



Denver City Council

Public Works Committee Summary

March 22, 2006

Location: Council Conference Room

Committee Members Present: Brown, Chair; Hancock, Johnson, Lehmann, Robb
Committee Members Absent: Montero

1) Capital Improvement Program:

Committee Discussion

Bill Vidal, Manager of Public Works, explained that Public Works has gone through a process internally to define long term system needs. In conjunction with that evaluation Public Works wanted to develop a process to coordinate internal and external work relative to capital improvements (CIP) along with budgetary and strategic planning. Various catalysts were identified for decision-making purposes and for prioritization of projects. Capital project catalysts include:

- ✚ Coordinated work efforts (example: external/internal – CDOT, Urban Drainage, etc.);
- ✚ Public Works initiatives (example: Strategic Transportation Plan (STP));
- ✚ Mayoral and Council initiatives (example: unimproved alley program);
- ✚ Operating efficiencies; and
- ✚ Transit (FasTracks, T-REX).

Mr. Vidal explained that in the past CIP funding for projects was generally unknown and difficult to plan for. The goal is to strategically plan ahead for CIP projects while at the same time be flexible for immediate needs. He explained that the catalysts would be used to determine where and how much funding to allocate to projects and to determine whether a project was capital related or operational. Gretchen Hollrah, Public Works, indicated that internal analysis on various projects such as sanitary sewer pipelines and alleyways shows patterns of age and helps to show the predictability and justification for when these capital improvements should be required. Capital improvements would be broken down categorically based on the following defined system needs: Strategic Transportation Plan (STP), Storm Master Plan, Sanitary Master Plan, Infrastructure Task Force (maintenance), Parking, and Facilities. Any additional project requests would be added into the decision-making process for planning. In addition, an Intake Group Committee was established to review project requests to decide whether a project was related to capital or operational expenses/funding. This Committee identifies catalyst-related or non-catalyst projects for the purposes of prioritization and funding. To integrate the planning into the budget cycle Public Works established April 5, 2006 as the deadline for Councilmembers to submit project requests for review and consideration for the next budget year. A request form will

be utilized for the requests. Ms. Hollrah said she would send the form to all Councilmembers for their district project requests and indicated she and staff would be willing to meet individually with Councilmembers to assist them in the process.

Twenty two million dollars is targeted for the 2007 budget and Public Works is working on submitting a six-year program with an annual budgeting plan. Amy Mueller, Public Works, reported the agency is pursuing all funding sources, i.e. federal and enterprise funds, bonds, grants, etc. The challenge is to figure out what funding to use on what projects and to leverage the resources to achieve efficiencies. The City receives Transportation Improvement Project funding (TIP) as well as monies received from Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). Funding from these sources could be specific and require certain regulations before the money can be allocated to certain projects.

Councilmember Hancock reported there were problems with a bridge construction project near the new mall at Stapleton and asked how these types of issues could be addressed through the CIP program. Stu Williams, Public Works, indicated the following Monday there would be a study beginning to explore various alternatives to address issues in this area including the cargo bridge that the Councilman is referring to. The study will take 2-3 months and he suggested that the Councilman utilize the request form to provide feedback to the Intake Group Committee. Ms. Hollrah said this was a great example of how the process would work and that she would set up a meeting with the Councilmember to discuss his concerns. At the state level, the Colorado Department of Transportation would have \$350 million to fund various transportation projects. Resource allocation is always a debate and Denver would not get some of this money directly, but the funding does help, stated Mr. Vidal. Councilmember Lehmann suggested the City learn from other joint state-funded projects and put all contingency funding at the beginning of budget planning.

The following schedule represents the timeline for submitting requests and budget discussions:

- ✚ April 5: Deadline for City Council requests;
- ✚ April 13: Intake Group – review City Council project requests;
- ✚ May 8: Submit 6-year plan to Budget & Management;
- ✚ June 26: Submit 2007 CIP Budget to Budget & Management;
- ✚ July 1: Budget & Management submits the 2007 Budget to City Council.

2) **Parking contract:**

Committee Action

The Committee approved a contract extension through April 30, 2007 with ACS State and Local Solutions, Inc. for \$5.6 million for operation and services related to the Parking Management Information System.

Committee Discussion

Bill Vidal, Manager of Public Works, explained the Division of Parking Management did not have a formal Master Plan and/or policy decision-making authority and put the division at a disadvantage in trying to transition for change and to address problems. When the Parking Director left a Parking Policy Council was implemented to identify issues, to establish

purpose and values, and to create a strategic plan for parking. Councilmembers Wedgeworth and Robb are the Council representatives on the Parking Policy Council. In February 2006 this Council established Parking Value Statements (see attachment) that would encourage business development, manage parking demand, and define financial solutions to the operation and enforcement aspects of the division. Parking Management has established a six-year CIP plan and has identified \$32 million worth of capital needs. Additionally, Parking Management has undergone a reorganization process and has been consolidated with Traffic Operations. The intent is to pull all enforcement staff together.

The request before Councilmembers is to approve a contract extension with ACS State and Local Solutions, Inc. for an additional year through April 30, 2007. The contractor has the necessary qualifications and experience to provide services related to collections, credit, and the use of the hand-held equipment. There is a small pool of businesses that could provide these services and who have the type of experience to interface with the complicated systems, stated Councilmember Robb. The intent is to extend the contract, but to prepare for a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and Request for Proposal (RFP) process for selection of a contract by April of 2007 (see attachment schedule). Councilmember Robb added that ACS collects on 55,000 tickets monthly. There are 72 employees working in parking enforcement.

Councilmember Brown asked about legal problems associated with ACS. Councilmember Robb noted that the problem is with a Canadian subsidiary and the issue will be going to court within the next week. Shaun Sullivan, City Attorney's Office, said the legal issue would not involve the City's contract and that the services ACS would provide will be by a separate ACS entity (see attachment). He noted that ACS has a contract with the City for photo radar services.

Councilmember Robb reported that recent legislation approved by Council in the form of default judgment (parking) mandates that after 120 days an individual loses the ability to contest the citation and if not paid will go to collections. Mr. Sullivan explained that the legislation pertains to non-criminal infractions and the change brought consistency with other parking processes and ticket handling throughout the City. Councilmember Brown asked if any dent was being made to the \$30 million for parking debt owed to the City. Mr. Vidal said that was difficult to answer. The City collects approximately 85% of its collections. It takes a lot of effort and the City would need to compare its collections to other cities. Mr. Sullivan noted that there is a six-year statute of limitations to take legal action, but that the limitation does not remove someone's obligation to pay their fines.