



TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

FROM: OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
BY: MATTHEW BAUMGARDNER, P.E., DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS/CITY ENGINEER

DATE: APRIL 18, 2024

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON RECENT PUBLIC WORKS RELATED ACTIVITIES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Works Committee will receive and file an update regarding various Public Works related activities underway by the Administration/Engineering, Maintenance and Facilities, and Utilities divisions. Information is also provided on how businesses and residents can reach out to the Public Works Department for service requests.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Public Works Committee receive and file an update report on recent Public Works activities.

BACKGROUND

The City's Public Works Department is comprised of 3 major divisions: Administration/Engineering, Maintenance and Facilities, and Utilities.

The Administration/Engineering Division is responsible for a variety of tasks, including:

- Management of solid waste contract and Keep Downey Beautiful program
- Procuring grant funds for programs and capital improvement projects
- Review and processing of encroachment permits
- Providing Input and Conditions of Approval for development projects
- Studying traffic and transportation-related concerns of the Community
- Design of capital improvement projects, procuring contractor bids, and construction/project management activities.

The Maintenance and Facilities Division is responsible for a variety of tasks, including maintenance of:

- Facilities and Landscaping at City-owned parks and facilities
- Street medians, parkways, sidewalks, and roadways
- 20,000 City-owned trees

- Graffiti removal throughout the City on public and private property
- Traffic signals and street lights

The Utilities Division is responsible for maintenance and oversight of water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure, including:

- Groundwater wells (20 total)
- Water and sewer mains, and storm drains
- Customer service to Downey businesses and residents
- Design of utility improvements and procuring construction bids, management of capital improvement projects
- Ensuring water quality standards are met and in compliance with State regulations

All three divisions of the Public Works Department regularly interface with the Community at City Hall, located on the second floor. Service requests can be made directly through the City website at:

<https://downeygis.org/ServiceRequestR/ServiceRequest/Add-ServiceRequest.aspx>

Requests can also be made directly through call the separate divisions:

Administration/Engineering:	(562) 904-7102
Maintenance and Facilities:	(562) 904-7194
Utilities:	(562) 904-7202

The City of Downey mobile app can also be downloaded directly from the Apple and Google Play stores and service requests can also be placed this way through mobile devices.

ANALYSIS

Updates on Recent and Upcoming Activities – Administration/Engineering Division

As part of its regular duties, the Administration and Engineering Division manages the Keep Downey Beautiful (KDB) Program. Through this program, monthly clean-up events are held for a one-hour period on one Saturday each month (with the exception of July and August due to hotter weather) where the Community can volunteer to pick up litter at locations throughout the City. In the past, the City has seen between 30 to 60 volunteers arrive to help clean up at these events, but for the last two months the participation has grown to approximately 90 volunteers.

For the next two months KDB clean-up activities will be held on the following dates and locations:

May 11, 2024 – Independence Park, 12334 Bellflower Blvd. (9 am to 10 am)

June 8, 2024 – See’s Candy Parking Lot, 9839 Paramount Blvd. (9 am to 10 am)

The Administration/Engineering Division is also planning two other events over the next month:

April 20, 2024 – Arbor Day Tree Giveaway Event (8 am to 11 am) – 300 fruit trees to be given away at the City Hall Parking Lot, while supplies last. One 5-gallon fruit tree is given per household.

May 18, 2024 - 3rd Annual Touch-A-Truck Event (10 am to 1 pm) – Various service trucks and vehicles from the City’s Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments are made available for the Community to see up close. This year’s event will also include a helicopter from the Los Angeles County Sherriff’s Department.

Capital Improvement Projects

The Administration/Engineering Division is completing design and procuring bids for a variety of construction projects including:

Street Paving (construction during the Summer and Fall of 2024):

Area 5 – Residential streets bounded by Stewart & Gray Road to the south, Florence Avenue to the north, Paramount Boulevard to the west, and Lakewood Boulevard to the east.

