proposes to install approximately 110 LF of new PCC sidewalk on the north side of Delta St from 43rd Street/North Highland Avenue to Delta Park Lane.

For any questions, please contact Ben Mendoza, Council Representative, Ninth Council District, at bmendoza@sandiego.gov.

CC:

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