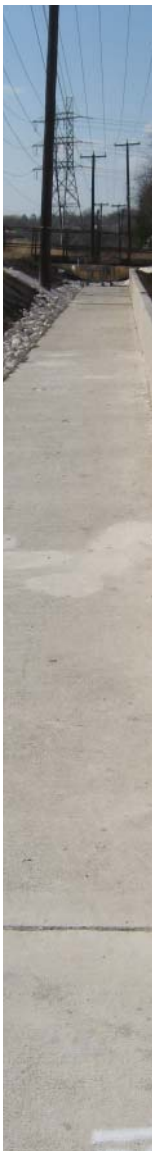


Issue I, March 2009



*FY 2009
Public Works Six Month Report
to the City Manager*



In this issue

Street Maintenance	P.3
Infrastructure Management Plan (IMP)	P.3
San Antonio Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Implementation Plan	P.4
Traffic Signal System Modernization (TSSM) Program	P.4
Low Water Crossing (LWC) Remediation Plan	P.5
San Antonio River Water Quality and Cleaning	P.5
Neighborhood Access Mobility Program (NAMP) ..	P.6
Public Works Involvement in the Community	P.6
Walters Street Entrance at Ft. Sam	P.7
What's On the Horizon? and Website Tools	P.8



Anthony
Chukwudolue

Kent
Hickingbottom

Richard
Mendoza

Mission Statement

The Department of Public Works is dedicated to excellence in developing and maintaining an advanced infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing community.

Frontline Focus

In November 2008, the Department of Public Works hosted a Frontline Employee Focus Group to gain input from all levels of staff regarding their work environment and department operations. This initiative was established to identify areas of operational efficiencies for FY 2009 and potential improvements to the FY 2010 budget. The Human Resources Department assisted with the facilitation of 12 Frontline Focus meetings made up of employees randomly selected from all divisions within Public Works.

During the focus group meetings, 137 participants voiced their opinions, concerns and ideas for improving current operations and processes. Many of those ideas have or will be implemented during this current fiscal year. Ideas include 1) the purchase of proper safety equipment, such as respirators, aprons, and gloves; 2) purchase of uniform jackets for all employees within the department; and 3) the creation of computer workstations for employees who did not have daily access to a computer.

In addition, the Director's Office conducted an Employee Satisfaction Survey for the department. The purpose of the survey was to gauge how employees felt about current communication practices, their commitment to the department, satisfaction with supervisors, and overall job satisfaction. As of January 1, 2009, a total of 474 employees out of 649 filled positions completed the survey equating to a 73% participation rate. The results of this survey will be available at the end of March 2009.

Street Maintenance



The City has approximately 4,018 centerline miles (CLM) in our street network and is distributed according to functional classification. A majority of our street infrastructure exists as local streets with 3,261 CLM. Overall, the City's average pavement condition rating (PCR) is very good. Of the City streets, 16% have a PCR of good (61-75 PCR rating), 37% have a PCR of very good (76-90 PCR rating), and 36% have a PCR of excellent (over 90 PCR rating). In comparison to other major cities in Texas, the condition of San Antonio streets is quite good.



In reviewing the condition of City streets, the estimated cost to raise the average PCR across the entire street network to an excellent level is \$1.29 billion. Staff is pursuing initiatives to enhance the pavement management program, such as an automated pavement condition survey, expansion of the pavement preservation component of the Street Maintenance Program (SMP), and an increase in material testing capabilities. The next report will provide an update on the Department's effort in exploring those initiatives.

Infrastructure Management Plan (IMP)

The IMP identifies projects and develops schedules for street maintenance, service alley maintenance, drainage maintenance, sidewalks, traffic signals and pavement markings on a rolling 5-year basis. Information on projects completed can be found on the Public Works website at www.sanantonio.gov/publicworks. The majority of those projects are constructed by contractors. However, some are completed by City forces.

Contractors for traffic signals and Sidewalks are now on board and those projects will be moving forward in the Spring. We are in the process of designing projects for alley maintenance and anticipate having a contractor on board by May. All FY2009 projects within the IMP are on track as scheduled and are expected to be completed by September 30, 2009.



Without Public Works | With Public Works



Without Public Works | With Public Works

San Antonio Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Implementation Plan

The Department of Public Works has embarked on the creation and implementation of a San Antonio Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Implementation Plan. The plan's mission is to provide walkable communities, through the provision of sidewalks, ramps, and crosswalks that are ADA compliant and available to all citizens. The plan is all encompassing and contains six (6) main goals. Each goal is identified with a lead department and each department has identified a goal leader. Each goal leader is charged with forming a small task force to review the goal & identify objectives, challenges & opportunities followed by further identifying the necessary tasks to address the goal objectives, including a timeline and funding strategies.



	ADA Implementation Plan and Goal	Lead Department	Status
Goal 1	Enforce existing regulations and policies for all new sidewalk construction.	Development Services	on-going
Goal 2	Provide curb cuts and ramps for access to sidewalks when a street is "altered."	Public Works	on-going
Goal 3	Evaluate and track sidewalk and street construction in accordance with appropriate regulations and identify necessary changes to make them ADA compliant.	Public Works	on-going
Goal 4	Enforce policies requiring property owners (homeowners and businesses) to maintain sidewalks, curbs and driveways to ensure sidewalk accessibility.	Neighborhood and Housing Services	on-going
Goal 5	Provide solutions to common, resolvable ADA complaints in partnership through the Disability Access Advisory Committee (DAAC) and other affected citizens.	Public Works	on-going
Goal 6	Recognizing the unique characteristics of San Antonio's Central Business District (CBD), create and implement a CBD specific ADA Pedestrian Compliance Plan.	Downtown Operations	on-going

Traffic Signal System Modernization (TSSM) Program

The TSSM program is being implemented to update and improve traffic signals and associated communication equipment. Once the TSSM Program has been completed, the upgraded Traffic Signal System will provide optimum traffic flow operation through the coordination and efficient timing of all signals within the City. This new system will also enable staff to remotely address changes in traffic patterns and driver concerns on a real-time basis. Communications Network equipment for Phase 2 locations is currently being installed and traffic data is being collected and analyzed for 119 of the 255 locations identified for this phase. Deployment began on February 2nd and 74 locations will be fully deployed by the end of the second quarter. Some of the highlighted corridors in Phase 2 include Broadway North/Nacogdoches Road, Goliad Road, Perrin Beitel, Babcock Road/Callaghan Road, General McMullen, and the San Antonio College (SAC) area.



Low Water Crossing (LWC) Remediation Plan

City staff is coordinating the delivery of low water crossing (LWC) improvements at 31 prioritized LWC locations over the next five years. An estimated \$500,000 will be budgeted each year to complete these crossings. Improvements to the crossings will include automated gates, signs, remote cameras, flashing lights, and automated water level sensing devices. These improvements will be delivered through a combination of City and contract crews. The first LWC improvement, located on Lockhill, is scheduled to be completed by April 2009, with the remaining five locations (McCullough at Barbara, Stahl Road north of Bell, Orsinger Road west of Sleepy Hollow, San Pedro at Agarita, and Judson Road at Lookout Road) to be completed by September 30, 2009.

San Antonio River Water Quality and Cleaning

Staff is implementing best practices to address water quality for the San Antonio River to include silt removal, water filtration and education to assist in improving the appearance and quality of the river as well as improve the ambiance of the River Walk to provide a more pleasurable experience for visitors and residents.

Public Works will be accepting bids for sediment removal from the River loop and extension to extract approximately 1-2 feet of fine sediment. Since the loop was built in the 1940s, silt has never been removed. It is anticipated to have a contractor on board in April to begin this work.

In addition to sediment removal, flow augmentation to improve the circulation of water throughout the River is also being examined. A consultant is being hired to select, calibrate, and apply a water quality model for the River. It is anticipated to have a consultant on board in March and a model to be developed in the following eight (8) months. SAWS is also assisting in this effort as a result of the 2009 Outfall Campaign. City staff cataloged outfalls and SAWS collected samples to run water quality analysis during the annual river cleaning, when the River is drained and sediment and debris are removed from the main channel. Staff is in constant communication with SAWS, SARA, stakeholders and Bexar County to discuss river quality issues and concerns.

