



Advisory Committee: Minutes of Regular Meeting – April 26, 2016

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gilbert A. Herrera, Chair – **Present**

Jeri Brooks – **Present**

Steven E. Parker – Absent

Kathryn Easterly – **Present**

Scott Elmer – **Present**

Vernita Harris – Absent, with notice

Bert Keller – **Present**

Jeff Ross – Absent

Edward Taravella – **Present**

1. Call to Order / Welcome

Chairman Gilbert Herrera called the meeting of the ReBuild Houston Advisory Committee (RHAC) to order at 10:30 a.m. and thanked all in attendance.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Motion to approve the March 22, 2016 meeting minutes was made by Ms. Kathy Easterly and seconded by Mr. Scott Elmer. Motion carried.

3. Discussion for FY18 – FY27 Plan

“Project Selection, Process Methodology & Recommended Changes”

Mr. Dale Rudick, Director of the Public Works and Engineering Department (PWE), began the conversation by stating that the *CIP Process Manual* is a living, ever evolving document that PWE continuously seeks to improve to better serve the citizens. Mr. Rudick then introduced Mr. Paresh Lad, Senior Project Manager for the PWE Infrastructure Planning Branch, to share a presentation with the committee on project selection, methodology and recommended changes for the 2016 CIP Process Manual.

The four topic areas of PWE recommended refinements shared by Mr. Lad in the presentation included updates to the process manual sections involving major thoroughfare, local street, storm drainage and community engagement. He informed the committee that one of the major refinements PWE will make

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to the *CIP Process Manual* is in how PWE evaluates major thoroughfares. The latest major thoroughfare pavement data collected can be analyzed by type of material. The data identified that approximately 40% of the thoroughfares in the City are asphalt streets and 60% are concrete streets.

Ms. Kathy Easterly inquired if the practice of placing asphalt over concrete is still used. Mr. Mark Loethen, PWE Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services Division, informed the committee that this practice is no longer administered as it can cause problems with drainage.

Additionally, PWE is now able to evaluate collected Open Ditch data of local streets and extract the pavement width as an additional prioritization factor. Mr. Lad stated that PWE has observed that these streets tend to have a narrower pavement width and they tend to be asphalt with average Pavement Condition Index (PCI) scores that do not show them as a high need area. He continued by saying that asphalt streets may show signs of cracking and rutting but when the rutting pavement is smooth, it may not result in an overall bad PCI score. Mr. Lad stated that by analyzing pavement width for these areas, additional priorities can be added to the ranking factors specifically for neighborhoods where the majority of the streets are less than 14 feet wide. Mr. Lad informed the committee that there are approximately 1,200 miles of open ditch streets, of which, there are approximately 128 miles with streets that are less than 14 feet wide. A typical curb and gutter street is 28 feet wide. Mr. Lad noted that typically three survey sections are taken along each street. If any cross-section measured less than 14 feet, the entire segment was identified. Mr. Loethen shared that this enables PWE to analyze the City's infrastructure for both short-term maintenance/rehabilitation and long-term capital improvements.

Mr. Lad stated PWE is also reviewing storm drainage and how we can better capture inadequacies with our new drainage coverage data. The new PWE drainage coverage now shows smaller drainage boundaries and includes level of service to better pinpoint where inadequacies exist. This new data is still in the process of being updated to create a more representative aggregation layer, but when completed in early Fall the update will allow PWE to better capture inadequate areas.

Finally, Mr. Lad shared that PWE will be updating the *CIP Process Manual* to include a community engagement process and related activities which began in 2015. This process is data and community input driven. By incorporating this community engagement process, PWE has more than doubled the number of community engagement opportunities that it offers to citizens to inform/discuss upcoming CIP projects. We are finding public engagement has been beneficial to attaining information for upcoming projects for example:

- At the most recent *pre-engineering community meeting* in the Westbury area, PWE was able to gain new insight on the drainage issues within the neighborhood, information which otherwise would not have been captured.
- The Greenbriar *pre-design community meeting* helped create a more collaborative design solution for the community.
- At the Memorial Drive *pre-construction community meeting*, PWE had one of the largest turnouts of engaged, supportive citizens for a project about to begin construction.

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Mr. Gilbert Herrera asked if these data sets drive maintenance projects. Mr. Loethen stated that it does drive operation and maintenance activities specifically with regard to programmatic projects such as overlays and panel replacements. With regard to the recent flooding in Houston, Mr. Loethen stated while the City can complete infrastructure and drainage improvement projects, for the infrastructure to operate at an optimal level, PWE needs support from other organizations. This support includes the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) completing their ongoing bayou projects. Additionally, he stated that PWE needs federal partnerships to complete projects in a more timely manner. Council Member Larry Green stated that there are ongoing conversations with Congress requesting additional federal assistance.

Mr. Loethen shared that one alternative being examined is the possibility of elevating homes in areas with frequent structural flooding. The City received approximately \$15 million from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants that will allow homes in the Meyerland area (affected by recent flooding) to be raised above the flood elevation.

Mr. Herrera stated that he feels there is a perception that developers are receiving extra benefits regarding the permitting process. Ms. Carol Haddock, Interim Deputy Director of the Engineering and Construction Division, stated that PWE carries out the permitting process as equitably as possible, but the permitting process is also driven by policies beyond the control of PWE.

Council Member Green inquired if PWE is having conversations on increasing the number of detention ponds there are throughout the city. Mr. Loethen stated that the use of detention ponds are a regular part of the conversation when investigating alternative flooding solutions.

Mr. Loethen also asked committee members to keep in mind that flooding and drainage adequacy are correlated but are not the same thing. The important distinction is that the City's drainage infrastructure can be in 100% working order and flooding may still occur and that Houston needs a 'system-wide' approach to reduce the risk of flooding in the City. Mr. Rudick stated that while standards have increased over the years, the entire city will never be flood proof.

4. 2016 Meeting Schedule & Workshop Suggestions

Mr. Rudick informed the Committee that the meeting packet includes a copy of the 2016 tentative meeting schedule and requested that committee members consider topics of interest for upcoming meetings. Ms. Jeri Brooks requested a future workshop address flooding and drainage and how the two are related. Mr. Herrera suggested that workshops on PWE's effort to leverage technology and educate citizens would be beneficial – efforts such as providing a bank of flooding resources and tools to provide information to citizens during emergencies and throughout the year.

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5. Executive Report

Mr. Rudick informed the committee that included in the packet are three quarterly reports (attached).

6. Old Business/New Business

Mr. Donald Perkins of Council Member Green's office, informed the committee that the Transportation, Technology, and Infrastructure (TTI) Committee meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, May 2 at 10:00 a.m. due to weather conditions.

7. Public Comments

Ms. Susan Petty, of the Charnwood Civic Association, was in attendance to offer recommendations on *CIP Process Manual* changes/updates. One such requested update from Ms. Petty was to have an appeals process.

Ms. Virginia Gregory was in attendance to discuss flooding issues in the Spring Branch area.

8. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

Attachments:

- 2016 CIP Process Manual Refinements Presentation (Apr. 26, 2016)
- Drainage Utility Collections/Expenditures Report (as of Mar. 31, 2016)
- Drainage Utility Collections Quarterly Report (FY16 – Qtr. 3)
- Dedicated Street & Drainage Fund Group FY16 Adopted Budget & CIP Report (as of Mar. 31, 2016)
- CY 2016 Meeting Calendar (DRAFT)

thumbs up



for progress

REBUILD HOUSTON

better streets. better drainage. better future.



2016 Process Manual Refinements

**Planning & Programming
Updates for FY17-26 Prioritization**
Department of Public Works & Engineering

Planning (Chapter 2)

CIP Process Manual Refinements



2

- Major Thoroughfare
 - ▣ New data allows for evaluation/prioritization by roadway construction (Asphalt/Concrete)
- Local Street
 - ▣ Open Ditch data allows for additional consideration based on pavement width
- Storm Drainage
 - ▣ Able to differentiate/identify drainage need areas to a more defined area which gives better representation to systems adequacies
- Community Engagement

