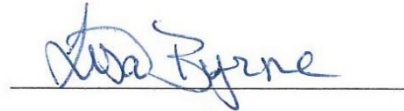


Transportation and Infrastructure Committee provide feedback and forward its approved proposed response to the full City Council.

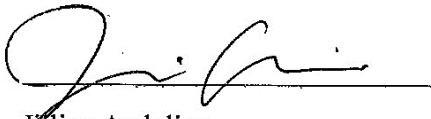
It should be noted that, while this is a joint Mayoral and Council proposed response, the Council may choose to amend or change this response. If the final response that the Council approves is agreeable to the Mayor, then the joint City response will be sent to the Presiding Judge. Otherwise, the Council and Mayor will send separate responses.



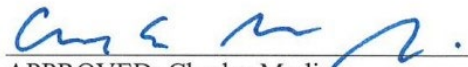
Jordan More
Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst



Lisa Byrne
Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst



Jillian Andolina
Deputy Director



APPROVED: Charles Modica
Independent Budget Analyst

Attachments:

1. Proposed City Response to San Diego County Grand Jury Report Titled “When Will My Street Be Paved? City of San Diego’s Street Paving Challenges”
2. San Diego County Grand Jury Report Titled “When Will My Street Be Paved? City of San Diego’s Street Paving Challenges”

**Proposed City Response to
San Diego County Grand Jury Report Titled
“When Will My Street Be Paved?”
City of San Diego’s Street Paving Challenges”**

Pursuant to California Penal Code section 933(c), the City of San Diego Mayor and City Council provide the following responses to the findings and recommendations which are included in the above referenced Grand Jury Report.

FINDINGS 01 THROUGH 03

Finding 01: Since the 2015–2016 OCI survey, City street maintenance needs were not fully funded each year, which caused further deterioration of the City’s streets.

Response: The Mayor and City Council agree with the Grand Jury’s finding.

The City notes that funding needs are communicated annually including via the City’s budget process, and multi-year needs are included within the annual Five-Year Capital Infrastructure Planning Outlook.

Finding 02: OCI scores have decreased since the previous (2015) street network assessment.

Response: The Mayor and City Council agree with the Grand Jury’s finding.

The City is finalizing an updated pavement condition assessment, which should be complete by the end of the calendar year. It is anticipated that OCI scores will show a decrease from the previous assessment because funded repairs have not kept pace with deterioration.

Finding 03: The data available on the “Streets Repair Projects” Excel spreadsheet is not inclusive of all streets in the City’s network which results in the inability, in certain instances, for San Diegans to conclusively determine ‘When Will My Street Be Paved?’

Response: The Mayor and City Council partially disagree with the Grand Jury’s finding.

The “Streets Repair Projects” Excel spreadsheet only includes information on street projects that have either been planned or completed, but it does not include information on City street segments with no planned projects. For street segments with no planned project, a citizen will not be able to determine when his or her street is anticipated to be addressed, as that information does not exist.

Streets.sandiego.gov is the City’s central repository for street resurfacing information and displays all street segments citywide that have been repaired since July 1, 2013, are currently under repair, or are currently scheduled for repair. It includes the same street project information found in the “Streets Repair Projects” Excel spreadsheet. Only streets funded for construction show a timeline in which the street is anticipated to be resurfaced. Streets.sandiego.gov is an interactive tool that also displays the most recent Overall Condition Index score for all non-private streets.

Additionally, the Transportation Department is in the process of developing a rolling five-year pavement management plan to identify the streets the City intends to

resurface, contingent on receiving adequate and consistent funding. Additional projects included in the five-year plan will be added to the streets.sandiego.gov interactive tool.

RECOMMENDATIONS 23-105 THROUGH 23-111

Recommendation 23-105: Encourage passing a Council Appropriation Ordinance, signed by the Mayor, as part of the yearly budget approval process, that commits a General Fund appropriation in an amount equal to, or greater than, the funds received each year under RRAA. These funds to be transferred to the infrastructure fund to be solely used for street maintenance and repair of the worst streets in San Diego based on their respective 2023-2024 OCI score. The Ordinance would remain in effect, a minimum of four years, or until the average OCI reaches a minimum of 70.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

Street maintenance and repair is a crucial part of the City of San Diego's Transportation Department's work, and the City will continue to dedicate resources to these services, including General Fund resources as part of the annual budget process. However, the City balances multiple funding needs across a wide range of programs as part of its annual budget process, and tying specific amounts of future General Fund dollars to one program limits the ability of the City's decisionmakers to respond to fluctuating revenues and future funding needs.

The City is, however, working to refine the understanding of annual street funding needs. The Transportation Department is currently assessing the condition of the City's street network and anticipates publishing this study along with a comprehensive pavement management plan by the end of this fiscal year (June 2024), if not sooner. The new condition information will aid the Department in determining the appropriate level of funding needed to meet any particular average pavement condition citywide. With this information, the total funding needs will be well understood, and a range of options could be pursued to secure necessary funds to ensure the road network can be maintained. In addition to RMRA funding, options may include, but need not be limited to, tax measures or grants. In summary, when the funding need is known, the City will address potential funding strategies contained within the pavement management plan, while considering other City priorities, rather than requiring mandatory minimum General Fund commitments.