Area 7 – Residential streets bounded by Imperial Highway to the south, Firestone Boulevard to the north, the western City limit to the west, and Paramount Boulevard to the east.

Alleys North of Foster Road – Alleys are located just north of Foster Road between Lakewood Boulevard and Columbia Way; between Corrigan Avenue and Bellflower Boulevard; and Dunrobin Avenue and Woodruff Avenue.

Woodruff Avenue Rehabilitation Project – Staff is currently preparing to solicit bids for construction of the first phase of the Woodruff Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation project between Firestone Boulevard and Washburn Road. This work will take place between June and September of 2024. The second phase of the project will follow shortly after this project and will continue from Washburn Road to Foster Road. The project will reconstruct the pavement between these project limits, replace damaged concrete sidewalks, curb and gutter, curb ramps, and restripe the newly constructed road. In addition, raised medians and landscaping will be added between Imperial Highway and Foster Road. The overall project should be completed by the end of December 2024, pending weather conditions during the fall and winter.

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Improvements:

Lakewood Boulevard Traffic Signal Improvement Project – Modifications to traffic signals at the intersections of Lakewood Boulevard with Rosecrans Avenue, Gardendale Street, Alameda Street, and 5th Street/Cecilia Street, including new poles, mast arms, vehicle and pedestrian indicators, pedestrian pushbuttons, cabinets, and electrical equipment and controller upgrades. Construction of the project has been completed in the field.

Annual Miscellaneous Concrete Improvement Project – Concrete repairs to damage or uplifted sidewalks, curb and gutter, and driveway approaches in Council District No. 1 (rotates to new Council District each year). Project also includes concrete replacements along Lakewood Boulevard between Imperial Highway and Gardendale Street. Finally, concrete repairs are also being made at Fire Station No. 1. The project is currently in construction and should be completed in the field in June 2024.

Updates on Recent and Upcoming Activities – Maintenance and Facility Division

In addition to the regular maintenance activities conducted by field staff, such as pothole and sidewalk repairs, tree trimming, street landscape maintenance, facility repairs, and park maintenance, the Maintenance and Facility Division is currently overseeing a few major projects in the City:

Roof Replacement at the McCaughan Gym – The project will see replacement of the roof. The work take place between late April and mid-May and involves the tear down of the old roof (installed in 1997) followed by installation of the new roof.

Painting and Security Upgrades at the Downtown Parking Structure – The City's IT Division took the lead on adding new cameras on each floor of the Parking Structure, including infrastructure leading back to the Police Department to allow for security monitoring of the parking structure at all hours, as well as license plate reading technology at the entrance and exit of the facility. The entire structure has been painted on the interior and exterior. The parking stalls will be restriped by the end of May 2024.

Updates on Recent and Upcoming Activities – Utilities Division

In addition to the regular field activities conducted by field staff, such as meter reading for utility billing, water quality sampling, sewer line maintenance, installation of new water services, and various repairs and requests for service, the Utilities Division is overseeing water improvement projects, such as:

Firestone Boulevard and Lakewood Boulevard Water System Improvements – Included the installation of 1,400 feet of new water main along Lakewood Boulevard between 3rd Street and the Union Pacific Railroad, as well as water main and service improvements (valves, fittings, fire hydrants, service lines, and replacement of old meters with new remote-read meters) on Firestone Boulevard between Lakewood Boulevard and Downey Avenue.

Well No. 9 Rehabilitation Project – The City has 20 groundwater wells that provides all of the water needed for residents, businesses, and City operations. Each year, the City will rehabilitate two to three of its wells, as needed. This includes removing the pumps and replacing or repairing, cleaning the well screening, and replacing any well column pipe or parts as necessary. The work improves the efficiency and operation of our groundwater wells and enables the utilities division to meet the continued demand of the City. This project will take place between July 2024 and January 2025.

CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Quality of Life, Safety & Infrastructure

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact related to the update report on Public Works activities.

ATTACHMENTS

None.