



City of San Diego
Councilmember Scott Sherman
Seventh District

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 16, 2015
TO: Councilmember Mark Kersey
FROM: Councilmember Scott Sherman
RE: Infrastructure Committee Priorities for 2015

In response to your memo dated January 5, 2015, I am pleased to submit my Infrastructure Committee Priorities.

EFFICIENCY IN INFRASTRUCTURE:

Standardization of Infrastructure Designs

The Infrastructure Committee should examine the possibility of standardizing the design of common City facilities such as fire stations, lifeguard towers, and playgrounds. By standardizing the core concepts of common facilities, the City will likely reduce the overall costs and time needed for completion of capital projects.

Continue to Improve Our Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) Practices

The City cannot fix an asset if it does not know it has the asset in the first place. This is why it is so important that we continue to improve in this area and catalogue every single asset the City owns so we can adequately forecast when we need to perform preventative maintenance. The incorporation of performance measures and the ongoing condition assessments should also occur.

Streamline Permitting Processes for Undergrounding Utilities

Upon the completion of undergrounding, some communities have had to wait up to six months to have the street lights turned on due to the City permitting process. We should coordinate with the utility companies to determine ways to make the permitting process more efficient.

Develop Performance Measures and Levels of Service

The City must have clear standards and goals prior to investing considerable amounts of money into our infrastructure backlog. Therefore, I am requesting that the Infrastructure Committee prioritize establishing performance measures and levels of service that can be incorporated into the multi-year CIP plan. These performance measures should establish clear benchmarks for priorities such as how often a street should be repaved.

PROJECT PRIORITIES:

Increase Street Repavement Rate

The Infrastructure Committee should support Mayor Faulconer's proposal of repaving 1,000 miles of streets in the next five years by extending the lease revenue bond program.

Storm Water Channel Maintenance

The City has been working for years to get the necessary permits to begin maintenance work on its storm water system. Currently we have several locations throughout the City which pose serious safety and environmental hazards when they flood. The financial cost to the City every time one of these locations fails is immense. For example, Murphy Canyon Channel is currently being addressed after flooding out three times in December. I would like to see Alvarado Creek addressed in the next year as it continues to have a negative impact on businesses in Grantville when it floods.

Municipal Storm Water Permit

The Municipal Storm Water Permit adopted in May 2013 requires the City of San Diego to come into compliance with stringent water quality standards by 2018. In November 2014, Prop 1 was passed by the voters of California. Within this bond are several opportunities for the City of San Diego to apply for grants. The purposes of the bond include reducing pollution, protecting watershed health, and improving water quality. The City of San Diego should commit to applying for these grants in order to help us come into compliance with the Municipal Storm Water Permit.

Condition Assessments

The City will be receiving the first round of several condition assessments in the spring of 2015. The Infrastructure Committee should analyze these assessments to determine if they provide essential and adequate information that can be utilized by the City. Once we ensure that additional information is not required, the completion of the remainder of the assessments should be a priority.

Prioritize Additional Development of Joint-Use Fields

We should work to coordinate with the San Diego Unified School District to leverage Prop S and Prop Z funds for the development of joint-use fields within the City. These funds will provide the initial capital required to complete much needed fields. The ongoing maintenance is then provided by the City. Joint-use fields are a great example of collaboration between governmental agencies and help accomplish the desire of many communities for more parks.

Traffic Signal Optimization

We should work to incorporate traffic signal optimization technology into our streets with the highest volume of traffic and major thoroughfares such as Friars Road in Mission Valley. Signal optimization has been found to improve efficiency by up to 20%. In addition, the State recently recognized this technology as having climate benefits because it reduces the idling of cars.

San Diego River Path

The City Council approved the San Diego River Park Master Plan in 2013. Part of the master plan addressed the completion of a river path. There are large segments of the path that are already completed and others that are underway by private developers and SANDAG. The City should work with the adjacent property owners and the River Park Coalition to move toward connecting the final portions of the path.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

- Examine the fiscal impact of the City's Prevailing Wage Ordinance on infrastructure projects
- Examine the City's total capacity to issue additional lease revenue bonds
- Analyze the frequency, cause, and fiscal impact of change orders on total infrastructure project costs
- Examine staff capacity needs for increased infrastructure spending
- Review of the effectiveness of Council Policy 800-14 "Prioritizing Capital Improvement Program Projects"

cc: Honorable Mayor Kevin Faulconer
Honorable City Councilmembers
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst