



DATE: February 21, 2017
TO: City Council
FROM: Assistant City Manager
SUBJECT Establishment of a Council Infrastructure Committee and
Appointment of Council members to newly formed Committee

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council establishes a Council Infrastructure Standing Committee to review and consider policy related issues involving the City’s capital improvement projects and appoints 3 members from the Council to serve on the newly formed Council Infrastructure Committee.

BACKGROUND

The city’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a multi-million dollar spending plan totaling \$195 million this current fiscal year. This spending plan covers a broad spectrum of CIP projects, including public infrastructure projects, such as street construction and improvements, sewer and water system upgrades, fleet management, landscaping and small community parks. It also includes seismic retrofitting of public facilities, public buildings, and airport projects. Energy efficiency and clean and renewable energy projects are also included in the CIP. The CIP is supported by a number of funding sources, a large portion of which are in restricted-use funds, such as the gas tax, Measure B, Measure BB, Measure C and enterprise funds (i.e. Water, Sewer and Airport). However, even within these restricted funds, there is a benefit to having a policy discussion relative to sequencing of projects.

Some of the key projects included in this year’s CIP program are the Library and Community Learning Center and Heritage Plaza Arboretum, various fire station improvements, street and road pavement rehabilitation projects, including one of the more critical new roadway projects which is the 880/92 Reliever Route project. This project includes construction of the Whitesell Street extension and improvements along the Winton Avenue corridor.

Staff also plans to complete four transportation studies, including:

- ***a Citywide Intersection Improvement Plan***, which evaluates and prioritizes needed safety and pedestrian improvements at major intersections,
- ***a Transit Connector Feasibility Study*** to determine the feasibility of and demand for providing shuttle service from underserved transit sectors in the east/west Industrial areas and the Cannery area developments to the downtown/BART station and to the South Hayward BART Station,
- ***a Downtown Parking Study*** to evaluate comprehensive short and long-term parking strategies for the downtown area, which will include parking management, residential and business parking permits and enforcement strategy policy considerations, and
- ***a City-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update*** to address bicycle and pedestrian accessibility.

These studies contain policy related considerations that will benefit by a more in-depth discussion at the Council committee level in order to frame the policy discussion for Council.

Lastly, the CIP also contains \$518 million in projects programmed over the next ten years and identifies an additional \$370 million of unfunded needs for the same period. Some of the key unfunded priority projects include the replacement of the police station, Tennyson Pedestrian Bridge at the South Hayward BART Station, Tennyson-UPRR grade separation at Whitman, I880/West A Street Interchange, among other technology, facility and street improvement projects.

DISCUSSION

Because the City's CIP budget and the unfunded needs are significant, a need exists to develop and recommend policies regarding the prioritization of CIP projects, where funding flexibility exists, and develop funding strategies and identify funding options for those unfunded CIP needs. Establishing a Council Infrastructure Standing Committee will facilitate a more in-depth review of the CIP plan, the unfunded needs, and the development of a policy framework that can be brought back to Council for consideration.

The scope of the infrastructure committee may include policy related considerations such as:

- Review the City's unfunded CIP needs, such as the police station, and consideration of funding options and to ensure equitable and strategic community investment citywide;
- Discuss policy considerations related to the sequencing of the CIP ten-year plan;
- Discuss policy related options for Council consideration related to long term traffic planning;
- Review policy considerations relative to the pavement management program; and
- Review the City's programmed CIP related to transportation, water and sewer, buildings, operations (i.e. fleet, technology, street lights, etc.) and recommend policy considerations to Council

Staff recommends that Council establish a three-member Council Infrastructure Standing Committee to review and consider policy related issues involving the City's capital improvement projects and appoint members from the Council to serve on the newly formed Council Infrastructure Committee. Staff recommends that for this first year, the committee meet on a quarterly basis to coincide with the development of each year's CIP budget cycle. Additional meetings may be necessary during the fall/spring in preparation for the CIP budget development process for the following fiscal year.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no initial fiscal impact with the consideration of this report. There will be an impact on current staff's workload for staffing the new committee and for preparation of reports. It is conceivable the additional workload may cause delays in delivery of some ongoing projects and programs. Staffing impacts will be tracked and assessed this first year to determine whether a fiscal or resource consideration may be necessary in the future.

NEXT STEPS

Upon Council approval, the City Manager will work to schedule and coordinate the Committee's first meeting. The City Manager will also review staff resource demands to determine the best way to staff this Committee to support its mission.

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