



Oversight Committee: Minutes of Regular Meeting - April 23, 2013

IN ATTENDANCE:

Theldon R. Branch, III, Chair – **Present**
Ann Lents, Vice Chair – **Present**
Frances Castaneda Dyess, Working Group Chair – **Present**
Edward Taravella – **Present**
C.P. "Chip" Bryan – Absent (with notice)
Bert Keller, Working Group Chair – Absent
Gilbert Herrera, Working Group Chair – Absent (with notice)
Jeff Ross, Working Group Chair – **Present**
Council Member Oliver Pennington – **Present**

1. Call to Order / Welcome

Chairman Theldon Branch called the meeting of the ReBuild Houston Oversight Committee to order at 10:39 a.m. Also in attendance were Council Member Green and Council Member Costello.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Motion to approve the March, 26, 2013 meeting minutes was made by Ms. Frances Castaneda Dyess, seconded by Mr. Edward Taravella; Motion carried.

3. Final Draft "5+5 Plan

Mr. Dale Rudick distributed a hard copy of the April 16, 2013 release of the proposed "5+5 Year Plan," FY 2014-2023, that is also available online at www.rebuildhouston.org. Mr. Rudick noted that the original

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release of the Plan in January prior to the CIP Town Hall meetings has been refined to reflect updated information including nearly 650 pieces of new input received from residents during the Public Input period that ended on March 31, 2013. During the public input period, Public Works & Engineering (PWE) made the concerted effort to encourage residents to complete a questionnaire and provide flooding information that may have never been reported. The majority of the new information received was related to flooded structures and impassable streets and has been added to the data base. The new information included the results of a previously performed flooding survey in the areas surrounding TIRZ No. 17. This new information provided by the public has contributed to subtle changes on the need intensity map and has also resulted in the identification of a few Storm Drainage Need Areas being placed or expanded in the "+5 Year Plan" as indicated below. Mr. Rudick thanked Council Member Pennington for forwarding the flooding survey.

Some of the changes to the proposed Plan include: the placement of Southmore (Almeda to Main) and W. Fuqua (Chimney Rock to the City limits) on the Inventory of Candidate Projects (ICP) list; the expansion of the already identified Storm Drainage Need Area to be studied for the Greater OST/South Union Super Neighborhood; and, the addition of Storm Drainage Need Areas for both Kashmere Gardens and Memorial Pines subdivisions. These three Storm Drainage Need Area changes were a direct result of new information received during the public input period as referenced above.

Mr. Taravella asked for details as to why the Memorial Pines subdivision did not place higher since a large number of homes that flooded were added into the data base. Mr. Rudick responded that there are many factors involved in determining need including topography, FEMA claims, adequacy of the existing storm sewer system and more. He also stated that the new information received is not exclusive to the Memorial Pines subdivision but is spread out over a much larger area. As a result of the new data, Memorial Pines was re-prioritized and was moved into the list of "+5" Identified Need Areas. Other areas also moved up in prioritization, but did not move into the list of "+5" Identified Need Areas. This is largely due to projected funding level constraints and the limitations of how large the pool of identified "+5" Need Areas can be. Ms. Ann Lents suggested that we again review the criteria to denote need area. Mr. Rudick stated that we continue to review the criteria and refine the model. Also noted, is that it would not have been prudent to change parameters of the model between the January publication of the first draft of the FY 14-23 Plan and the revised draft based on public input. The best time to introduce parameter changes would be prior to the publication of the draft FY 15-24 Plan in 2014.

Mr. Taravella stated that he wants to ensure that the model is being evaluated to ensure "Worst First." Mr. Rudick stated that the data base may not be as complete as we would like but the base continues to expand and the information is good. He continued that the system in place today is a much better and more objective system than ever before. We are always seeking more data in an effort to objectively deduce "Worst First" and provide street and drainage projects on a need basis. Mr. Taravella requested to view a copy of the current Need Areas as compared with last year's Need Areas to better understand how Need Areas may be shifting each year.

