

STREET AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES - March 1, 2023
2:00 PM

Committee Members Present

Yolanda Chavez, Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), Chair
Maria Souza-Rountree, Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA)
Diego de la Garza, Office of the Mayor (Mayor)

Committee Staff Present

Daisy Bonilla, CAO
Salyna Cun, CAO
Maria Souza-Rountree, CLA

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: General Public Comment, Multiple Agenda Item Comment

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approval of Minutes from the September 1, 2022 meeting. - Action by Committee

DISPOSITION: Approved.

2. Verbal status update on Street and Transportation projects lists, Gantt charts, and schedules from the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), Bureau of Street Services (BSS), and Department of Transportation (DOT) - Action by Committee

The Various department representatives made short presentations discussing the project lists provided to the committee. Diego de la Garza (Mayor's Office) requested some instruction from Kevin Minne, Bureau of Engineering as to how to determine start, and end dates on the Gantt charts.

Shirley Lau, Bureau of Street Services (BSS) reported that the Bureau had difficulties with the software and could not provide a Gantt chart for the meeting.

DISPOSITION: The Committee approved the changes to the Hillside Slope Stability Project List.

3. Verbal status update on projects of special interest, including new projects, existing projects, and existing projects with significant funding needs – Discussion
 - a) Bureau of Engineering
 - Broadway Streetscape
 - Weingart Tower Project
 - Impact of recent weather events
 - b) Bureau of Street Lighting
 - High Voltage Conversion Project

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- Copper Wire Theft Replacement Program
- c) Department of Transportation
 - Measure M 3 Percent Obligation- First and Last Mile Projects
 - Traffic Signal Construction Program

Arsen Voskerchyan (BOE) reported that the Broadway Streetscape Project from Fourth to Sixth Street received one bid for sole construction for \$9,405,742 not including construction contingency. Funding has been identified and will be appropriated to the project in the next Construction Projects Report. The report to award the project will go to the Board of Public Works for approval on March 10, 2023.

The Weingart Tower Project is part of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Grant round four and is located in Council District 14. The City of Los Angeles is responsible for implementing sustainable transportation infrastructure and transit-related amenities including sidewalks, bicycle lanes, parkway enhancement, and crosswalks. The grant provides \$3,811,326 for total construction costs. The cost was initially estimated in 2018 and did not account for the increased escalation rates. The Bureau requested \$3,811,326 in front funding as part of the 2023-24 budget process. Additionally, the Bureau requested \$3,771,421 for the projected construction escalation and contingency for the 2023-24 budget and the costs can be spread over the next two fiscal years.

Kristen Ly (BOE) reported on significant storm events that have affected hillside stability. There were 41 sites that staff responded to for evaluation. Of those sites, six were referred to the Hillside Slope Stability Program as emergency projects and the Bureau will be submitting Budget Requests as needed.

Lawrence Almassod (BSL) reported that there are 26,000 units in the High Voltage Conversion Program. At this time, there have been 24,850 units have been converted leaving 1,150 to be converted. The Bureau projects converting 300 units in the current year and the remaining next fiscal year.

Eddie Chavez (BSL) reported on the Copper Wire and Power Theft Program. The Bureau has implement three standard levels of repairs as follows:

1. Repairing and restoring lights on the circuit by epoxying the pull boxes and handholds of vandalized locations;
2. Repairing and restoring lights on the circuit by burying pull boxes and welding handholds of vandalized locations; and,
3. Fortifying the circuits (“building castles”) by burying pull boxes, welding the handholds on the poles, and relocating the fuse to the top of poles along the entire circuit starting from the service point.

The Bureau has fortified 150 circuits or 3,302 street lights. The Bureau has closed 5,300 incidents reported that equate to 29,839 street lights. The average days to complete an incident is 119 days. The current backlog due to copper wire theft incidents is 789, affecting 3,200 lights.

Diego de la Garza (Mayor’s Office) asked if the numbers provided were representative of

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requests received this year. Some of the request completed this year were pending from last year. Mr. De la Garza asked if the 119 days to respond is the Bureau's goal for response time. Mr. Chavez stated the goal is to respond within 60 days. The fortification efforts are taking longer to complete than restoration but they prevent the repetition of having the same street lights damaged.

