




Councilmember Marni von Wilpert

City of San Diego • District 5

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 18, 2021

TO: Honorable Council President Jennifer Campbell

FROM: Councilmember Marni von Wilpert, Chair, Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee 

SUBJECT: 2021 Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Work Plan

I am so honored to serve as the Chair of the City Council's Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. I am pleased to share our Committee's 2021 Work Plan. I look forward to working with my Committee colleagues to address the various transportation and infrastructure challenges facing the City.

The Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is an important venue for the City Council, City staff, and members of the public, to discuss ideas and provide feedback on ways to address our many infrastructure needs throughout the City. The committee itself has seen significant changes in the past decade that have greatly improved processes and planning efforts, but there remains more work to be done.

The current challenges facing the City's infrastructure and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are immense, with growing funding gaps in numerous infrastructure asset categories and major budgetary challenges. Additionally, a history of underinvestment within low-and-moderate income (LMI) communities throughout the City has left many residents disenfranchised and frustrated. Although the current challenges are significant, this Committee is prepared to tackle these difficult issues and ensure that we address racial and social justice issues, and make sure every community is receiving the equitable infrastructure investment that they deserve.

In consideration of Committee Member priorities for 2021, the Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will also focus on the following areas:

- **Vision Zero Strategic Plan 2020-2025 Implementation**
Public safety is a top priority for the City Council and Mayor. The Committee will focus on efforts to implement the recently completed Vision Zero Strategic Plan by taking a data driven approach to identify appropriate traffic safety improvements at the City's most dangerous intersections. This effort will be focused on equity as a significant factor in evaluation of projects and will utilize best practices from other Vision Zero Cities.

- **Review of Sidewalk Program**

Permits for typical sidewalk repairs can cost property owners several thousand dollars. In order to address the backlog of sidewalk repairs throughout the City of San Diego, the Committee will review the current Sidewalk Program operations and will discuss operational changes that could help address the current sidewalk backlog. This discussion will also include the current permitting process, associated fees, and opportunities for pre-approved design guidelines in order to reduce time and costs for residents and businesses.

- **Review of Streets Program**

The Committee will hold discussions regarding the current street resurfacing program selection process, contractor quality control oversight, and effectiveness of Street Preservation ordinance.

- **Complete Streets** are an essential part of meeting the City's transportation mode shift goals. The Committee will hold discussions with the Mayor and the Transportation and Storm Water Department to focus the City's efforts to include complete streets planning as part of our street resurfacing program. This effort must incorporate planned improvements identified within the Bike Master Plan and the Mobility Action Plan.

- **Mobility Action Plan**

The Mobility Action Plan identified a strong need for inter-agency coordination between the City and other governmental agencies towards reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, as is mandated in the City's Climate Action Plan. The Committee will receive updates from city staff and hold a discussion regarding the next steps for implementing the Mobility Action Plan.

- **Green Infrastructure**

The Committee will focus efforts to incorporate green infrastructure elements in the City's CIP and Infrastructure projects. Green infrastructure improvements will allow the City and our infrastructure assets to be more efficient and resilient in the face of our changing climate.

- **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station Plan**

The Committee will hold a discussion with the Sustainability Department to achieve the goal of expanding the existing network of EV charging stations throughout the City. This effort should include the completion of an Electric Vehicle Charging Plan as called for within strategy 2 of the Climate Action Plan. This plan must identify locations throughout the City with special focus on underserved communities to ensure an adequate distribution of EV charging stations to allow for increasing shift to EVs. The Committee will also hold discussions with the City's Sustainability Department and the Economic Development Department to identify potential corporate partnerships to assist the City's rollout of EV charging infrastructure.

- **Equity in Transportation and Infrastructure Investment**

Each City Council District and its communities have unique needs that the City responds to through transportation and infrastructure investments. The Committee will work with City staff to bring forward a discussion of the distribution of infrastructure investment within each Council District. This information will help ensure that each Council District is receiving equitable and necessary infrastructure investments to meet the needs of our communities.

- **Placemaking and the Activation of the Public Right-of-Way**

The City's Placemaking Program utilizes public right-of-way and medians to activate underutilized spaces. Some components of this program were implemented in 2020, in response to COVID-19, with the City's Safe Streets program to promote recreation during the height of the pandemic while supporting social distancing guidelines. The Committee will hold discussions with City Departments to highlight and promote the opportunities that these programs present as well as the process to permit these improvements. This discussion will also include a review of programs such as "Street Moves" popularized in Sweden and of the process to incorporate promenades and walkability features within our communities.