Mr. Rudick informed the Committee of a Need Area Identification memorandum (attached) that went out to city council members on April 16, 2013 from Mr. Dan Krueger, Director of Public Works & Engineering. The memo requests input from district council members with regard to Need Areas that may not have been captured in the data. This helps to engage and utilize the knowledge of the district council members regarding Needs Areas within their individual districts. If the district council member is able to convey why an area is a high-priority Need Area, it allows the opportunity for PWE to consider it in the FY 14 pre-engineering work plan. Once a Need Area (identified by a district council member) is pre-engineered, the candidate project will then compete with all other candidate projects based on benefit/cost. From that point, the highest ranking candidate will be recommended for a future 5-year CIP. Mr. Rudick noted that, in an effort to have sufficient time to consider these needs with other pre-engineering, input from council members should be submitted to the Director by May 16, 2013.

Chairman Branch thanked Council Members Noriega and Costello for their work in helping to formulate this process. Council Member Costello reinforced that the district council members are the front line of the district – that they are the point people – and this allows them to incorporate that into the process.

4. Executive Report

Mr. Rudick announced that the next Transportation, Technology & Infrastructure (TTI) Council Committee meeting is on Tuesday, May 14, 2013. A ReBuild Houston update will be provided including a briefing by Chairman Branch on the role and function of the Oversight Committee as discussed at the February and March meetings. Mr. Rudick also noted that the next Oversight Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2013, the day after Memorial Day. He will send an email to committee members to determine if this date works or if perhaps it would be better to reschedule the meeting for Tuesday, May 21, 2013. A copy of the Drainage Utility Fee Collections/Expenditures exhibit as of April 10, 2013 (attached) was distributed and is posted online.

5. Old Business/New Business - None

6. Public Comments

Ms. Susan Petty addressed concerns on several issues: accuracy of the PCR scores and of SWEET evaluation on streets with overlays; and the scoring process which does not factor in cut-through traffic.

7. Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Lents, was seconded by Ms. Dyess and approved at 11:50 a.m.

Attachments:

- Need Area Identification Memo from Daniel W. Kruger, PWE Director
- Drainage Utility Fee Collections & Expenditures as of April 10, 2013



CITY OF HOUSTON

Department of Public Works and Engineering

Interoffice

Correspondence

To: District Council Members

From: 
Daniel W. Krueger, P.E.
Director

Date: April 16, 2013

cc: Mayor Annise D. Parker
At-Large Council Members

Subject: **REBUILD HOUSTON
NEED AREA IDENTIFICATION**

Following the completion of District CIP meetings, Public Works and Engineering (PWE) finalized its recommendation for both the FY 2014 - 2018 CIP street and drainage improvements and for the FY 2019 - 2023 identification and prioritization of street and drainage needs. The recommendations are available at <http://www.rebuildhouston.org/index.php/capital-improvements/m-5-plus-5-year-plan-documents/m-overview-documents>

These recommendations were developed in accordance with PWE's published *CIP Process Manual* which delineates our planning methodology for the development and recommendation of capital improvement projects. This planning methodology implements the worst-first approach to which the administration publicly committed prior to voter approval of the charter amendment in 2010 and again prior to Council's approval of the drainage utility in early 2011. The planning methodology outlines an objective and transparent multi-step process by which PWE recommends a project for the CIP. Simplified, these four sequential steps are:

- 1) **Identify & prioritize needs** utilizing city-wide, comprehensive data.
- 2) **Pre-engineer potential solutions** for the needs. Analysis is performed on the highest priority need areas, solutions are developed, scopes for candidate projects are defined, costs are estimated.
- 3) **Prioritize candidate projects** based on the number of benefitted users divided by the cost of the candidate project. All candidate projects in their respective category (Storm Drainage, Thoroughfares/Collectors or Local Streets) compete with one another.
- 4) **Recommend the best candidate projects** for the next CIP.

PWE is currently preparing to conduct further pre-engineering of identified high need areas during the coming year, based on the 2019 - 2023 needs area prioritization.

PWE is again soliciting your input for identification of worst needs for specific segments of thoroughfares or collectors, areas of local streets, or areas of drainage problems. While the city-wide, comprehensive data base and the SWEET are unsurpassed in capacity to objectively identify and rank the worst needs of the City, we also realize that we yet do not have the full extent of relevant and updated data we would seek, and that no system is perfect. Your identification of such needs at this time would allow us to consider them in our pre-engineering work plan.

REBUILD HOUSTON NEED AREA IDENTIFICATION

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With your input, and so that we may yet improve both the methodology and data bases, I would want to discuss with you:

- What is the boundary of the perceived high-priority Need Area?
- Why it is perceived to be a high-priority Need Area.
- Availability of data not yet captured that is relevant to the need?