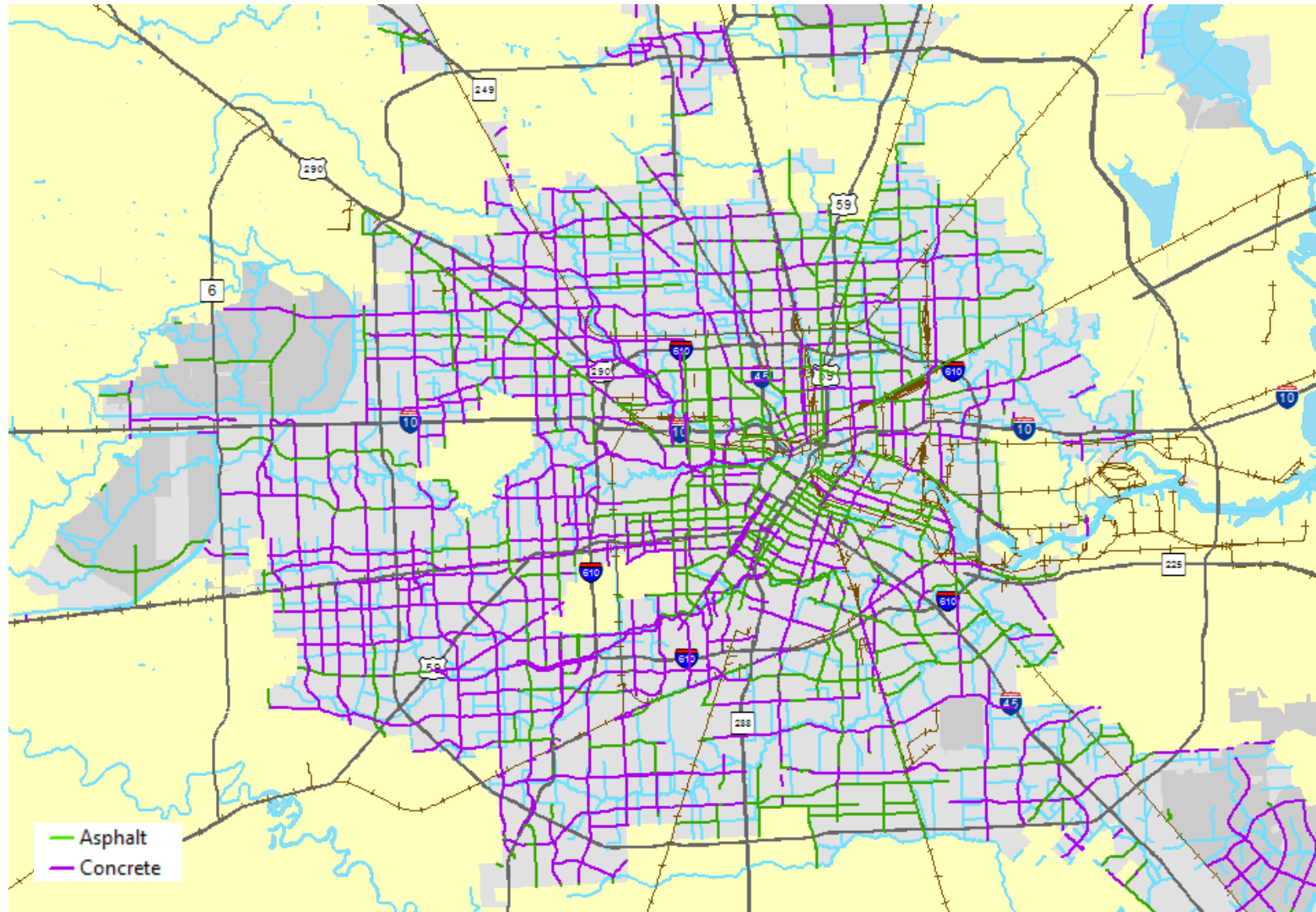
Major Thoroughfares

3

- Most recent pavement condition data provides classification of pavement material
- Initial analysis: 40% of the streets are asphalt or asphalt composite and 60% are concrete
- Distress and pavement data collected differs based on the pavement material; analyze independently

Major Thoroughfares by Pavement Material

4



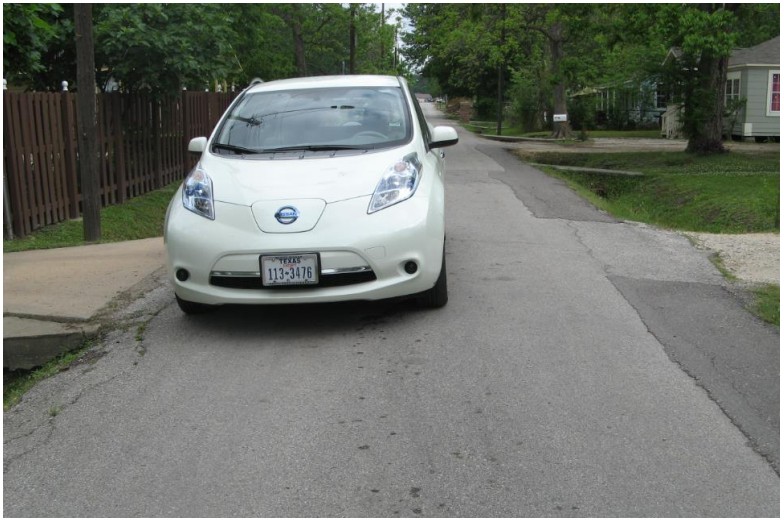
Local Streets with Open Ditch

5

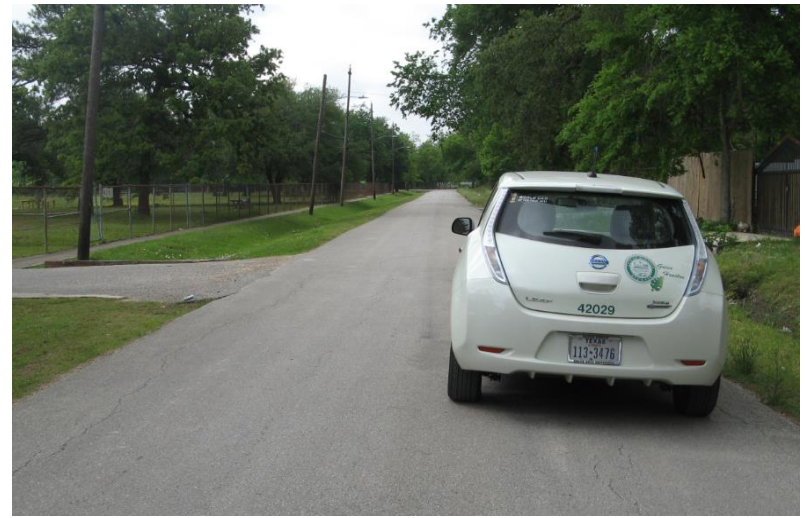
- Local streets with open ditch tend to have narrow pavement width
- These streets are primarily asphalt with average Pavement Condition Index (PCI) scores and do not rank as high needs
- Add priority factor for neighborhoods with majority width less than 14ft.

Narrow Streets with Open Ditch

6



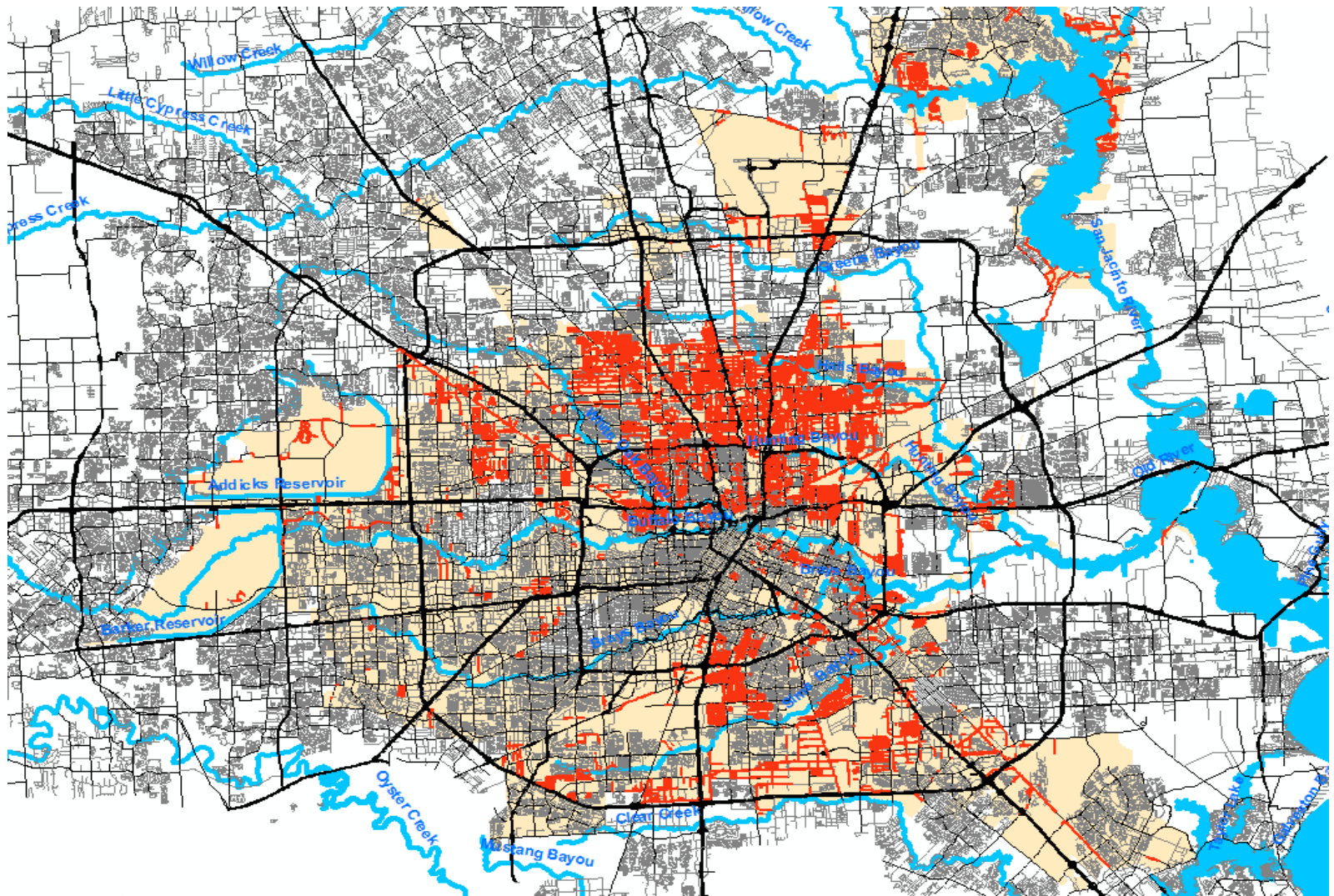
Example of a 13ft street



Example of a 15ft street

Coverage of Open Ditch Area

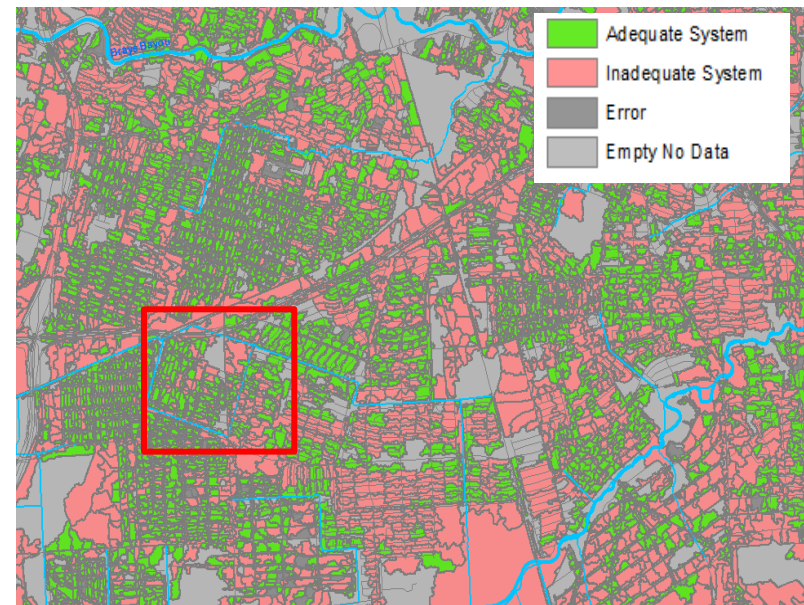
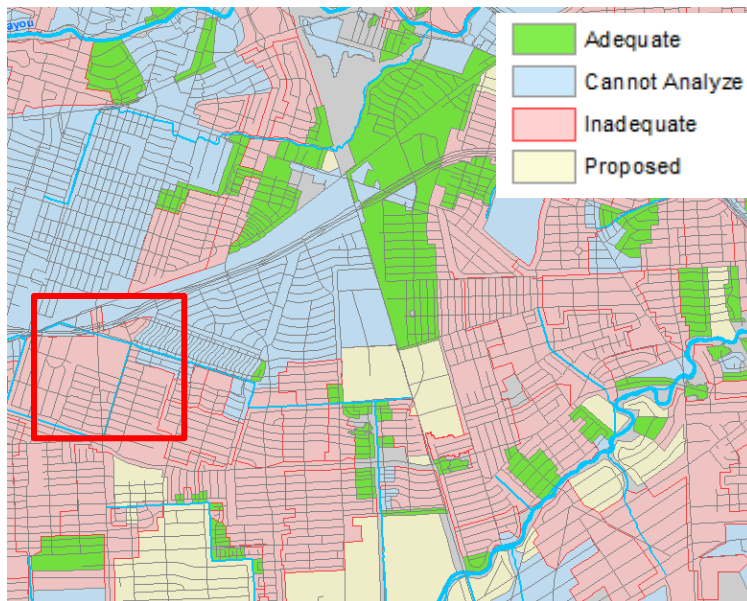
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Storm Drainage Need Prioritization

8

- City-wide design event adequacy was recently completed, replacing previous Comprehensive Drainage Plan
- Previous coverage was large and did not provide detailed level of service for entire City



Community Engagement

9

Hard Science - Data Driven

- Infrastructure Design Manual
- Creative Solutions
- Operations

Social Science

- Customer Service
- Community Input

Political Science should
seldom enter the picture.

Community Engagement Opportunities



Pre 2015



Beginning 2015



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QUESTIONS

www.ReBuildHouston.org

City of Houston
Public Works and Engineering Department
Dedicated Street & Drainage Fund Group
FY16 Adopted Budget and CIP Report
For the Quarter ending March 31st, 2016

<i>CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS</i>	<i>Adopted Budget</i>	<i>Adopted CIP</i>	<i>Adopted + Refined CIP²</i>	<i>YTD Actual 3/31/2016</i>	<i>March Projection</i>
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE					
Street and Drainage ¹	\$ 21,321,773		\$ 21,321,773	\$ 13,250,431	\$ 21,095,656
Traffic Operations ¹	\$ 25,938,100		\$ 25,938,100	\$ 16,906,736	\$ 23,218,137
Support Operations	\$ 978,500		\$ 978,500	\$ 425,311	\$ 721,217
Transfer to Stormwater Fund	\$ 14,712,000		\$ 14,712,000	\$ 13,685,094	\$ 13,685,094
Other Drainage Operational Expenditures	\$ 3,887,500		\$ 3,887,500	\$ 1,643,560	\$ 3,315,015
Total O&M	\$ 66,837,873		\$ 66,837,873	\$ 45,911,132	\$ 62,035,120
PERMANENT AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS					
Street Resurfacing ¹	\$ 19,875,865		\$ 19,875,865	\$ 13,314,134	\$ 17,662,339
Bridge Replacement ¹	\$ 1,421,432		\$ 1,421,432	\$ 685,333	\$ 1,100,244
Concrete Replacement ¹	\$ 12,365,830		\$ 12,365,830	\$ 9,565,770	\$ 10,803,468
Capital Equipment	\$ 154,800		\$ 154,800	\$ -	\$ -
Total Permanent Impr./Capital Impr.	\$ 33,817,927		\$ 33,817,927	\$ 23,565,237	\$ 29,566,051
Sub-total - Budget	\$ 100,655,800	\$ -	\$ 100,655,800	\$ 69,476,369	\$ 91,601,171
CIP					
Metro Capital		\$ 67,307,000	\$ 67,307,000	\$ 21,868,713	\$ 67,307,000
Grant Funds		\$ 25,644,000	\$ 25,644,000	\$ 15,414,425	\$ 25,644,000
Capital Contribution		\$ -	\$ 1,682,000	\$ 1,682,000	\$ 1,682,000
Other		\$ 2,057,000	\$ 2,057,000	\$ -	\$ 2,057,000
DDSRF Capital Fund (4042)		\$ 140,000,000	\$ 180,125,132	\$ 87,756,996	\$ 180,125,132
Total CIP		\$ 235,008,000	\$ 276,815,132	\$ 126,722,134	\$ 276,815,132
Total Permanent and Capital			\$ 310,633,059	\$ 150,287,371	\$ 306,381,183
Reconciling Items					
Transfer to DDSRF Capital Projects	\$ 127,600,000				
380 Agreements	\$ 6,400,000				
Total Transfers	\$ 134,000,000				
Grand Total	\$ 234,655,800	\$ 235,008,000	\$ 377,470,932	\$ 196,198,503	\$ 368,416,303
O&M Expenditure as Percentage of Total O&M Budget and CIP Appropriation³			17.71%	12.16%	16.43%

