



81 Days of Progress **INTERIM MAYOR TODD GLORIA**

City of San Diego

WEEKLY UPDATE: November 7, 2013

The City just received some well-deserved recognition for our transportation efforts. The Institute of Transportation Engineers San Diego Section has selected The City of San Diego as the “Public Agency of the Year.”

The City of San Diego’s Traffic Engineering Division was selected because of its dedication to repurposing the streets for all users. In particular, we have been recognized for the numerous improvements we have made in a short amount of time for cyclists and for the innovative and progressive measures we have taken to move forward with this effort.

We have restriped 50 bike lane miles as part of our road resurfacing contracts which result in narrower car lanes, wider bike lanes, and buffers between the two. It’s noteworthy that these common sense improvements come at no additional cost to the City.

Also, the City’s first road diet has been implemented and should be installed by the end of December 2013 along 4th and 5th Avenue from Laurel Street to the I-5. Hundreds of sharrows have been installed within bike routes to improve the connectivity of the overall bike network and we are installing traffic control devices at three locations where pedestrian and bike paths exit onto major streets to minimize vehicular delays and maximize cyclist and pedestrian safety. Additionally, we have purchased bike detectors for eight traffic signals so the green signal time will be extended to allow a cyclist enough time to travel through.

Of course, these efforts complement the installation of 150 bike racks in the last year, our bike corral program, and the bike sharing partnership with DecoBike, which will start next spring.

I want to give a special shout out to Linda Marabian for spearheading so many of these efforts. She is an amazing asset for our City, and it helps that she’s also a cyclist.

Our bike infrastructure efforts are really in response to the desires of San Diegans. Similarly, we’ve heard your calls for open data implementation, and progress is happening on that front as well.

Open Data: Yesterday, the Rules Committee took action and requested I appoint an interim Chief Data Officer to internally lead the City's open data efforts and move forward with creating an Open Data Advisory Group to provide input and guide initial implementation of open data. The committee would also work to finalize an open data policy.

Moving forward with a committee of IT professionals makes perfect sense so we can build a comprehensive open data policy to step up our efforts. And I look forward to an Open Data workshop which will occur in mid-January.

While worthwhile, there are costs associated with this which need to be considered along with our other IT infrastructure needs. This needs to be considered as part of the budget development process for the coming year. I am a firm believer in transparency and know we've made significant headway in the past two months.

Workforce Housing Offset:

After two years of little progress addressing a funding stream for affordable housing, the City Council took a huge step on Monday. The City Council approved an update of San Diego's Workforce Housing Offset, which will ensure development that creates low-wage jobs also creates affordable housing options.

It is difficult to imagine someone with a job ending up homeless. Unfortunately, that threat is all too real for nearly 125,000 workers in the City who earn wages below the federal poverty line. By updating the Workforce Housing Offset for the first time in 17 years, the City Council has provided an appropriate funding stream for San Diegans who have jobs but struggle to afford to live here.

It requires that commercial developers who build in San Diego help cover the cost of providing affordable housing for low-wage workers through a one-time payment, assessed as a small percentage of development costs, which is deposited into the City's Housing Trust Fund.

Climate Action Plan:

I'm also excited that the first draft of our updated Climate Action Plan was unveiled yesterday. The plan is designed to help San Diego mitigate its impacts on the environment in the decades ahead.

I'm confident this plan will help San Diego reduce its carbon footprint while also helping us maintain our quality of life. The plan calls for a wide variety of approaches in the years and decades ahead, from tapping into sources of renewable energy to increasing the percentage of commuters who bike and take mass transit to work. The plan sets specific targets and goals to be reached by 2020 and 2035.

I want to thank my director of environmental policy, Nicole Capretz, for her hard work on this important issue. She gave a presentation yesterday to the Council's Natural Resources and Culture Committee.

Balboa Park Sustainability:

Headway toward improved sustainability is already being made in Balboa Park. Yesterday, I joined the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership and its partners to announce that additional buildings in Balboa Park are being added to its LEED certification goal - bringing the total number of planned certified buildings up to 10.

The LEED certifications are a result of the Park's Environmental Sustainability Program, a collaborative effort by the City of San Diego, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), San Diego Green Building Council and BPCP. The program has resulted in an annual savings of more than \$1 million in energy use at Balboa Park.

Firefighter Death and Disability: This week there has been a lot of talk about death and disability benefits for City employees. Yesterday, I distributed a memo to the City Council which clarifies the current status of benefits and our future plans.

The City is committed to ensuring our employees are covered should an emergency occur at the workplace. I am taking aggressive steps to ensure the death and disability benefits offered to our workers meet our moral obligations to those who protect our citizens. I appreciate the collaboration of our employees, our City Attorney, and the City Council to achieve the right result.

Five Year Financial Outlook:

Finally today, I want to let you all know that I expect to release the Five-Year Financial Outlook on November 14, one week prior to its review by the Budget and Finance Committee. It is still being finalized, but I wanted to make the public aware of this now.

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