

SEISMIC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (SGC) MEETING MINUTES BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

June 24, 2021

SGC Members in Attendance:

Yolanda Chavez, City Administrative Officer, Chair (CAO)

Matias Farfan, Chief Legislative Analyst Office (CLA)

Jennifer McDowell, Office of the Mayor (Mayor)

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comments:

- None.

Agenda Item 1, Approval of Minutes

- The March 25, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 2, Bureau of Engineering – Bridge Improvement Program Total Budget and Program Staffing – Action by Committee

Shirley Lau (BOE) for the Bridge Improvement Program (BIP) provided the following report:

- This report forecasts the BIP Seismic Budget at \$463 million.
- Since the last report approved in 2020 at \$464 million, this budget represents a decrease of \$1 million as a result of two construction projects completed during the FY2020-21 that did not require additional contingency funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Caltrans as previously anticipated.
- The two projects completed are: First Street Viaduct/Glendale Boulevard and Riverside Drive Bridge near Zoo Drive. Both projects are listed in post-construction in Table One of this report.
- Currently, there are 16 active projects as identified in Table One, with five in design, one in construction, and 10 in post-construction/close out with Caltrans.
- To support these projects, BOE forecasts the staffing levels identified in Table Two of the report.
- BOE staff projected in FY2021-22 through 2024-25 will be needed to work on critical projects such as the Glendale Hyperion Complex of Bridges, State Street over the UPRR and Busway, which is quite complicated and also the ongoing Soto Street/Valley Boulevard Construction projects.

- Shirley Lau thanked the Mayor's Office, CAO, and CLA for support on appropriation of \$1 million in the budget for the BIP contingency in the next fiscal year.
- Jennifer McDowell (Mayor/SGC) asked about the availability of funds for new projects to be coming down the pipeline or for bridge repairs. Shirley Lau (BOE) stated that currently the Highway/Bridge Program only has an annual allotment for the entire state of \$300 million annually. However, there may be additional funds from the Biden Administration's infrastructure bill.
- Matias Farfan (CLA/SGC) asked if there was anything the city can do as far as maintaining bridges to make them last longer or is reconstruction necessary. Shirley Lau (BOE) stated that discussions with the CAO started this week on an annual bridge maintenance program. In the past year, there has been significant vandalism on not only the vehicular bridges but also on the pedestrian bridges along the LA River. Aside from cosmetic maintenance requirements because of graffiti, the City also needs to look at the structure every few years.
- This item was approved.

Agenda Item 3, Bureau of Engineering – Bridge Improvement Program Proposed Staffing and Salary Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021-22 – Action by Committee

Shirley Lau (BOE) for the Bridge Improvement Program (BIP) provided the following report:

- Due to the City's Separation Incentive Package in 2020, BIP lost five positions that were removed and not backfilled.
- BOE analyzed the current staffing needs to support the 16 active projects in the program and recommended the reduced staffing level for Fiscal Year 2021-22 as shown in Attachment A.
- Based on the salary expenditures, an appropriation of \$3,095,649 is estimated to cover Fiscal Year 2021-22 staff costs for reimbursement to BOE and all support departments. The Bureau of Contract Administration staffing allocation has been made as a dollar amount for charging authority which totals approximately three Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions.
- Sufficient funding for the proposed BIP staffing plan is contingent upon the timely receipt of funds from reimbursing agencies.
- BOE will be working with Caltrans and FHWA and meeting every three weeks to resolve issues with reimbursements and other matters that hinder the timely reimbursements of funds.
- This item was approved.

Agenda Item 4, Bureau of Engineering – Sixth Street Viaduct Replacement Project Proposed Staffing and Salary Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021-22 – Action by Committee

Julie Allen (BOE) for the Sixth Street Viaduct Replacement Project (SIX) provided the following report:

- The Bureau of Engineering (BOE) is requesting approval of the proposed staffing and salary appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021-22 (FY21-22), for the Sixth Street Viaduct Program, currently at a \$588 million delivery cost. BOE is requesting approval in the amount of \$4.8 million broken down into the following funding sources: \$1.5 million in Municipal Improvement Corporation of Los Angeles (MICLA) funding; \$2.3 million in General Fund, both approved in the 2021-22 Capital & Technology Improvement Expenditure Program (CTIEP) budget; and \$1 million in MICLA front funding to be reimbursed by Highway Bridge Program (HBP) and Prop 1B Seismic Bond funds.
- The staffing budget covers nine resolution authority positions, eight of which are in the BOE, and one position in the Board of Public Works (BPW) Office of Accounting (OOA). The program also funds City staff in other departments and Bureaus that are necessary to support the overall project.
- FY 21-22 represents the final full year of construction for the Sixth Street Viaduct Project, with an expected completion in summer 2022. In order to complete all the work on schedule, the contractor, Skanska Stacy and Witbeck (SSW), has proposed extended weekend shifts, as well as off-hour work for most every activity on the project. City staff supports off-hour work required due to either high temperatures, meaning concrete pours are performed at night, and also for weekend full closures over the railroad rights-of-way because they do not allow work over their tracks during regular working hours. This past week SSW performed a concrete pour on Saturday, June 19 at 6 p.m.; a concrete pour on Tuesday, June 22 beginning 3 a.m.; today, June 24 beginning 5 a.m.; and there is a full weekend closure for working over the Union Pacific Railway (UPRR) tracks this Friday night, June 25, to Monday morning, June 28. These extended hour activities and multiple activities occurring simultaneously, require significant support from City staff.
- In addition, as this is the project's final year, all the appurtenances supporting the bridge's street lighting and transportation systems will be constructed. Therefore, there will be additional expected support from Bureau of Street Lighting (BSL) and the Department of Transportation (LADOT) to accept all of those elements.
- All the requested appropriations are currently included in the existing project budget and the reimbursements occur based on actual staff expenditures. Reimbursement for expenditures will only go up to the total appropriation. The requested staffing appropriation is the cap for what can be reimbursed and will not be reimbursed if the expenses do not occur.
- Jennifer McDowell (Mayor/SGC) requested Julie Allen to provide a status of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) reimbursement and where

those funds will go, if it will be impacting this next fiscal year. Julie Allen (BOE) stated the project currently has a Caltrans allocation of approximately \$20 million this fiscal year and another \$20 million the next fiscal year. Caltrans has not been providing enough of an allocation to be able to reimburse all of the funds expended on the project. However, the project has MICLA front funding, and there is sufficient capacity MICLA funding to be able to continue to expend through this year without any issues. Reimbursements from Caltrans require multiple years of reimbursements and may take up to three years. Every year, the City requests an increase in allocation amount to be reimbursed from Caltrans, but as Shirley Lau (BOE) mentioned, Caltrans has limited HBP funds in the overall state and has been very restrictive on what they are able to reimburse annually.

- Yolanda Chavez (CAO/SGC) added that the 2022 completion of the project is quickly approaching and everything is looking good with the bridge. Julie Allen (BOE) agreed and stated the bridge now has six of the arches fully exposed and it is receiving a lot of publicity on social media. Matias Farfan (CLA/SGC) added he has seen the bridge and arches from driving along the 5 and 10 Freeways and it is looking very nice.
- This item was approved.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.