Jaime Madrigal (BSL) reported on various street lighting projects in the Capital and Technology Improvement and Expenditure Program (CTIEP).

Carlos Rios, (DOT) reported with Metro's expansion of transit capital projects, local agencies are required to implement first mile last mile station area enhancements to meet the three percent obligation. When Metro reaches the 30 percent milestone they calculate what an agency's three percent financial contribution should be. With the passage of Measure M, each agency has the option to pay the financial obligation or perform the work themselves to satisfy the commitment. DOT has submitted to Metro a letter of no prejudice that will allow the City to work with Metro to define the priority projects and their expenditures to meet our obligation.

The Traffic Signal Construction has received 500 requests from the public for some measure of traffic control. Funding has been provided for 339 and are on the department's work plan. Of those, 70 are under construction.

DISPOSITION: Noted and filed.

4. Verbal Status Update on Grant Update, including pending grant awards, upcoming grant deadlines, and proposed projects for submission - Discussion
 - a) Office of the City Administrative Officer
 - Clean California Local Grant Program – Cycle 2
 - Reconnecting Communities Grant Program
 - b) Bureau of Engineering
 - Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Grant projects
 - Modified Buy America Requirements
 - Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program
 - c) Bureau of Street Lighting
 - Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program
 - d) Bureau of Street Services
 - Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant
 - e) Department of Transportation
 - Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 6 and local match commitments
 - Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant

Jennifer Lau (CAO) provided an update on the Clean California Local Grant Program Cycle 2 and the Reconnecting Communities Grant Program. The Clean California grant and various City departments will be applying for funding. The City did not receive any grant funding from the Reconnecting Communities Grant Program.

Arsen Voskerchyan (BOE) reported that the Bureau has been working with DOT to update

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the project delivery cost estimates for Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Grant rounds 3 to 6 projects. The soft costs will not cause a gap in funding provided the costs are limited to base labor and with overtime provided as compensated time off. Based on industry trends or escalation costs, funding gaps in construction of the projects is likely. The Bureau requested funding as part of the 2023-24 budget process for rounds 3 and 4 AHSC projects.

Kevin Minne (BOE) reported on the Modified Buy American Project requirements will cause increased costs. The Bureau needs to investigate if the costs will cause a funding gap. The Bridge Improvement Program has submitted an application for the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program.

Dan Caroselli (BSL) reported on the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant. The Bureau has applied for funding and the application is pending. The grantor has asked the Bureau of a Letter of Credit. The Bureau will work with the CAO and City Attorney to determine how they may be exempt from the requirement or provide the letter to be considered for the grant.

Shirley Lau (BSS) reported that the Bureau applied for the Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant for the sidewalk and transit amenities program. The total cost of the project is \$30 million with \$24 million potentially provided by the grant and will require a \$6 million local match from the City.

Carlos Rios (DOT) provided an update on ATP Cycle 6. The City submitted nine projects and six have received funding. An additional two projects have been recommended for approval to receive funding. This equates to \$271 million in grant funding. The local match is \$40 million. The department intends to use staff salaries to fund most of the local match.

George Chen (DOT) reported on the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant. The department submitted an application for \$2 million to improve traffic signals in the Hollywood area.

DISPOSITION: Noted and filed.

5. Verbal status update from BOE, BSL, DOT, and BSS on current resources and hiring process/goals for this fiscal year – Discussion

Kevin Minne (BOE) reported that the Bureau is hiring as quickly as they can the attrition rate is high. The Bureau promoted 24 new Senior Civil Engineer and now needs to fill the vacant Civil Engineer positions. The Bureau is working with the Personnel Department to establish the eligible list for Civil Engineer.

BSL, BSS, and DOT all reported that hiring is a revolving door or hiring and attrition. All have attended job fairs. BSL and BSS is hiring through the Targeted Local Hire and Bridge to Jobs programs. DOT is doing on campus recruitment, gathering resumes and providing on the spot job offers.

DISPOSITION: Noted and filed.

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6. Next Meeting Dates: The quarterly meeting will be held on June 1, 2023. – Discussion

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.