



COUNCILMEMBER DAVID ALVAREZ
City of San Diego
Eighth District

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 7, 2013

TO: Councilmember Mark Kersey, Chair, Infrastructure Committee

FROM: Councilmember David Alvarez

SUBJECT: 2013 Infrastructure Committee Priorities

Thank you for your memo requesting 2013 priorities for the Infrastructure Committee. Moving forward in addressing deferred maintenance, as well as ongoing projects is vital as we continue to grow as a city. As such, below are my infrastructure priorities for the upcoming year:

Infrastructure Issues:

- **Deferred Capital Bond Program:** The city has issued several bonds to fund and construct infrastructure projects. The Infrastructure Committee should receive regular updates on how each is progressing and adjust the timing and amount of the next bond issuance accordingly.
- **Public Outreach:** The first step in determining community infrastructure needs is to engage the public in a dialogue that helps set the agenda for what projects rank as the highest priority to each community. This outreach should be done throughout all areas of the city, preferably by planning area.
- **Discussion of Infrastructure Bond:** Addressing the city's deferred maintenance is a top priority. As such, the city should explore issuing an infrastructure bond to address these needs after engaging in a healthy amount of public outreach to all community planning areas.

- **Staff Capacity to Address Deferred Maintenance Needs:** As vital as it is to secure sufficient funding for deferred maintenance, it is equally important that the city pursue a financing schedule that provides a realistic timetable for existing staff to complete projects.
- **Public Safety Infrastructure:** In addition to the citywide list of deferred maintenance projects, the City Council has recognized the fire safety infrastructure needs outlined in the Citygate Report and recommended implementation schedule by the Citygate Working Group. The city must move forward in addressing the need for additional fire safety facilities in the areas identified in the Citygate Report to ensure that adequate fire and life safety services are provided to San Diegans.

Capital Improvement Projects:

- **Silverwing Sports Field Lighting:** The project provides for the design and construction of sports fields at the Silver Wing Neighborhood Park. It is needed to expand the hours of facility use and its capacity to serve the community's residential growth. Additional lighting will provide a safer and more secure facility.
- **Palm Avenue Roadway Improvements:** The Palm Avenue Roadway Improvements project provides for vehicular and traffic safety improvements on Palm Avenue from Beyer Way to Interstate 805. This project is vital to the community and it needs to be completed.
- **New sidewalk on Old Otay Mesa Road between Otay Mesa Place and Airway Road, San Ysidro:** Significant community support exists for this project as this is a dangerous stretch of road without a sidewalk which creates a hazard for students walking to school. Completion of this project would provide important linkage in a highly pedestrian-oriented community.
- **Completion of funding for construction of the San Ysidro Library:** The current branch library in San Ysidro is one of the oldest (built in 1931), smallest (3,000 square feet) and outdated library facilities in the entire city. The construction of the new library has been long delayed. A site has been secured and the design and construction of the library can move forward with complete funding. It is critical that this is a priority CIP.
- **New on-ramp to NB I-5 at Camino de la Plaza, San Ysidro:** This project will provide congestion relief on Camino de la Plaza and San Ysidro Boulevard by decreasing demand at the East San Ysidro Blvd and Via de San Ysidro on-ramps. The on-ramp will provide direct access to the freeway from the Intermodal Transit Center and the eastern business district.
- **Initiate Capital Improvement Project to Design Southwest Neighborhood Park in Otay Mesa/Nestor:** The city owns undeveloped park land on 27th Street in the Otay Mesa/Nestor community. The design and development of the 11.4 acres into a Neighborhood Park was first proposed in 1992 and would provide much needed park

space and be of great benefit to all members of the community. Children from Southwest Middle School as well as condominiums, apartments, and mobile homes within walking distance would benefit from the use. Currently no CIP exists for this project and in order to move forward funds need to be dedicated to the design of the park.

- **Initiate Capital Improvement Project for La Media Road Improvements:** La Media Road, between I-905 and Siempre Viva Road in the Otay Mesa community, is a route used by commercial vehicles accessing the border. Significant improvements (such as widening) are required on La Media Road as the city moves forward with plans to improve the road, provide better access to commercial vehicles crossing the border and addressing significant flooding issues, which often make the road impassable. Currently, no CIP exists to address these deficiencies, which has prevented the project from moving forward and has hampered the city's ability to better facilitate international commerce.
- **Drainage Improvements at Airway Road and La Media Road & Widening of La Media Road between Airway Road and Siempre Viva Road, Otay Mesa:** This project will improve an existing capacity-impeding condition on a major commercial truck route. Any measurable rainfall leads to significant and persistent flooding. The entire area suffers from chronic congestion of commercial and private vehicles. Improvements to the Otay Truck Route adds to the economic growth of our region and makes the Otay Mesa area more competitive with other bi-national regions. These funds should be reallocated to La Media Road and Airway Road improvements.
- **Increase Number of Joint Use Park Facilities:** A number of areas throughout the city lack park space for residents to utilize. Partnering with local school districts to share the construction and/or maintenance and operation costs is an excellent way to open up existing or proposed park space to neighborhoods when the area is not being used by the school. Pursuing such partnerships, particularly with school districts which currently do not have agreement with the City, should be a goal in the upcoming year.
- **Pursue Outside Funding Opportunities for Capital Improvement Projects throughout the City:** As the city looks to identify funding for capital improvement projects, I believe both private and public (local, state and federal) funding sources should be actively pursued for projects not yet fully funded.

CC: Honorable Mayor Filner
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst