




**COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
SIXTH DISTRICT**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 23, 2020

TO: Councilmember Mark Kersey, Chair, Active Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

FROM: Councilmember Chris Cate 

SUBJECT: 2020 Active Transportation & Infrastructure Priority Memo

I appreciate the opportunity to share my 2020 priorities for the Committee on Active Transportation & Infrastructure. I look forward to partnering with my Council colleagues, City staff, and the Mayor's office to resolve San Diego's most pressing infrastructure and transportation issues.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

Investigate the Design Phase Process for Public Works Projects

Several key projects in my District and throughout the City have been stalled, or even cancelled, due to the exorbitant cost of the City's Design Phase or projects. For example, Hickman Field in Kearny Mesa, where the project cost was quoted, funding was allocated, but the entire budget was used up on the Design Phase, before construction of the project even began. This Committee should investigate the City's Design Phase process and establish new guidelines and procedures to ensure the Design Phase does not cost more and take longer than the Construction Phase of any project.

Ensure Accurate Funding Projections for Capital Improvement Projects

Several Park and Recreation and Infrastructure projects have stalled, due to inaccurate funding projections for Capital Improvements Projects. In Mira Mesa, both the Mira Mesa Community Park Phase 2 & 3, and the street reconstruction project on Gold Coast Drive and Parkdale Avenue have halted due to inadequate funding to cover the scope of the work. The Committee should evaluate how funding is forecasted for future infrastructure projects to ensure the city has the necessary funding to proceed.

Smart Cities

With the rapid growth of advancing technology, the City of San Diego should seek new ways to utilize technology platforms to improve efficiency and quality of life for San Diegans. With opportunities to increase efficiency of multimodal transportation, mass transit, automated event parking management, smart street lights and parking meters, and connected smart government vehicles, as well as improve the health of residents through increased connectivity and access to reliable transportation for medical appointments, the City should explore ways to expand the use of smart technology throughout the City and government operations. Many federal grants exist to fund "smart" projects that could help the City with this initiative.

Review Streets Audit Findings and Progress Regarding Quality Control Plan Inclusions

Per the 2016 audit of the City's street repaving process related to standards and accountability of contractors, the City Auditor recommended that a Quality Control Plan be established for contractors to ensure work meets the City's standards. This committee should request an update on the implementation to ensure all street repaving's are completed to the highest standard for residents.

Expand the City's Traffic Signal Optimization Program

As San Diego's population continues grow, so will neighborhoods, traffic congestion, and commuting times. Traversing through key transit corridors in and throughout the City will prove more difficult, especially during peak hours. The City successfully implemented traffic signal optimization on Mira Mesa Boulevard and since then, traffic flow has significantly improved. The Active Transportation & Infrastructure Committee should advocate for the funding of signal optimization for traffic-impacted areas throughout San Diego.

Review and Enhance Public Outreach Practices for Residential Infrastructure Projects

As the City continues to invest in infrastructure projects and improvements, the Active Transportation & Infrastructure Committee should proactively seek to improve and standardize the process wherein the public is kept informed of projects affecting their neighborhoods. While investing in our City's infrastructure is a very good thing, these projects could potentially disrupt the daily lives of San Diegans, and, as such, they should be kept informed about the process and expectations leading up to and throughout construction.

Review the City's Sidewalk Inventory and Repair process

As the City continues its effort to address the backlog of sidewalk repairs throughout the City, and the recent decision to waive fees for residents paying out-of-pocket for sidewalk repairs, the committee should be given monthly updates regarding the number of San Diegans taking advantage of this program. Additionally, the committee should continue to evaluate options that streamline the permitting and inspection process to maximize the dollars being invested by our residents. The committee should also continue to pursue the 10-year funding plan and monitor the ability of work to be completed in-house. Lastly, the committee should begin the process of evaluating the feasibility of conducting another sidewalk inventory study.

Ensure Repairs are Made to the Existing City Administration Building Elevators

As the hub of our local government, thousands of city employees work day-in and day-out of the our City Administration Building. With the need to have a safe and stable workplace, the committee should evaluate options to ensure that the elevators in the building are up to standard year-round.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION:

Prioritize Funding for V-Calm Signs

One of the most frequent requests received from residents throughout San Diego is for traffic calming measures to help address neighborhood speeding issues. Streets that are prone to excessive vehicular speeding pose a significant threat to active transportation participants, such as cyclists and walkers. V-Calm signs are frequently recommended by the City's Traffic Engineering Division as a traffic calming solution. As such, the City should prioritize additional funding to install V-Calm signs at locations identified as candidates for traffic calming.

Prioritize Funding for Enhanced Crosswalks at Schools

Safe crosswalks are key to a neighborhood's safety and walkability. Our office has heard from residents in District 6 asking for enhanced crosswalks at several school intersections. Given that these locations face high foot and vehicular traffic at the busiest times of the day, and risk the safety of our most vulnerable, this Committee should advocate for the prioritization of additional funding toward the installation of these enhanced crosswalks to provide children with a safe route to walk to and from school.

CC:lp

cc: Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer
Honorable Councilmembers