- **Explore Value Engineering and Quick Build options for CIPs and City Infrastructure**

Quick-build projects are cost-effective infrastructure improvements that can be built within 1-2 years and can be either permanent or temporary. The Committee will hold discussions with various City Departments in order to consider strategies to move forward with several quick-build pilot projects to improve bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure on high injury network corridors.

- **Five-Year Capital Infrastructure Planning Outlook and Infrastructure Asset Backlogs**

Annually, the Committee discusses the Five-Year Capital Infrastructure Planning Outlook, a CIP and infrastructure planning document from the Public Works Department. This planning exercise helps the Mayor and City Council plan for future infrastructure needs. The committee will work closely with the Mayor, City Departments, and the Independent Budget Analyst to identify strategies to reduce funding gaps within the various infrastructure asset categories identified within the Fiscal Year 2022-2026 Five Year Outlook. The Committee will also hold discussions to further clarify and adjust as needed the priority versus discretionary projects identified within the various infrastructure asset categories.

- **Review and Update Council Policies**

- Council Policy 000-31 Capital Improvement Program Transparency
- Council Policy 000-32 Neighborhood Input on Infrastructure Needs
- Council Policy 800-14 Capital Improvement Program Prioritization.

- **Receive regular updates from San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS)**

The Committee will work with SANDAG and MTS to receive regular updates and provide input on regional transportation efforts. This includes active transportation planning and project execution; coordination with SANDAG's San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan; improving regional transit services, including evaluation of new dedicated bus lanes, and coordinating with our MTS partners to ensure clean and safe bus stops.

- **CIP Project Discussions**

The Committee will hold discussions on a wide variety of CIP projects. Priority projects identified by Committee Members for initial review include:

- New Fire Station Projects
- Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project
- Sorrento Valley Storm Water Projects
- El Cajon Blvd Improvement Projects and Plans
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Projects

- **Review current Development Impact Fee (DIF) Plans and Public Facility Financing Plans (PFFP) and Review Citywide DIF program Nexus Studies and Policies**

The Committee will review current Development Impact Fee Plans and Public Facility Financing Plans and will hold discussions related to the move to a Citywide DIF program.

- **Public Works Staffing**

The Committee will work with the Mayor, Engineering and Capital Projects Department, and our labor partners to identify ways to improve our current hiring processes and retention for Public Works staff.

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance and Accessibility**

The Committee will request an update from the Office of ADA Compliance and Accessibility on the City's various efforts to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This includes but is not limited to the following: current and recent fiscal year funding levels, responsiveness to ADA complaints, and active ADA related Capital Improvement Projects.

- **Update Development Services Department's Manual of Administrative Practices for Utility Installations in the Public Right-of-Way**

The Committee will work with the Mayor's office and hold discussions with the Development Services Department to review Manual of Administrative Practices for Utility Installations in the Public Right-of-Way and amend as needed to be consistent with the Complete Streets Policy recognizing the increased emphasis on walkability and neighborhood aesthetics.

- **Transportation and Infrastructure Funding Opportunities**

Identifying new funding opportunities is critical as we continue to grow our Capital Improvement Program. The Committee will hold discussions to identify new and

innovative ways to fund City infrastructure, this includes but is not limited to grant opportunities, new financing mechanisms, and public private partnerships.

- **Shared Dockless Mobility Devices**

The Committee will review and update the City's regulations for Shared Dockless Mobility Devices to ensure operators and riders are safe, compliant, and maximizing community benefit.

- **Project Coordination**

In recent years the City has taken significant steps to bring project planning and management into the 21st century. This has required substantial investment in software that continues to be refined by the City. As the benefits from the new software tools come online, the Committee will work with City Departments to improve project coordination strategies

- **Purchasing and Contracting Reform**

Contracts that solicit the lowest bid don't always deliver the best value to the City and our residents. Oftentimes low bid contracts are forced to return to Council for costly change orders and amendments. The Committee will hold discussions with Purchasing and Contracting staff to evaluate the potential of adopting a "best value" framework for infrastructure contracts.

- **Youth Opportunity Passes (YOP)**

In 2013, the City of San Diego, County of San Diego and San Diego Unified School District identified funding to establish a YOP pilot program that provided no-cost transit passes to students residing in LMI areas. The pilot program serviced 850 high school students who put the passes to great use, increasing their participation in extracurricular activities, securing internships, and finding employment. The committee will explore options like YOP to reduce GHG emissions by increasing youth transit ridership as well as expanding opportunities for LMI youth who do not have access to transportation.

If you have any questions, please contact the Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Consultant, Justin Garver, at (619) 236-7020 or jgarver@sandiego.gov.

Cc: Honorable Mayor Todd Gloria
Honorable City Attorney Mara Elliot
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst