



News from
Councilmember Todd Gloria

City of San Diego

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release: March 20, 2012

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City Council Approves Streamlining for Public Works Projects

Infrastructure Improvements Should Happen More Transparently and Efficiently With New Rules

SAN DIEGO, CA (March 20, 2012) – The San Diego City Council today approved changes to streamline the approval and contracting processes for the City’s Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) program. Councilmember Todd Gloria, who represents older neighborhoods in need of infrastructure improvements, championed the modifications.

“Public improvements will now occur at a faster pace and with a more effective use of City resources,” said Councilmember Gloria. **“While we have made the capital improvements process more efficient today, we will not sacrifice quality, transparency or equal opportunity.”**

Today’s changes include:

- Adjust approval thresholds for construction projects and related consultant agreements;
- Allow for Multiple Award Construction Contracts, a new delivery method with mandatory equal opportunity contracting goals;
- Clarify and streamline the bid protest process;
- Clarify and reconcile conflicting Council Policies;
- Adopt a new Council Policy for CIP transparency, including a public CIP website;
- Authorize Mayoral approval to transfer project savings upon completion to other projects; and
- Dedicate more time during the annual budget hearing process for a comprehensive CIP review.

The action taken by the City Council today followed five hearings on the topic at the Budget and Finance Committee, chaired by Councilmember Gloria, and extensive stakeholder outreach and input. These recommendations can trim an additional three to 12 months off the life cycle of each project, and time saved provides added capacity and mitigates some staffing needs to ensure quicker delivery of a growing CIP. Using the most conservative figures, staff estimates minimum 15% capacity increase from CIP streamlining.

“As we continue to prioritize infrastructure financing and project delivery, these additional tools will ensure every dollar of funds and every hour of staff time is used as efficiently as possible, resulting in more return on this critical investment,” said Councilmember Gloria.

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