- 1) Budgeted amounts for ongoing level of service provided by City Personnel - previously in the General Fund and reimbursed by METRO, now in fund 2310 and reimbursed by METRO.
- 2) The difference between Adopted CIP vs. Refined CIP is due to rollover of projects that were in the FY15 CIP but were not appropriated until FY16.
- 3) Based on the ReBuild Houston charter amendment, the percentage calculation is: The amount of the O&M (purple) divided by the amount appropriated (sum of blue highlighted numbers).

Drainage Utility Collections Quarterly Collections and Annual Projections

	Billing and Collections through March 2016			Projections for Fiscal Year		
	Billings ¹	Collections ²	% Collected	Billings	Collections	Projected % Collected
Monthly Bills	\$ 58,959,325	\$ 54,519,783	92.47%	\$ 79,792,898	\$ 75,801,555	95.00%
Annual/Bi-Monthly Accounts ³	\$ 2,785,354	\$ 1,362,395	48.91%	\$ 3,315,618	\$ 1,339,510	40.40%
Quarterly - 3 quarter ⁴	\$ 22,130,618	\$ 18,965,269	85.70%	\$ 29,736,484	\$ 26,762,836	90.00%
City Bills	\$ 5,322,363	\$ 5,322,363	100.00%	\$ 7,095,000	\$ 7,095,000	100.00%
Total	\$ 89,197,660	\$ 80,169,811	89.88%	\$ 119,940,000	\$ 110,998,901	92.55%

1 Total Fiscal Year billings reflect actual status as of March 31, 2016 and includes amounts in litigation.

2 Collection figures include payments received through March 31, 2016.

3 Accounts with total annual drainage charges of \$60 or less and accounts for which no payment has ever been remitted are billed annually. Accounts with sewer and drainage charges only (no water) are billed bi-monthly.

4 Quarterly bills are systematically being moved from quarterly to monthly as matched. Some monthly bills have been consolidated based on owner request and billed quarterly. As of this report, first, second and third quarters have been billed.

Advisory Committee: CY 2016 Meeting Schedule – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

January 26, 2016

- PWE's Draft "5+5 Year Plan" (FY 17 – 26); CIP Program Update & Prioritized Need Areas
- Preview: CIP Town Hall Meetings & Process (February & March)

February 2016 – No RHAC meeting during CIP Town Hall Meetings

March 22, 2016

- Overview of CIP Town Hall Meetings and Public Input Period
- Look Back/Look Forward
- Suggestions for future educational workshops (August thru November below)

April 26, 2016

- Discussion on "project selection, process methodology & recommended changes" for FY 18-27

May 24, 2016 – No meeting scheduled unless specifically called

June 21, 2016

- Consensus on Recommendations for FY 18 – FY 27 Plan

July 26, 2016 – No RHAC meeting; PWE 101 Orientation Tour for interested members

August 23, 2016

- Workshop (Topic TBD)

September 27, 2016

- Workshop (Topic TBD)