Recommendation 23-106: Encourage passing a Council Appropriation Ordinance, signed by the Mayor, appropriating sufficient funds to conduct an updated Pavement Condition Assessment beginning in FY 2027, and every four years thereafter.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

The Transportation Department requests funding for pavement condition assessment work approximately every four years, per best practices, as part of the City's annual budget process. The request for funding to support pavement condition assessment work will be submitted by the Transportation Department every four years and evaluated along with the City's other critical funding needs (including requests for

public safety, environmental health, economic opportunities, and critical neighborhood services and infrastructure). Although the City agrees this request is a valuable one, codifying this budgetary request as a requirement limits the ability of the City's current and future decisionmakers to appropriately respond to future funding needs.

Recommendation 23-107: Task the Transportation Department to ensuring all streets in the City of San Diego are featured on the website tools and have up-to-date paving information.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

As mentioned in the response to Finding 03, streets.sandiego.gov is the City's central repository for current street resurfacing information and displays all street segments citywide, including up-to-date information for street projects that are funded for construction. The Transportation Department is working to make streets.sandiego.gov more user friendly and to ensure all data is easily accessible. It is anticipated this will be completed by the end of the fiscal year (June 2024), if not sooner.

Recommendation 23-108: Task the Transportation Department with developing a comprehensive rolling five-year plan, which includes a projected maintenance schedule for all streets in the San Diego street network.

Response: The recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

The Transportation Department is in the process of developing a rolling five-year pavement plan to identify the streets the City intends to resurface, contingent on receiving adequate and consistent funding. The Department will be posting this plan on the City's website. Displaying maintenance schedules any further out than five years would be inaccurate due to unforeseen conflicts with other future projects in the right-of-way and funding uncertainty on an annual basis. The plan will be updated on an annual basis to account for these unknowns. It is anticipated this will be completed by the end of the fiscal year (June 2024), if not sooner.

Recommendation 23-109: Task the Transportation Department with reviewing the information that is currently available only through the Excel spreadsheet (sd_paving_dataset_v1) and ensuring its accessibility directly from the City's webpage: streets.sandiego.gov, "Street Repair Projects and Condition Ratings" Interactive Map.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

As noted in the response to Finding 03, streets.sandiego.gov is the City's central repository for current street resurfacing information and displays all street segments citywide. As noted on the webpage where the Excel spreadsheet is made available (data.sandiego.gov/datasets/street-repair-projects), the same street project data is displayed on streets.sandiego.gov, and there is also a link on streets.sandiego.gov back to the webpage containing the Excel spreadsheet.

The 2011/2012 GJ investigated the public outcries and complaints concerning the City of San Diego’s management of its street repair backlog. Their report concluded, “[due to budget constraints] City staff has been forced to consider a minimal sustaining service level for street work. Such a “status quo” option of limited effort will only perpetuate today’s problems. San Diego City streets have been neglected for so many years that both the Mayor and City Council must focus on improving this community asset. A formal commitment to upgrade this asset is in order. This will save the citizens of San Diego money in the long run and change the image of Americas Finest City.” They followed with the recommendation that the Mayor and City Council, “Design and place on the Street Division link a five-year plan for maintenance and capital improvements that is updated weekly.”¹⁰

The City’s response to the recommendation: “The City is currently developing a five-year plan for street resurfacing that will be posted on the Street Division’s website by December 2012. The plan will be updated annually as the funding for each of the five years is confirmed. Since changes to planned resurfacing projects occur infrequently, we believe annual updates are sufficient.”¹¹

The 2022/2023 GJ found that while the City has numerous webpages dedicated to help citizens attempt discovery of the where, when, and how their street will receive maintenance, a comprehensive five-year rolling plan remains elusive.

The closest the GJ could find to the promised five-year rolling plan for street maintenance is found in the City’s *Fiscal Year 2024-2028 Five-Year Financial Outlook*.¹²

METHODOLOGY

The GJ interviewed,

- Various public agencies and community partners.

The GJ reviewed the following applicable documents and webpages:

- California SB 1 – The Road Repair and Accountability Act (RRAA) of 2017.
- City Council Resolutions/Ordinances pertaining to the RRAA reporting requirements.
- California Streets and Highway Code (SHC) § 2034 & § 2037.
- City of San Diego FY 2024 to FY 2028 Capital Budget.
- City of San Diego Proposed FY 2024 Budget.
- City of San Diego Independent Budget Analyst’s (IBA) report on the FY 2024 to FY 2028 Capital Budget.
- Current “Street Repair Projects” Excel spreadsheet.

¹⁰ 2011/2012 San Diego County Grand Jury Report, *San Diego City Street Repair, Funding and Reforms*, April 26, 2012, <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/grandjury/reports/2011-2012/SDCityStreetRepairsReport.pdf>

¹¹ *SD City Street Repairs Report Response*, Office of the Mayor of San Diego, July 2, 2012, https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/grandjury/reports/2011-2012/SDCityStreetRepairsReport_response1.pdf

¹² *Fiscal Year 2024-2028 Five-Year Financial Outlook*, San Diego Finance Department, November 2022 <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/fy-2024-2028-five-year-financial-outlook-and-attachments-general-fund.pdf>

