



COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTOPHER WARD

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 12, 2019

TO: Mayor Kevin Faulconer

FROM: Councilmember Chris Ward

SUBJECT: Prioritize Complete Streets with Repaving

With transportation as the largest single generator of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGs) in San Diego, tackling climate change from the street up is an effective strategy that should be our model throughout the city, project by project, and mile by mile, in every community. In order to meet our Climate Action Plan goals, now is the time to prioritize infrastructure improvements that are focused on reducing GHGs and improving access to community-oriented spaces.

Our funding for the next phase of the City's Mobility Action Plan (MAP) as part of the Fiscal Year 2020 budget is a critical starting point for this evolution. The City of San Diego currently lacks a comprehensive plan to efficiently prioritize transportation and related infrastructure improvement projects. The MAP provides an opportunity to develop a much-needed framework to ensure the City is prepared to balance our expected growth with our commitments to protect the environment and ensure safe and accessible communities. Further, it is a tangible step towards implementing Strategy 3 - Bicycling, Walking, Transit and Land Use - of the Climate Action Plan.

City crews delivered on your 2015 promise to repave 1,000 miles of streets in three years - a significant achievement after years of neglect. In your Fiscal Year 2020 budget, \$79.9 million is allocated to 430 miles of road repairs, using 100% of the City's Gas Tax funds and a large portion of TransNet funds.

As work to complete the MAP continues over this next fiscal year, I urge you to consider upcoming road repaving as an opportunity to deliver infrastructure improvements that enable Complete Streets, or safe access for all residents, including pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and transit riders.

The City should engage in the necessary process to implement new projects in tandem with repaving in every neighborhood throughout the City. These smaller projects will gradually build the network of bicycle and walking infrastructure the city so desperately needs to save lives, and to fight climate change.

The City's Five-Year Capital Infrastructure Outlook shows a need for \$129 million in funding to implement planned bike facilities, with a total of \$6 million being proposed in the FY20 budget. This leaves a funding gap of \$124 million. Similarly, the Outlook shows a need for \$153 million in funding to build and repair City sidewalks, and an associated \$125 funding gap. Given these needs, I urge you to take the time with repaving to streamline neighborhood improvements, reduce community disruptions, and maximize the benefits of our investments up-front.

Cc:

Aimee Faucett, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor

Jessica Lawrence, Director of Council Affairs, Office of the Mayor

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