




**COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTOPHER WARD
THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 23, 2020

TO: Councilmember Mark Kersey

FROM: Councilmember Chris Ward 

SUBJECT: Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Priorities for 2020

I offer the following suggestions as we develop our work plan for Active Transportation & Infrastructure Committee in 2020:

Transportation Policies and Programs

- *Mobility Action Plan Phase II*
 - City staff has been working with a consultant to develop a Mobility Action Plan to express the City's vision for its mobility network and to set actionable goals for this process. Phase I of the Plan outlines broad goals for the City, and Phase II will detail program funding needs and priorities. We would request that Phase II of the Plan come before ATI this year.
- *Vision Zero Strategy*
 - City staff presented an update on its one-year Vision Zero plan in 2017. That plan is now outdated and it is time to create a new long-term strategy to successfully reach the goal of zero traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2025. Prior to drafting a plan, I request that staff bring to the committee a (1) Review of Vision Zero projects that have been initiated and completed, those in progress, those projects planned for the future such as the recently completed SSARP analysis, and corridor level improvements planned for University Avenue in City Heights, (2) Comprehensive crash data for serious injuries and fatalities in the City for no fewer than five years, and (3) A framework of Vision Zero priorities and goals that can subsequently be folded into the City's Mobility Action Plan Phase II.
- *Bus Only Lanes Pilot Program Update*
 - In 2019, the City piloted striped bus only lanes on El Cajon Blvd to explore potential gains in service and speed of bus routes in this corridor. This committee should evaluate the initial data results from the pilot and discuss next steps.

- *Complete Streets Policy*
 - The majority of our City is characterized by auto-centric design which permits motor vehicles to proceed through our communities at the quickest speeds possible. As a result, non-motorist traffic is placed at risk for increased collisions and motorist conflict. This committee should explore adoption of a Complete Streets policy to ensure that all repaving projects result in the simultaneous provision of safety improvements for people who walk and bicycle as well as traffic calming improvements to reduce negative traffic impacts and ensure that all San Diegans, from young to old, can traverse their neighborhoods safely.
- *Bike and Pedestrian Design Standards*
 - City Standards for bike and pedestrian infrastructure are out of date with current industry best practices. As a result, critical bike and ped infrastructure projects have seen numerous delays while working through the City's permitting process. These delays cause added frustration for constituents who wish to see safety improvements in their neighborhoods as soon as possible. This committee should update City Standards in order to formally adopt pedestrian- and bike-friendly NACTO standards while complementing the City's Vision Zero goals.
- *Mobility Equity*
 - This committee should request a presentation on Mobility Equity, specifically to identify communities where transportation cost burden exceeds 20%, a detailed demographic analysis of those communities, and potential projects and/or grants to promote transportation equity.

Infrastructure Policies and Programs

- *Street Preservation Ordinance*
 - The City adopted the Street Preservation Ordinance in 2013, which was meant to minimize damage to City infrastructure and to provide cost recovery mechanisms excavation within the right-of-way. We request an update on this program, including reports on how many excavations are taking place yearly on streets subject to the moratorium.
- *SDG&E Franchise Agreement*
 - The City's Franchise Agreement is expiring this year for the first time in 50 years. This committee should request updates as to the energy related infrastructure and the future needs of this system.
- *Storm Water Maintenance Backlog*
 - While the City discusses the State of the CIP Program in a larger context, of critical importance is the City's storm water systems and maintenance backlog. This committee should seek detailed information regarding the state of the storm water system, including Transportation & Storm Water staff's plans to address the backlog.
- *Creative Crosswalks – Pilot Program Update*
 - Cities across the nation have creatively utilized the public right-of-way for opportunities to express community pride and sense of place, while maintaining safety. Utilizing public space creatively promotes pedestrian

safety, walkability, traffic calming, enhances the street experience, and increases economic activity in our communities. Since my office advocated for the Creative Crosswalk Pilot Program to begin in 2019, only one Creative Crosswalk has been installed thus far. This committee should receive an update on the program including status of FHWA communications, traffic study data, and next steps to make the pilot a permanent class within the City's placemaking process.

- *Promenade Creation Process*
 - In 2018, San Diego committed to developing the first pedestrian-oriented promenade by converting underutilized public right-of-way from streetscape into a pedestrian thoroughfare, bicycle cycle tracks, and public gathering space. This committee should explore expanding this model into a Council Policy that will allow each neighborhood to explore public right-of-way conversions to adapt underutilized space for the public good.
- *Sidewalk Policy Review*
 - In 2019, this committee received informational updates on the status of the City's sidewalk repair program. This committee identified a number of potential improvements to the sidewalk program, including the need to increase budget allocations to Streets division as well as to streamline permitting costs and process. This committee should build on its work from 2019 to prepare and implement a long-term plan to address sidewalk maintenance backlogs, staffing needs, funding sources, and regular condition assessments.

Public Works Contracts and Customer Service

- *Infrastructure Contracts - Customer Service Policy*
 - The City has a \$600 million-dollar Capital Improvements Program that delivers projects to more than 1.4 million residents. As the City works to improve our investments in public infrastructure and addresses our backlog of deferred infrastructure needs, the City needs to account for the impact that multi-year CIP projects can have on individual neighborhoods. Currently, there is no customer service standard for contractors who bid on CIP projects. This committee should explore amending Council Policy to define Customer Service and standards that clearly communicate expectations and accountability between the City, contractors, and the community for every Public Works contract. This will allow the City to formally enforce and hold accountable any contractor who fails to act in a good faith effort working as a guest in our neighborhoods, and encourage them to be responsive to community concerns and needs. Additionally, this committee should explore a Council Policy amendment to ensure that Council offices are formally included in each contractor's performance review to share comments and concerns directly from the community during and concluding each CIP project.
- *Streamline Public Works Processes*
 - Lowest bidder contractors often cost the City in terms of cost overruns, construction timeline overruns, and bad customer service to constituents. This committee should explore opportunities to amend Design-Bid-Build processes in order to change from "lowest bidder" to "best value." A re-orientation toward best value contracts will allow the City flexibility in choosing contractors that deliver construction projects consistently on time, on budget,

and with good customer service to our neighborhoods, ultimately increasing the efficacy of the City's CIP program and allowing us to re-invest savings into additional infrastructure needs.

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

cc:

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