



News from
Councilmember Todd Gloria

City of San Diego ▪ District Three

Friends,

Some people think progress in government is impossible. Today, the release of the proposed City budget for the next fiscal year demonstrated that progress is indeed achievable.

As the chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, discussing a proposed budget that features restorations instead of cuts for the first time in my tenure as a City Councilmember will be a welcome change, but I ask my colleagues and every San Diegan to be mindful of the work it took to get to this positive place. We cannot treat this proposed budget as the long elusive pot of gold and spend it with abandon. We must remain fiscally responsible so our City and San Diegans never again face the challenges of the past several years.

I'm proud that the reforms we have worked so hard on are generating real cost savings for taxpayers and I'm pleased that many of the priorities expressed by my Council colleagues were incorporated into this proposal by Mayor Sanders. I also want to thank City employees for the sacrifice and work they've contributed to help us reach this point.

I'm pleased that our most critical services are prioritized in this budget.

- Recreation centers and libraries will be open more hours. These are the services that we painfully had to cut in previous years and that HAD to be at the top of our list to restore. The value of our recreation centers and libraries cannot be overstated.
- The replacement of our fire station alerting system will be fully funded, which should help improve response times in emergencies.
- Fire inspections will increase, and we'll add the first fire recruits our City has seen since 2009 to help address mass retirements in the department.

I look forward to a comprehensive review of this proposed budget with my Council colleagues and the Independent Budget Analyst, and ask San Diegans to provide feedback and suggestions as well. Our Budget Review Hearings of individual departments begin on May 2. The full schedule of the hearings is available on the Budget and Finance Committee's [website](#), and the public is encouraged to participate.

Sexy Streets Ahead: \$30 Million More Dedicated to Street Repairs

A few years ago, I stood on a freshly paved road in City Heights and proclaimed there is nothing sexier than a freshly paved street. Thanks to the City Council's action on Monday to pursue bond financing for \$30 million more just for street repairs, San Diego will have a lot more sexy streets soon. This is part of a larger \$75 million total bond for deferred capital projects.

Since I took office, the City has increased street resurfacing by 182% annually. In Fiscal Year 2008, we repaved 115.4 linear miles, and we're expected to pave 326 linear miles this year. This bond funding for deferred capital projects is only one part of next year's infrastructure investment. The City will be budgeting approximately \$54 million more for operations and

maintenance of our assets in the next fiscal year. Over the next five years, the City will commit over \$720 million toward infrastructure under the financing plan recently endorsed by the Council.

Obviously, this will require continued economic recovery, and may need to be adjusted as we move forward.

In addition to securing \$30 million for our streets, the deferred capital bond will also help address other needs, including making progress on replacing Fire Station 17 in City Heights and Fire Station 5 in Hillcrest, and several critical investments in Balboa Park.

This is a fiscally-responsible approach. Now that our economy is picking up and we're continuing to reap the benefits of our reforms, I believe that we should take a more aggressive step to address our infrastructure and ongoing maintenance needs so that we don't fall further behind. Investing in our infrastructure now – especially to maintain it in decent condition – is far more cost-effective than waiting for complete deterioration.

More Transit Service? Bring It On!

Positive budget news is not unique to the City of San Diego. The Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) is considering adding and improving services. A list of initial proposals is attached. Options include restoring frequencies of transit service, expanding operating hours, and improving connections. Your feedback is necessary to ensure my fellow MTS board members and I make the best decisions possible.

Giving your input is easy.

- Online survey: www.sdmts.com
- Telephone: 619-595-4912
- Email: mts.planning@sdmts.com
- Mail: 1255 Imperial Ave., Ste. 1000, San Diego, CA 92101
- In-person: Open houses are listed below.
 - Wednesday, April 11, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., America Plaza Trolley Station
 - Wednesday, April 11, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., Old Town Transit Center (west)
 - Thursday, April 12, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., Euclid Trolley Station
 - Thursday, April 12, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Rancho Bernardo Transit Station
 - Friday, April 13, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., City College Trolley Station
 - Friday, April 13, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., UTC Transit Center
 - Saturday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., El Cajon Transit Center
 - Saturday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Old Town Transit Center (east)
 - Saturday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., H Street Trolley Station

Greater Golden Hill MAD Update

As I shared in my last email to you a couple of weeks ago, many questions remain unanswered about the impacts of the elimination of the Greater Golden Hill Maintenance Assessment District. This week, at least one element of the MAD's dissolution is becoming clearer. Golden Hill neighbors can get their MAD assessments reimbursed. Details on the reimbursement process are still being developed by City staff. I will share additional information as soon as it is available.

Parking Spaces Added to University Heights

The shortage of public parking is an issue that has long plagued University Heights. Residents and visitors alike are often forced to circle block after block in search of an available parking space. In a densely populated, built out neighborhood, solutions can be difficult to develop. Yesterday, the City Council approved the addition of 10 angled parking spaces on Meade Avenue between North Avenue and Campus Avenue. I cannot tell you how pleased I was to vote in support of this action. The community should see these 10 spaces as a starting point only. Much more work remains.

Clean Syringe Exchange Program Saved

This week I also helped secure \$51,000 to keep the local syringe exchange program operational. Safe Point San Diego, which is run by Family Health Centers of San Diego, accepts used syringes and provides clean ones for community health benefit at two weekly clinics, one in North Park and one in Downtown.

Safe Point San Diego was created in 2001 when the San Diego City Council formally declared a state of emergency due to the spread of the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), exacerbated by the shared use of syringes by injection drug users.

Safe Point San Diego makes our region safer, and ensuring it remains running is in the best interest of the entire community. Understanding the critical importance of the region's only syringe exchange program, I worked with my council colleagues to accumulate funds from their Community Projects, Programs and Services (CPPS) accounts. Along with my CPPS contribution of \$11,000, Council President Tony Young, Council President Pro Tem Kevin Faulconer, and Councilmembers Marti Emerald and David Alvarez each contributed \$10,000. CPPS funds are the result of budgetary savings in each council office. The number fluctuates annually based on savings generated by each office and can be used for community benefit.

The City Council approved the allocation to Safe Point San Diego by a vote of 7-1 on Tuesday, April 10. Safe Point San Diego has already secured full funding for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The \$51,000 approved this week will keep the program running until then.

As always, I welcome your feedback, questions and concerns on these and any other topic of interest. Please contact me at toddgloria@sandiego.gov, 619-236-6633, or via [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd".

Todd

If you would no longer like to receive updates, please visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3>.