




**COUNCILMEMBER
STEPHEN WHITBURN
THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: September 27, 2023
TO: Charles Modica, Independent Budget Analyst
FROM: Councilmember Stephen Whitburn 
SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Priorities

My top budget priorities are to reduce homelessness and increase housing affordability. I thank the hundreds of District 3 residents and organizations who have engaged with our office on their community priorities. Based on those conversations, the top three priorities include:

1. Homelessness Solutions and Affordable Housing
2. Clean and Safe Neighborhoods
3. Streets, Sidewalks, and Other Infrastructure

As we begin the Fiscal Year 2025 budget process, the District 3 budget request remains focused on these top priorities, and I respectfully request the following investments to be included:

Homelessness Solutions and Affordable Housing

Addressing homelessness requires significant investments in both short-term and long-term goals and they must both be funded.

Safe Sleeping: \$11 M

I request \$11 million for the Safe Sleeping Program (also known as Safe Camping), including both the first site at 20th Street and B Street, as well as the O Lot set to open this year. Safe sleeping sites provide a safe place for people to stay in new tents with cots. The sites give people access to restrooms, showers, laundry, meals, healthcare, and connections to supportive services and housing options. The City of San Diego's first Safe Sleeping Site has been successful and demonstrated that this concept fills a service gap for many people who are unsheltered.

Emergency Bridge Shelter

Emergency Bridge Shelters provide efficient and effective shelter and services for larger groups of people experiencing homelessness. Given the size of the former Naval Training Center H Barracks, I would ask that the budget include funding for the possibility of having two large sprung structures with staff and wrap-around services.

Safe Parking: \$1.2 M

The Safe Parking Program should be expanded into every district of San Diego. The program provides safety, security, and support for San Diegans living out of their vehicles, many of whom are experiencing homelessness for the first time. According to Jewish Family Services the non-profit has verified that more than one-third of clients moved into more stable housing. I am requesting that \$1.2 million dollars in the budget be allocated for this program to provide safe parking in more neighborhoods across all San Diego Council Districts.

Harm Reduction and Shelters with Behavioral Health Services

Solutions for people experiencing homelessness with mental health and substance use disorder continues to be one of the most pressing needs in San Diego. We should build on programs like Community HARM Reduction shelter, the Rosecrans Shelter, and programs like the collaboration with NAMI at the Old Downtown San Diego Library Site. Additional partnerships with the County of San Diego and other community organizations who can provide health and behavioral healthcare resources will help the city to reach its goal of decreasing unsheltered homelessness by 50 percent. It will also help address chronic homelessness, one of the most challenging types of homelessness to solve.

LGBTQ Non-Congregate Shelter with Services: \$2,035,000

Of the youth currently experiencing homelessness, 40% identify as part of the LGBTQ community. Allocate \$2,035,000 to continue the LGBTQ-affirming shelter beds and wrap-around services through the San Diego Housing Commission.

Senior Shelters and Education for Service Providers

The City must work with and find service providers that can provide additional supportive services for mature adults during shelter stays. We must dedicate space for durable medical equipment, provide ergonomic and age-appropriate beds (i.e., not top bunks), and institute policies and programs to address the health, safety, and quality of life of older adults. Establishing and funding partnerships with hospitals and care providers to support onsite non-medical caregiving, recuperative, and/or hospice care programs San Diego must improve its support, outreach, and education to its aging community.

Permanent Supportive Housing

The City must make significant investments in permanent solutions, including housing creation, subsidies, supportive housing, low-income housing, and rapid re-housing to meet the City's needs. Permanent housing must focus on both individuals and families and provide them with consistency, flexibility, and extended duration wraparound services.

Preservation of Affordable Housing: \$3.3 M

In May 2020, the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) published "Preserving Affordable Housing in the City of San Diego," which analyzed the City of San Diego's housing preservation needs. Trend analysis from SDHC's 2020 Preservation Study found that San Diego is projected to lose 682 units per year between 2020 and 2040; 210 deed-restricted affordable housing units, and 472 naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH) units. This equates to \$86 million in local gap financing per year needed to attract the state and federal affordable housing finance programs to acquire and rehabilitate the units (total development cost of \$400 million annually). Without intervention, it is estimated that 35 percent of all new production will simply replace units whose affordability status was lost, severely limiting gains made by new production. The report's recommendations included the creation of an Interagency Preservation Working Group, which consisted of entities

responsible for the production and preservation of affordable housing. \$300,000 will fund a consultant to structure a preservation fund, market the fund for preservation partnerships, and fund management. \$3 million will provide seed funding for a 1:1 matching budget request to the State.