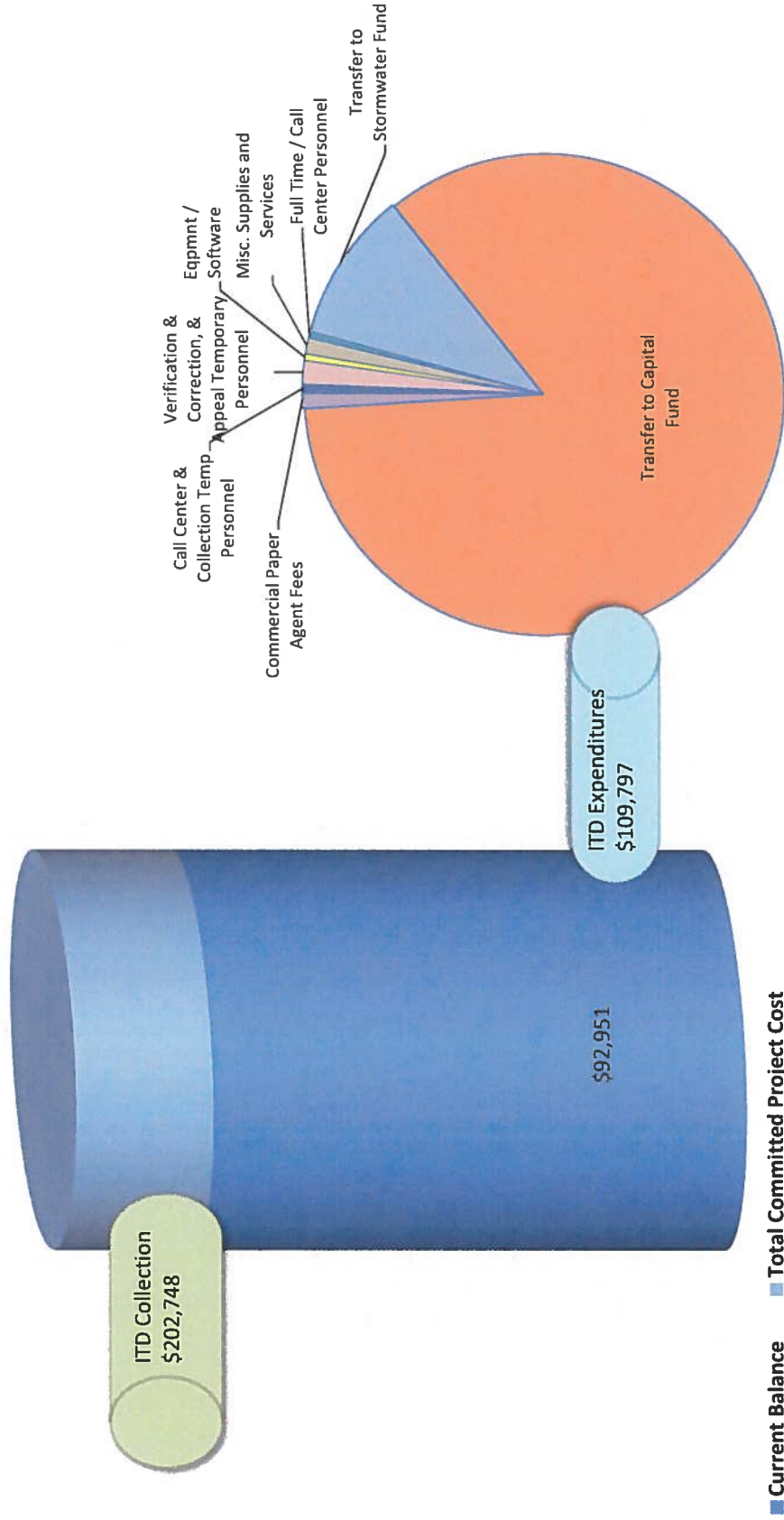
I respectfully request that you forward such input no later than May 16th so that we will have sufficient time to consider these needs with other pre-engineering, and so that all candidate projects developed as a result can be scored and ranked in time for development of the draft FY 2015 – 2019 CIP recommendation in February 2014.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at 832-395-2500, or Dale Rudick at 832-395-2483.

DWK:DAR:lac



Drainage Utility Fees Inception to Date (ITD) Collections / Expenditures (\$ in Thousands) (As of April 10, 2013)



■ Current Balance ■ Total Committed Project Cost
Note: Currently committed project costs total \$117 Million.