October 25, 2016

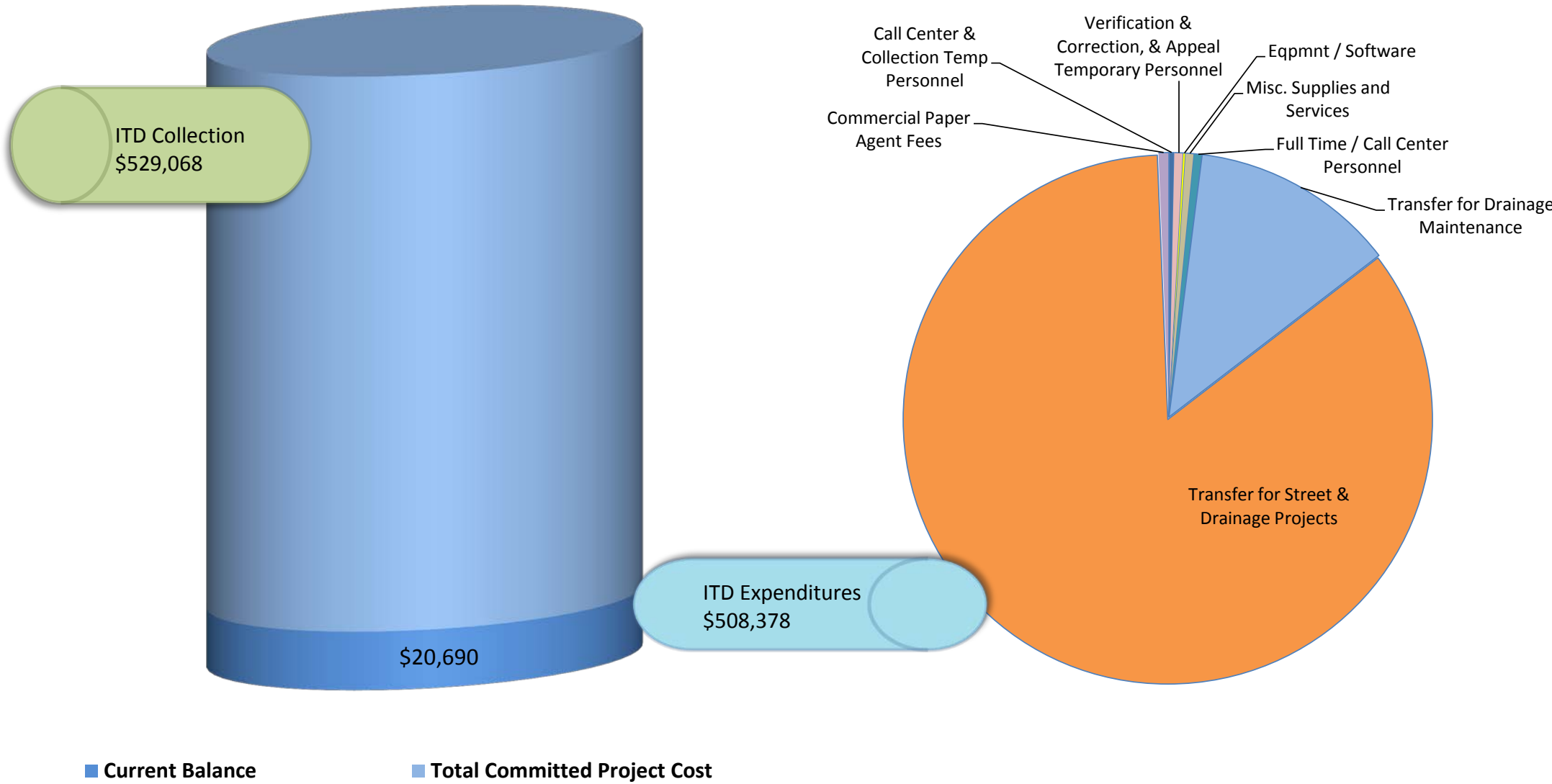
- Workshop (Topic TBD)

November 22, 2016 (Nov. & Dec. meetings combined)

- Workshop (Topic TBD)
- Timeline for January release of FY 18-27 "5+5 Year Plan"
 - January 20, 2017 (tentative) – Release of Internal Draft FY 18-27 "5+5" to RHAC
 - January 24, 2017 – RHAC discussion on Draft FY 18-27 "5+5"
 - Feb/March – CIP District Town Hall meetings/Public Comment Period

December 2016 – No Meeting

**Drainage Utility
Inception to Date (ITD) Collections / Expenditures
(\$ in Thousands)
(As of March 31, 2016)**



Note: Currently committed project costs total \$215.9 Million.