Housing Instability Prevention Program (HIPP)

This fund was created in FY23 and helps pay rent and other housing-related expenses for families and individuals with low income and unstable housing situations. Almost 70 percent of those receiving assistance through HIPP are seniors at least 55 years old. The City should look to allocate additional funding to support more hard-working San Diego families and seniors through additional staffing and subsidy adjustments to account for rent increases.

Eviction Prevention Program (EPP): \$4.5 M

The EPP helps renters with low income in the City of San Diego who are facing eviction for not paying their rent due to the financial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. EPP is operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego through a contract with the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC). Since December 2021, the EPP has provided critical outreach, education and legal services to tenants in order to prevent evictions and homelessness. Funding would provide support for direct legal assistance, outreach and education and housing stability financial assistance. I request \$4.5 million to be allocated to the EPP.

Co-Locating Affordable Housing at Public Facilities

The City should prioritize making greater investments to help increase the supply of our affordable housing stock. Opportunities like co-locating or adding affordable housing projects above existing and newly renovated public facilities, such as libraries, can achieve maximum efficiency of land-use. Co-locating affordable housing with public facilities helps leverage additional funds for projects which contribute to the creation and expansion of affordable multi-use neighborhoods.

Old Central Library: \$5 M

Funding will support predevelopment and project design for redevelopment of the former Central Library (820 E Street) into an innovative, high-density housing development serving persons experiencing or previously experiencing homelessness, low-income and middle-income residents. Site to

include affordable housing, on-site system navigation, and shelter services and placement.

Family Reunification Program: \$750,000

The Downtown San Diego Partnership administers this program which is once again achieving impressive results to solve homelessness, helping 420 people in 2022 alone. I would like to see an increase in the budget from \$500,000 to \$750,000 to help connect more people experiencing homelessness in San Diego with family. One of the fastest growing groups of people facing homelessness is seniors. In many cases this program helps people move closer to family in locations where they not only get better care and support, but their social security check can go a lot further. This offers the opportunity for a higher quality of life for many seniors.

San Diego Unified School District Housing Development Fund

In 2023 the City of San Diego began discussions with the San Diego Unified School District to collaborate on developing shelter and or housing for families with children in the SDUSD who are experiencing homelessness. SDUSD owns at least two sites which could support homeless services including emergency shelter, safe parking, or safe camping. Early conversations indicate SDUSD may need some funding to move forward with a project that would benefit families and children facing homelessness in San Diego.

Skilled Nursing Care Facility

Develop a partnership with the County to address a gap in service for people who are experiencing homelessness are discharged from the hospital and continue to need care.

Clean and Safe Neighborhoods

Towing Prevention Program Fund: \$250,000

Allocate \$250,000 to establish a program and fund to assist qualified individuals to apply for financial assistance with the payment of car registration, citations, or smog fees to avoid disproportionate tows. The goal is to reduce car impounds and lien sales and therefore fees to the city for towing program.

Investments for Police Response Times

District Three residents have the reasonable expectation that when they call the SDPD they will receive a response within minutes and not hours. I have been made aware of a few situations within Council District 3 where the SDPD took substantially longer to respond than was expected. I have also heard from several residents that response times for non-emergency calls continue to lag and that sometimes the line goes unanswered. We must work together to ensure that our residents' expectations are met in their time of need.

Enhanced Policing in High Crime Corridors

Increased funding for dedicated walking SDPD patrols in high call-volume corridors, including 5th Avenue, C Street, Imperial Avenue and J Street and increased resources to expand the narcotics division.

Clean SD

Increase funding for the environmental services department and increase programs to help with graffiti abatement, litter removal, brush and weed abatement, code compliance, the addition of public trash receptacles, increasing the number of curbside community clean-ups, and continuing funding for Clean SD services such as waste and litter removal and sidewalk sanitation.

Code Compliance

San Diego's Code Compliance Department protects the public's health, safety, welfare, and property value by enforcing the City, State, and Federal land use, zoning, neighborhood ordinances, and public nuisance concerns. The Code Compliance Department should receive the funding needed to be fully staffed and include proper enforcement of the new short-term vacation rental ordinance. The use and enjoyment of all San Diego neighborhoods are affected by violations and violators should be held accountable to fix the problems.

