



City of San Diego
Councilmember Scott Sherman
Seventh District

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 9, 2013
TO: Councilmember Mark Kersey
FROM: Councilmember Scott Sherman 
RE: Infrastructure Committee Priorities for 2013

It is a great pleasure to serve on the City Council's newly-created Infrastructure Committee. One of the core responsibilities of city government is the adequate maintenance of roads, sidewalks, facilities, storm drains, and other infrastructure. Unfortunately, the City has over \$900 million in deferred maintenance and an inadequate maintenance budget to keep our infrastructure from continuing to deteriorate.

I appreciate the hard work that this City Council and former Mayor Jerry Sanders put towards the problem in recent years and I am eager to continue to make progress. It is my goal to help this Committee come up with a long-term, permanent solution so that San Diegans will never again be faced with crumbling infrastructure.

I encourage the 2013 Infrastructure Committee to consider the following goals and priorities over the coming year:

Complete a comprehensive survey of facilities.

The City completed a comprehensive survey of its street network last year. That was the first time in recent memory that the City did a true survey of the condition of its streets. I would like to see the City move forward on a full survey of its facilities in the same way. It is important to have a complete understanding of the infrastructure problem as we work to come up with solutions to catch up on deferred maintenance.

Implement CIP streamlining.

The City Council adopted nine major initiatives to streamline the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process last year. These reforms include multiple award construction contracts, support for regional procurement cooperation agreements, and others. I encourage the Committee to monitor these reforms and ensure they are moving forward fully and in a timely manner.

Updating community plans to identify priority infrastructure projects.

San Diego has 42 community plans, many of which haven't been updated in decades. In order to have a full picture of what infrastructure will be needed over the coming years, it is important to move forward on the completion of more community plans.

Pursue Managed Competition in the Public Works Department.

The status of Managed Competition within the City's Capital Improvement Program is currently unclear. I encourage the Infrastructure Committee to examine the status of Managed Competition in the Public Works Department and look at possible additional areas of the CIP process which should be put through the Managed Competition process. These savings should be put towards additional investment in infrastructure.

Pursue an infrastructure financing plan that does not raise taxes.

Our local economy continues to struggle in comparison with historic averages, with unemployment still above 8%. As the Infrastructure Committee looks at ways to finance an infrastructure plan, I encourage the Committee to pursue options that do not include a tax increase. Voters made it clear when Proposition D came before them: a tax increase is the last thing that San Diego families need in this struggling economy. That tax increase failed with 62% of voters rejecting the measure.

Establish a permanent and sustainable infrastructure maintenance policy to ensure that future City leaders can never under-fund our core assets again.

As the Infrastructure Committee moves forward on a strategy to catch up on the City's deferred maintenance, it is our responsibility to make sure that the reforms put in place to fix this problem provide safeguards so that future city leaders are forced to appropriately fund infrastructure in the future. Just as our pension payment is an "Annual Required Contribution (ARC)," I encourage the Committee to establish a policy for an "Infrastructure ARC" to ensure the City never gets in this situation again.

I look forward to serving on the Infrastructure Committee and coming up with solutions to this important problem. San Diegans deserve better streets, parks, libraries, and other infrastructure than they have had for the last decade. If you have any questions or input, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

cc: Honorable Members of the City Council