



City of San Diego
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For Immediate Release

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Comprehensive Strategy Needed to Overcome Infrastructure Crisis

Independent Budget Analyst report says \$898 million estimate outdated, likely much higher

SAN DIEGO, California, June 24, 2013 – This morning the Independent Budget Analyst reported on the status of San Diego infrastructure and important next steps for the City's massive infrastructure backlog totaling at least \$898 million. The report says the City generally has accurate information on the condition of streets and storm drains, but estimates on how much it will cost to fix buildings/facilities will likely be higher because the City's information on the condition of those assets are outdated.

“The backbone of the City has been neglected for too long and now we have a hefty tab to pay,” said Councilman Mark Kersey, Chair of the newly-formed Infrastructure Committee. **“I’ve laid out a plan to rebuild our City’s streets and roads, sidewalks and streetlights, libraries and parks, and it’s gaining traction.”**

In January, Councilman Kersey released an Infrastructure Work Plan that included increasing funding for condition assessments, putting more money toward maintenance, bonding for infrastructure projects, and creating a Five-Year Infrastructure Plan (Multi-Year Capital Plan). Kersey was successful in getting \$11 million included in the city's budget for condition assessments on the city's buildings, water and wastewater infrastructure, park assets, and sidewalks.

“Infrastructure issues impact the public health, safety, and the quality of life for San Diego communities as well as the tourism industry which is an important part of the City's economy,” the IBA report states. “Addressing infrastructure issues is clearly one of the highest priorities for the City.”

The report concludes that important first steps have been taken in addressing infrastructure challenges, beginning with identifying the magnitude of the problem, streamlining the way the City delivers projects, and adoption of a neighborhood input policy, authored by Kersey, which makes permanent the voice of the community in prioritizing infrastructure projects. The report backed a major component of the Infrastructure Work Plan, the development of a Five-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan, which the Committee will begin writing in the fall.

Last week, Council approved a formal process for public input on infrastructure projects, and Councilman Kersey held the first citywide infrastructure workshop to gather feedback from residents about their priorities.

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