Increase Brush and Weed Abatement

The City canyon brush management backlog represents an immediate danger to our neighborhoods. San Diego has a history of wildfires; it is important that we provide adequate resources needed to take preventative approaches in the following areas throughout the year: regional parks, open space parks and canyon lands.

Natural Resource Management Plans

Most of the City's Natural Resource Management Plans have not been updated in the past decade. Updating these plans will better facilitate the application

Arts and Culture

Creativity and the arts play an important role in creating jobs, educational opportunities and help enhance San Diego's neighborhoods. Our region's ability to attract and retain our workforce and tourists to our beautiful city will be increased through our vital arts and culture funding.

The City has been making progress toward its Penny for the Arts goal set by the City Council in 2012 aimed to ultimately dedicate 9.52 percent of the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) to arts and culture programs. **For FY25, we should fund the Commission for Arts and Culture to at least 6.5 percent of the current TOT to continue the City's commitment and move toward the Penny for the Arts goal by FY26.**

Global Sports Event Fund: \$2 M

Sports events drive tourism and economic development. The City should invest \$2 million in TOT funding dedicated to the Global Sports Event Fund, with 50 percent allocated toward new global sports events, and 50 percent allocated toward annual global sports events.

LGBTQ Community Fund Pilot Program

This pilot program will fund LGBTQ services and programs in the City of San Diego, specifically serving BIPOC, youth, and transgender and nonbinary communities.

Fully Fund the Climate Action Plan (CAP)

In June 2022, this Council updated the City's Climate Action Plan which is critical to addressing our climate emergency. Our update was a significant update from the original CAP plan. It continued setting goals, measurements, and actions of the current CAP while stating a goal to achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2035.

Due to the urgency of the climate crisis and the fact that the City is behind in reducing emissions as mitigation for continued project development, the City must double down on its efforts. The City should fund the Implementation

Plan, detail cost estimates, and specify funding and financing sources, including local, state, federal, non-governmental, and private sector opportunities.

Mobility Master Plan

Not only do public transportation and bike infrastructure help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but they also contribute to a higher quality of life by bringing communities together, reducing traffic, and increasing healthy physical activity. The City must provide more complete bus stops with shade and protected bike lanes that intersect with public transportation to encourage more San Diegans to be less car dependent.

Pedestrian Master Plan

The City should update the Pedestrian Master Plan to include planning for future slow streets and promenades. The City should also fund amenities for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users along major corridors. These amenities should include strategically located and secure bike parking, accessible public restrooms, street trees, and shaded places to sit, rest, and build community.

Bicycle Master Plan

The City's Bicycle Master Plan has not been updated since 2013 when the safest, Class IV classification of bikeways was not used. The City should fund and complete an updated bicycle master plan to put San Diego on the right track toward its CAP mobility goals.

ADA Funding

The City has approximately \$45 million of unfunded ADA Transition Plan projects. These projects seek to address barriers to access for people with disabilities at existing City facilities such as libraries, recreation centers, playgrounds, museums, and beach and bay comfort stations. Additionally, the City has approximately \$35 million of identified and unfunded ADA projects resulting from formal ADA complaints made by citizens. These projects are primarily located in the public right-of-way and include missing curb ramps, sidewalks, and missing audible pedestrian signals at key roadway crossings. This ADA funding should be allocated to address the highest priority projects.

Tree Planting and Maintenance

Allocate funding to increase tree planting, pruning, and maintenance programs that safeguard and increase our urban forest canopy, as well as appropriate staff. In coordination with the community, ensure that by 2035 the tree canopy is 35% of the total area in census tracts with very low or low access to opportunity, as identified in the San Diego Climate Equity Index. Green space and the urban tree canopy bring environmental health benefits, making our neighborhoods less vulnerable to climate and health risks by lowering local temperatures, improving air quality, and mitigating flooding.

Parks and Recreation

The City of San Diego Park system provides healthy, sustainable, and enriching environments for all its residents and tourists. Funding for facility improvements at Balboa Park, neighborhood parks, and recreation centers are critical to improving the quality of life of our communities. With the increased focus on outdoor activities and social distancing, it is more important than ever that we maintain adequate funding for the park system.

I am requesting funds for these park improvements:

- Irrigation Upgrades for the Golden Hill Community Garden
- Refinish metal benches, light poles, and bridge railings in Trolley Barn Park
- Continued funding for Grape Street Dog Park Improvements
- Continued funding for the Dog Park at North Park Community Park
- HVAC upgrades/replacements for the House of Charm Building/Mingei International Museum and the Timken Museum of Art.
- Add Off-Leash Dog Park area to Pioneer Park
- Finish landscaping around Comfort station at the Sixth Avenue playground in Balboa Park
- Improve/upgrade playground equipment at the Sixth Avenue playground in Balboa Park
- Improve/upgrade playground equipment at Pioneer Park
- Enhance the North Park Dog Park by replacing the existing dirt surface with a more dog-friendly and sustainable alternative.
- Signage at the University Heights Dog Park

- Signage at the Alice Birney Elementary School about the University Heights Dog Park
- Funding for a feasibility study for a permanent stage in Trolley Barn Park

Balboa Park Security

Balboa Park is known as our city's crown jewel, and it is home to many historical buildings and artifacts that have been threatened by recent acts of vandalism and arson. To protect the current and future investments made by the City and our community partners, I request additional funding be provided to the Parks and Recreation Department for security within Balboa Park. Funding should be allocated for two 24/7 security guards at the West Mesa/playground portion of the park and to add a dedicated Ranger Unit.

Balboa Park Cultural Plaza: \$4 M

The City should allocate \$4 million to develop and construct the Cultural Plaza to deliver on a long-promised Master Plan element between WorldBeat and the Centro Cultural de la Raza. The Cultural Plaza would provide a space for mission-aligned community gatherings and events in the Balboa Park Cultural District for communities of color, arts and cultural organizations, and community groups throughout the city and region.

Restroom Maintenance

Allocate additional funding for enhanced cleaning and maintenance of the City's public restrooms, as well as repairs due to vandalism and other crimes.

Parkade and City Concourse Employee Safety and Security

City employees have experienced and reported very serious safety concerns in these areas. While some progress has been made, the City needs to significantly expand and extend security measures in these areas.

Small Business Enhancement Program

With the large number of applicable small businesses, the program needs additional funding from the proposed FY 2025 budget.

San Diego Public Library

The San Diego Library system consists of the Central Library, 35 branch libraries, and provides online tutoring to support families with distance learning, virtual STEAM, college admission test preparation courses, adult literacy programs, free internet at outdoor computer labs, contactless pick-up services, as well as the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma free through Career Online High School.

University Heights and North Park Library Upgrades

I am requesting the funds needed to design upgraded facilities at both the University Heights and North Park library facilities in the FY25 budget. The City should begin exploring how affordable housing can be added to public facilities like our libraries including the University Heights and North Park branches.

Increase the Library Materials Budget: \$250,000

Even with recent additions, the Library's materials budget is still lagging. The San Diego Library's collection is too small to meet the community's interests, particularly for materials in multiple languages. The City must add additional materials funding to maintain the digital databases, online tutoring programs, and eBooks needed to build the capacity for the future.

Library's Maintenance Budget: \$500,000

With over \$50 million in deferred maintenance needs at San Diego Libraries, many locations are in poor condition, including University Heights. We must meet the ever-growing list of basic deferred maintenance needs.

Enhancing Workforce Recruitment, Retention and Labor Standards

The City of San Diego must remain competitive in the recruitment, retention and hiring of city employees. The City should also enhance the administration and enforcement of labor standards. I respectfully request the following added to our FY25 budget.

Add 4 FTE into the Lifeguard Division

Addition of two Lifeguards III's on-duty overnight who work out of the Boating Safety Unit 7 nights per week, in order to improve response times and safety during night operations.

Lifeguard Division Vessel Replacement Fund: \$400,000

Establishing a dedicated fund for vessel replacements promotes safety, efficiency, and long-term fiscal responsibility. It will allow Lifeguards to take advantage of cost-effective purchasing, prevent costly disruptions, and ensure compliance with evolving regulations.

Police Department Recruitment and Retention

With the City facing a rise in crime and response times, it is imperative that we invest in public safety personnel and facilities. With numerous officers leaving the department in recent years and many vacancies to fill, the City should also explore ways to recruit and retain officers via financial incentives, such as a take home vehicle program. Take home vehicles increase department readiness, have shown to decrease maintenance expenses, and increase officer morale.

Police Department Facilities Improvements

Police Department facilities need numerous updates and replacement. The Traffic Division has been in temporary trailers long past their lifespan and needs to be relocated.

