

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 5, 2019

TO: Mayor Brian Treece
Members of City Council

FROM: Sara Loe, Chairman Planning and Zoning Commission

RE: FY 2021 Capital Improvement Program comments

Per Chapter 29 of the City Code, the Planning and Zoning Commission has performed its annual review of the proposed FY 2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The following comments were generated by the Commission after its review of the CIP document at its June 4 work session. Given the recent pandemic events, staff from Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Utilities Departments did not provide presentations. Commissioners reviewed the CIP utilizing the CIP Dashboard and the written document after which comments were captured by the PZC liaison.

At the June 4 work session, Commissioners had general discussion relating to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts upon current and future capital projects as well as expected reductions in sale tax revenues which are often used to support future improvements. Commissioners acknowledged that given the current economic circumstances and future uncertainty of revenue streams that delaying projects is a prudent and unfortunately necessary measure. However, the Commission believes that delaying or removing projects currently funded or capable of addressing disparities within the community should be thoroughly vetted prior to such actions being taken. Given the new realities that now exist, the Commissioners offered the following comments and recommendations relative to the proposed CIP.

1. A decision to delay/remove CIP projects and reallocate funding to another CIP project should incorporate metrics that result in applying the funds to a CIP project that has the greatest potential benefit in respect to the public health, safety, welfare of all community residents.
2. CIP projects should focus upon existing infrastructure maintenance and replacement rather than expansion as a means of ensuring equity in system quality to all customers.
3. Analyze existing opportunities to reduce infrastructure disparities and create potential revenue streams (i.e. activation of dark-fiber).
4. The CIP reporting format has resulted in enhanced revenue and expenditure transparency from prior fiscal years.

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5. There has been an improvement in the integration of existing Sidewalk Master Plan projects into the current CIP. Continued efforts to increase pedestrian connectivity via new construction or repairs should be pursued with the focused objective of connecting residents to essential services to ensure access for underserved populations.

Related to the CIP, Commissioners also discussed reexamining the sidewalk design adjustment provisions contained within the UDC with the potential to clarify and remove unnecessary impediments to development in “developed” versus “greenfield” locations. Such evaluation should result in a process that creates greater certainty to applicants relating to outcomes and promotes a more robust sidewalk network.

The Planning and Zoning Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide you input as you finalize the CIP document. Should you have additional needs please do not hesitate to let me know.