



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: December 20, 2024

TO: Councilmember Whitburn, Active Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chair, Council District 3

FROM: Bethany Bezak, Director, Transportation Department

SUBJECT: Status Update for City of San Diego Response to San Diego County Grand Jury Report Titled “When Will My Street Be Paved? City of San Diego’s Street Paving Challenges”

This memorandum serves as a status update to the City of San Diego Response to the San Diego County Grand Jury Report Titled “When Will My Street Be Paved? City of San Diego’s Street Paving Challenges”. The Grand Jury Report was filed June 8, 2023, the San Diego City Council approved a response on October 17, 2023, and a response was issued to the Grand Jury on November 13, 2023. Council Policy 000-33 and Administrative Regulation 10.02 require an update to the appropriate City Council Committee approximately one year after the responses were approved by City Council, with status reviews annually until the recommendations are completed or otherwise resolved.

The June 2023 Grand Jury Report included seven recommendations related to the City’s street paving program. Out of the seven recommendations, the City responded that two had already been implemented, two required further analysis as the recommendations could not legally be implemented, and three would be implemented in the future. A summary of the status of all recommendations is in the table below; an update on the two recommendations requiring further analysis and the three recommendations that would be implemented in the future is provided below the table.

Summary of Recommendation Status (November 2024)

Recommendation #	Status
23-105	Cannot be implemented as written
23-106	Cannot be implemented as written
23-107	Implemented
23-108	Implemented
23-109	Implemented
23-110	Implemented
23-111	Implemented

Recommendation 23-105: Encourage passing a Council Appropriation Ordinance, signed by the Mayor, as part of the yearly budget approval process, that commits a General Fund appropriation in an amount equal to, or greater than, the funds received each year under RRAA. These funds are to be transferred to the infrastructure fund to be solely used for street maintenance and repair of the worst streets in San Diego based on their respective 2023-2024 OCI score. The Ordinance would remain in effect, a minimum of four years, or until the average OCI reaches a minimum of 70.

December 2024 Response: This recommendation cannot legally be implemented as written.

As stated in the original response, the recommendation cannot legally be implemented to the extent that implementation would require this Council to pass an ordinance requiring future councils to allocate and expend funds in a specific way each year for an undefined length of time. The City is currently facing a budget deficit and cannot guarantee future General Fund allocations to any one program at this time. Street maintenance and repair budgets are created and proposed for City Council approval annually and are considered in the larger context of the City's total budget needs. Additionally, as noted elsewhere in this memo, the City has since published the Pavement Management Plan, which contains information on the appropriations necessary to bring the Pavement Condition index (PCI) within the City to 70 within ten years, and further acts as a guide in determining future appropriations for road repaving.

Recommendation 23-106: Encourage passing a Council Appropriation Ordinance, signed by the Mayor, appropriating sufficient funds to conduct an updated Pavement Condition Assessment beginning in FY 2027, and every four years thereafter

December 2024 Response: This recommendation cannot legally be implemented as written.

As stated in the original response, the recommendation cannot legally be implemented to the extent that implementation would require this Council to pass an ordinance requiring future councils to expend funds in a specific way every four years. The City is currently facing a budget deficit and cannot guarantee future General Fund allocations to any one program at this time. Budget for pavement condition assessments is proposed for City Council approval every four years and is considered in the larger context of the City's total budget needs. Additionally, the recent Performance Audit of the City's Street Maintenance Program requires the establishment of a goal in the Pavement Management Plan to conduct a pavement condition assessment at least every 4 years. The Pavement Management Plan will further act as a guide to request funding for a pavement condition assessment every 4 years.

Recommendation 23-108: Task the Transportation Department with developing a comprehensive rolling five-year plan, which includes a projected maintenance schedule for all streets in the San Diego street network.

December 2024 Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

The Transportation Department published a rolling five-year paving plan on <https://streets.sandiego.gov/> in January 2024. This five-year plan displays all streets within the City of San Diego's street network and includes information on which streets would be paved over the next five years if the funding requested in the January 2024 Pavement Management Plan was received. This website was updated in early Fiscal Year 2025 to reflect

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the streets that were budgeted for funding in the current year. The website is also updated regularly to reflect streets that have recently had paving completed. The five-year plan will be updated on an annual basis as funding is determined and streets are selected.

Recommendation 23-110: Task the Street Division with ensuring the City of San Diego website has an easy to find link to the comprehensive rolling five-year plan for street maintenance, which is updated at least quarterly.

December 2024 Response: This recommendation has been implemented.

As noted in the response to Recommendation 23-108, the Transportation Department published a rolling five-year paving plan on its website at: <https://streets.sandiego.gov/>. This tool can be found from the City's website page for the Transportation Department: <https://www.sandiego.gov/transportation>. As mentioned in the original response to the Grand Jury, updating the five-year plan quarterly would not show meaningful changes. Information on the timing of street paving is updated bi-weekly, as needed.

Recommendation 23-111: Consider doing a cost-benefit study to bring the infrastructure for street repair and maintenance in-house much like trash collection and other services provided by City staff.

December 2024 Response: This recommendation has been implemented.

The Transportation Department completed a cost-benefit study to assess performing more paving using City crews as part of the January 2024 Pavement Management Plan: <https://www.sandiego.gov/transportation/programs/pavement-management-plan>. This study found that the City can feasibly perform up to 20 miles annually of asphalt overlay using in-house crews at a similar, or lower, cost than contractors. The study found that the City cannot feasibly complete maintenance treatments like slurry seal, cape seal, or scrub seal at this time due to the specialized skillset needed for this work. Two new City paving crews were funded as part of the Fiscal Year 2025 Adopted Budget. The Transportation Department will continue to track the cost of performing paving in-house to monitor the efficiency of in-house crews compared to contractors. Space constraints at the existing Chollas Operations Yard limit the Transportation Department's ability to further expand operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written responses to these recommendations. These responses address the remaining open items for this Grand Jury Report, which can now be considered completed or otherwise resolved.

Sincerely,



[Bethany Bezak \(Dec 20, 2024 15:14 PST\)](#)

Bethany Bezak

Director

Transportation Department

BB/mm

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