Add 1 FTE and \$50,000 into the Cadet Program

One additional full-time Police Sergeant will supervise and coordinate the Police Cadet Program full time in the recruiting unit. An additional \$50,000 is needed to cover costs for recruiting, training, and purchasing uniforms and equipment for new cadets. This funding would enable more low-income teens and young adults to participate in the Cadet Program, contributing to greater equity and diversity.

Office of the City Clerk: \$200,000

Add funding for additional cubicles and reorganization in order to create a safer working environment that would promote operational efficiencies between divisions and sections, as well as accommodate all budgeted staff for the Office of the City Clerk.

Add 1 FTE into the Office of the City Clerk

A full-time Deputy Director of Legislative Services will assist the City Clerk in providing technical and procedural support to the City Council and will be

responsible for record-keeping and preservation of City legislative proceedings; developing and implementing policies and procedures that meet governing authority mandates; and coordinating legislative proceedings with the City Council, the Office of the City Attorney, and other City Departments.

Streets, Sidewalks, and Other Infrastructure

Increase Funding for Public Works

The City of San Diego is experiencing an unprecedented backlog of streetlight repairs. Additional electricians are greatly needed to address the streetlight backlog. Funding is also needed to install additional anti-pry plates for streetlights and update the feasibility of updating the backlog of missing and outdated streetlights with new smart/LED lights.

Installation of New Streetlights

List of streetlights for repair or installation. Streetlights priority projects are:

- University Avenue between Grim and 32nd Street
- January Place and Excalibur Way
- India Street from Ash Street to Broadway
- January Place and Sherlock Court
- Broadway from State Street to Park Blvd
- Montrose Way and Excalibur Way
- Pacific Highway from E Street to G street
- Morley Field Drive
- Cedar Street
- Juniper Street and 30th Street
- Imperial and 17th Street

Streets

The City must maintain its focus on resurfacing, slurry sealing, and paving our City streets, throughout all Council Districts. I am requesting funds for street improvements at the following locations:

- 2400-2800 blocks of Russ Blvd
- 1st Avenue between Elm Street and Fir Street
- 32nd Street between Redwood Street and Juniper Street
- Robinson Between 3rd and Front

- Upas Street cul-de-sac at Alabama
- Dale Street from Ash to Date Street
- Third Avenue, from Brooks to Robinson Avenue
- Alameda Drive and Saint James Place
- Harbor Drive
- Ash Street between Harbor and Kettner
- Petra Drive West of Pentucket
- 32nd Street between Redwood Street and Juniper Street
- Robinson Between 3rd and Front
- Herbert Place
- Hawley and 35th north of Adams and W Mountain View
- Crosswalk on State Street near E Street
- Howard Ave. From 30th to 805
- Front between Fir Street and West Cedar Street

Traffic Calming and Safe Streets

Fund traffic calming infrastructure improvements where traffic fatalities, speeding, and crashes have taken place. Utilize AB 43 to lower speed limits across the city's business and residential corridors, making a priority to those that have experienced high levels of traffic fatalities, speeding, crashes, and areas with highly concentrated vulnerable pedestrian groups such as bicyclists, children, seniors, persons with disabilities, users of personal assistive mobility devices, and the unhoused. This includes funding traffic calming measures in the following areas:

- Ash Street
- Bancroft Street
- Fort Stockton Dr & Sunset Blvd
- India Street
- Upas St intersections with 30th St and Grim Ave
- Howard Avenue
- Madison Ave between Maryland Street and North Ave
- Mission Ave and Alabama Street
- Lincoln Ave and Maryland Street
- El Cajon Blvd between Florida Street and Louisiana Street

I am also requesting funds for the following projects:

- West G and California Streets, raised crosswalk with Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons
- Crosswalk on State Street near E Street
- Repainting crosswalks at Cedar, Date, and Fir on India Street
- Repainting crosswalk East of F and G Streets, Island Avenue from 13th-17th Street
- Left turn lane at 1st and Market Street
- Morley Field Drive from Park Blvd. to Upas St. Pedestrian Improvements
- 25th Street, 28th Street, Beech Street, & Fern Street pedestrian improvements
- Washington Street, flex post dedicated bike lanes up and down the hill
- Washington Street median from Vermont Street Bridge to Cleveland Street is dilapidated
- 5th Avenue and Olive or Palm Street stop sign
- State and Columbia stop sign
- Pershing Drive speed limit analysis
- Madison, Meade, and Cleveland Avenue pedestrian improvements
- Harbor Drive pedestrian bridge step repairs
- Build a roundabout at 6th and Juniper
- 4-way stop Myrtle and 32nd
- 4-way stop Beech and 31st
- 4-way stop Ash and 31st
- 4-way stop Fort Stockton at Sierra Vista (or Hickory)
- 4-way stop W Robinson and Albatross
- University Avenue and Robinson Avenue, replace existing pedestrian signals with touchless signals
- Install flashers on pedestrian crosswalk at Myrtle Avenue and Park Boulevard intersection
- Add a pedestrian crosswalk, for City College students' safety at campus main entrance at C Street and 15th Street
- Flashing lights at the crosswalk of 30th, Upas and Ray Street
- Improve the medians along W Washington St. in the Mission Hills and Hillcrest neighborhoods (from First to Front, and Front to Albatross) with landscaping, improved lighting, and pedestrian-friendly features.
- Pedestrian Improvements on Madison Ave, Meade Ave and Cleveland Ave
- Crosswalks on El Cajon Blvd & Mississippi Street

- Repairs on Washington Street median from Vermont Street Bridge to Cleveland Street
- Repainting crosswalk East of F and G St, Island Ave from 13th-17th Street

STAAT Team

The City should continue allocating funding for the Safe and Sustainable Transportation for All Ages and Abilities Team (STAAT).

Fix San Diego's Most Dangerous Intersections

The City should continue its work fixing the most dangerous intersections according to the Systemic Safety Analysis Report Program. These improvements should include effective, low-cost measures like lead pedestrian interval blank-out signs, audible pedestrian signals, countdown timers, and high visibility crosswalks. The City should increase funding and prioritize the most dangerous intersections, including:

- El Cajon Blvd and Park Blvd
- Texas St and El Cajon Blvd
- University Ave and Alabama St

Install Physical Protection for All New Full-build Class IV Bikeways:

Almost all recent Class IV bikeway projects in San Diego have used flexible bollards to separate bikeways from travel lanes. While flexible bollards are useful for demarcating space for bicyclists, they do not have any stopping power to prevent drivers from hitting bicyclists. All new full-build Class IV bikeways should use physical protection such as concrete curbs, jersey barriers, or inflexible bollards to separate bikeways from traffic lanes. This item would require increasing the Transportation Department's budget for each new Class IV bikeway.

- 6th Avenue, from Elm St to Upas St
- Camino del Este, from Rio San Diego Dr to Camino de la Reina
- Rio San Diego Dr from Gill Village Way to Fenton Parkway
- Mission Valley West Improv 1
 - Hotel Circle N, from Hotel Circle Pl to Fashion Valley Rd (recommend Class 1 Multi-use Path)
 - Hotel Circle S, from Hotel Circle Ct to Camino de la Reina
 - Camino de la Reina, from Hotel Circle S to Camino de la Siesta
 - Fashion Valley Rd, from Friars Rd to Hotel Circle N

Downtown C Street Revitalization

C street from 1st Avenue to 10th Avenue. Funding for this transformative initiative would be aimed at rejuvenating a vital corridor of our city. This project holds the potential to enhance the overall quality of life for our residents, stimulate economic growth, and create a more vibrant and sustainable urban environment.

Increase Bikeway Installation and Maintenance

Potholes, poor pavement, and road debris pose a much greater threat to bicyclists than drivers. These hazards can seriously injure or kill bicyclists while posing minimal risks to drivers. Funding for a dedicated team of Transportation Dept employees or contractors to conduct routine bikeway maintenance and respond to requests for service on bikeways would improve safety. The City should also allocate a full-time position to standardize a separated bikeway sweeping schedule.

Unimproved Streets and Alleys

The Council Policy was recently updated to allow the City to pave and maintain currently unimproved streets and alleys. I am requesting funds to improve the following streets and alleys:

- Pascoe Street Alley between 9th and 10th Avenue at Johnson Avenue
- Alley at 2860 Lincoln Avenue
- Guy Street off Keating Street between Linwood and Torrance
- 3134 Nile Street
- 2601-2713 Block of Russ Blvd

Sidewalks

Sidewalk infrastructure, maintenance and repair projects must be funded in a wide variety of locations. A safe network of sidewalks is essential to walkable neighborhoods and the City should set a goal of a minimum of two miles per year. The current backlog of sidewalks and ADA projects need to be addressed and a proactive program to inspect, evaluate, and notify property owners about needed repairs should be implemented.

Maintenance and repair projects must be funded in a wide variety of locations:

- Adams Avenue sidewalk and curb repairs
- J Street, F Street, and Imperial Avenue on the Northside between 14th and 17th Street sidewalk repairs
- Eagle Street sidewalk repairs
- Between Bird Park and the Pershing/Redwood roundabout, Complete the sidewalk for a continuous path.
- Fourth Avenue between Maple Street and Thorn Street, sidewalk repairs.
- Meade Avenue and Arizona Street, repair sidewalks
- Morena Boulevard, north of Balboa, install and maintain sidewalks
- Robinson Street between Eighth Avenue and Tenth Avenue, Increase height of railings (adjoining sidewalks).
- Sutter Street, repair sidewalks.
- The perimeter of Golden Hill Park, provide a proper sidewalk next to the park.
- 4082 St. James Place, sidewalk and curb in need of repair

Stormwater Drains

- F Street between 25th and 22nd Street, install storm drains to mitigate existing hazards on the street during rain.
- Fern Street and 31st Street , install additional storm drains in areas where streets poll water.

New Capital Improvement Project Priorities

North Park Pedestrian Facility Improvements / No CIP #

This project provides for the implementation of pedestrian facility improvements on Morley Field Drive from Park Boulevard to Upas Street, as well as sidewalks, lighting, curb ramps, and crosswalks at locations including, but not limited to, the following: Morley Field and the East Mesa areas of Balboa Park adjacent to North Park including Morley Field Drive from Park Blvd to Florida Street, Morley Field Drive from Florida Street to Upas Street, and Upas Street from Park Blvd. to Florida Street.

Normal Street Promenade / No CIP #

This project provides for the Normal Street Promenade and will create a linear park and improved bike facilities. The promenade will provide community space for events, movies, concerts, art, street fairs, the farmers market, and San Diego Pride. The City should continue to collaborate with SANDAG and the Uptown Community Parking District in moving this project forward.

El Cajon Blvd, Park Blvd and Normal St Intersection / No CIP #

The City should also evaluate and study the feasibility of a traffic reorganization project at the intersection of El Cajon Blvd, Park Blvd, and Normal Street. Residents have called my office regarding traffic calming measures to make this unique intersection safer for residents, drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.

Vermont Street Bridge / No CIP #

The Vermont Street Pedestrian Bridge is a 420 ft. long steel and concrete pedestrian bridge spanning a canyon and connecting two distinct San Diego communities. Currently, the bridge needs a circuit repair and lighting rehabilitation to improve safety and increase visibility.

Robinson Street and SR-163 Intersection / No CIP #

This project provides for improvements to traffic flow with a focus on pedestrian and bicycle safety on Robinson Ave at SR-163. Guardrails and other structural safety enhancements.

Ash Street Traffic Calming / No CIP #

Install traffic calming measures on Ash St between 3rd Ave and 9th Ave. This could involve installing pedestrian “pop-outs” at intersections or repurposing a lane to add bicycle facilities.

California Street Crosswalk / No CIP #

MLK promenade continuation across G St, including a raised crosswalk with Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons.

Continue Existing Capital Improvement Project Priorities

Traffic Signals at 15th & F, 15th & Broadway, and 15th & Market / B22111

This project is currently in the design phase and only partially funded. The scope of work encompasses the installation of a complete new traffic signal at the intersections of 15th Street and Broadway, 15th Street and F Street, and 15th Street and Market Street. These locations include the installation of traffic signal poles, vehicle and pedestrian indications, audible pedestrian signals, ADA curb ramps, pedestrian countdown timers, ADA pedestrian push buttons, and Emergency Vehicle Pre-Emption Equipment (EVPE).

Golf Course Drive Improvements / S15040

This project provides for the design and construction of a paved pedestrian pathway and bike facility along Golf Course Drive. This project will provide needed pedestrian/bike access along Golf Course Drive, connecting the existing Golden Hill Recreation Center to 28th Street.

5th Avenue Promenade / P21001 & L22002.2

The Gaslamp Promenade will reinvent Fifth Avenue into eight distinctive plazas (from L Street to Broadway), fostering community by building a place for social connections, conversation, dining, and entertainment. Eliminating cars from 5th Avenue will create more space for people and empower the Gaslamp Quarter to receive and entertain more people. The absence of vehicular traffic will help promote investment in the neighborhood, thereby improving the pedestrian experience and making the Gaslamp Quarter safer for visitors and residents.

Convention Center Phase III Expansion / S12022

This project provides for the expansion of the existing San Diego Convention Center. The expansion will increase the existing leasable space by approximately 225,000 square feet of exhibit hall, 101,000 square feet of meeting rooms, and 80,000 square feet of ballrooms for an approximate total of 406,000 square feet. The existing facility cannot accommodate some of the larger major events, which leads to the loss of events to other venues. The expansion is expected to increase the attendance and number of events held at the facility and provide significant economic benefits to the region.

Balboa Park Botanical Building Improvements / S20005

This project provides for the design and construction of improvements to the Botanical Building in Balboa Park. Improvements may include: the recreation of the historic arcades on either side of the entrance, the illumination of both the interior and exterior by installing energy-efficient, thematic color lighting, the installation of a state-of-the-art irrigation system, and the repair and enhancement of the building structure and architectural elements (wood lath, cupola, plaster/concrete, and wood and steel beams). The project is needed to bring the building into compliance with current building standards.

East Village Green Phase 1 / S16012

This project provides for the design and construction for Phase 1 of the East Village Green Park. Phase 1 park amenities could include a recreation center, comfort station, below-grade parking, an off-leash dog park, children's play area, outdoor seating, and landscaping. This project will contribute to satisfying population-based park acreage requirements set forth in the City's General Plan to serve residents in this park-deficient community.

Olive St Park Acquisition and Development / S10051

This project provides for the acquisition, design, and construction of approximately 0.36 acres of unimproved property contiguous with the south end of the existing Olive Street Park. The project will expand useable park acreage in the Uptown Community. Amenities will include multi-purpose turf areas, children's play area, AIDS Memorial, seating, walkways, landscaping, and security lighting. This project will contribute to satisfying population-based park acreage requirements set forth in the City's General Plan in a community currently deficient in population-based parks per General Plan guidelines.

University Heights Water Tower Seismic Retrofit / S17006

This project will replace the exterior structural elements which include replacing the corroded anchor bolt washers, extending of column footing foundation, removing and replacing existing tie-rods with new tie-rods, and installing new gusset plates and pin connectors, lead coating abatement, and recoating of lower portions of the columns. This project is being driven by the need to repair and retrofit the existing historical University Heights Water

Tower to maintain the current state of structural elements and allow for safer performance during seismic events.

Maple Canyon Storm Drain Upgrade / S20003

The project aims to realign and upgrade approximately 3,000 feet of existing drainage system between the San Diego Airport, a private industrial facility, and Pacific Highway. The existing alignment of the pipes prevents maintenance and repairs from occurring because a large portion of the system flows underneath the private property. The system is significantly undersized to convey the flow and sediment coming from the large, connected tributary Maple Canyon watershed located upstream of the project which historically caused severe flooding in the project area resulting in significant property damage.

Park Boulevard At-Grade Crossing / S15045

This project provides for the extension of Park Boulevard to Harbor Drive and for the widening of Tony Gwynn Way. The project will construct new pavement, curb and gutter, sidewalks, pedestrian ramps, railroad track, railroad signals and signage, storm drain, and other various infrastructure adjacent to the project. This project will open Park Boulevard to Harbor Drive, as part of the Ballpark Infrastructure Design/Build Agreement which closed the 8th Avenue crossing to Harbor Drive.

University Avenue Mobility / S00915

The major elements of the University Avenue Mobility Project are restriping to provide painted medians and construction of raised medians, left turn pockets and improved lane widths, installation of enhanced pedestrian crosswalks, repainting of existing crosswalks, removal of parallel on-street parking, and re-striping select side streets to provide angled and head-in parking. This project will significantly improve safety and mobility along the corridor for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit, and automobile traffic.

Casa Del Prado Reconstruction / S22007

The Casa del Prado and the adjacent Theatre are historic reconstructions of buildings from the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. They are also home to several youth arts organizations, the Park & Recreation Dance Program, and the San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation and Library. The scope of work

for this project includes hiring a consultant to prepare a Feasibility Study for assessment and evaluation of the current condition of the historic buildings. The outcome determination will be used to develop the final scope of work, schedule, and cost estimate for the design and reconstruction of the buildings.

Air & Space Museum Roof Replacement / B20116

This project provides for the roof replacement of the Air & Space Museum. The Museum is located in the Palisades area of Balboa Park and housed in the former Ford Building. It was originally built for the 1935-36 California Pacific International Exposition and is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my budget priorities for this upcoming fiscal year.

Should you have any further questions, please free to contact Codi Vierra in my office at (619) 236-6633 or cvierra@sandiego.gov.