Parks and Recreation is also assisting with the River quality by designing an ultra-violet disinfectant plant to improve the liquid effluent from the Zoo before disposal into the San Antonio River.



Neighborhood Access and Mobility Program (NAMP)

NAMP is a program that provides for the delivery of projects to enhance aesthetics and revitalize the infrastructure in San Antonio neighborhoods. Twice a year, Public Works issues a call for projects from the City Council Offices. In the first round of project submittals, a total of 124 projects were submitted for cost estimation. The list included 101 projects that were street and sidewalk related, and 23 were traffic related. Of this list, 47 projects were selected by the Council Offices for construction based on available funds.

Council District	# Projects Submitted for Cost Estimation	# Projects Selected for Construction	# Projects Complete (remaining to be complete by April 2009)
1	16	1	1
2	21	6	0
3	7	6	0
4	7	4	3
5	7	7	6
6	1	0	-
7	19	9	1
8	26	8	0
9	5	4	3
10	19	6	2



Public Works Involvement in the Community

In addition to completing routine maintenance and public improvements, Public Works has administered and constructed projects within each Council District. These projects have enhanced our community and improved the quality of life for residents.

Council District	Project Name	Project Scope
1	Laddie II	Construction of a storm water detention facility to provide flood protection.
1 & 8	Dudley Bridge	Construction of a concrete pedestrian bridge so that neighboring residents could safely cross the creek by City Crews.
2	Rosillo Creek	Removal of debris and regrade of the drainage channel by City Crews.
3	Cosgrove	Installation of curbs, driveways, lowering of the street, and provided an overlay to address drainage concerns.
4	Rainbow Hills	City Crews excavated the drainage channel, constructed a concrete wall, and regraded the outfall to address drainage concerns.
4	Buffalo Street	Installation of curbs, driveways, lowering of the street, and provide an overlay to address drainage concerns.
5	Athel Street	Reconstruction of the street to include the installation of curbs, sidewalks, and driveways.
5	Elmendorf Lake	Removal of debris and mowing of Elmendorf Lake banks near Our Lady of the Lake University by City Crews.
6	Westover Valley Drainage	Provide temporary repairs to the southeast corner of the quarry by City Crews.
7	Mainland Xeroscaping	Beautify Mainland Road to include xeroscaping of the area and application of a skid resistant surface by City Crews.
8	Cresta Bella	Installation of 6ft turn lane, improvement of signage, restriping of lanes, and installation of reflective pavement markers by City Crews.
9	Bel Meade	Assisted with the closure of the street to reduce cut through traffic.
10	Wyndale	Regrade area to allow for positive drainage into concrete drainage channel by City Crews.



Walters Street entrance into Fort Sam Houston

Various City departmental staff and representatives from Fort Sam Houston met recently on site to discuss concerns for Walters Street. As a result, improvements were identified along, and in, the immediate vicinity of Walters Street, from the entrance gate at Fort Sam Houston to IH-35. Some of the improvements were completed immediately and included debris and trash removal, property and structure maintenance, citations for trailers and junked vehicles, pavement repairs, and minor sidewalk repairs. In addition, property owners were informed and encouraged to participate in various City improvement programs to assist in beautifying the area.

Other long-term infrastructure and aesthetic improvements were also identified to be completed within 90 days, six (6) months and two (2) years. For example:

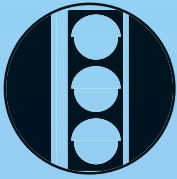
- Four (4) funded Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) projects along Walters from the entrance of Fort Sam Houston past IH-35 to Paso Hondo.
- Recommendations outlined in the Growth Management Plan (GMP) to establish a public relations campaign, undertake public safety actions, enact housing initiatives, explore land banking possibilities and develop economic development projects.

City staff will continue to routinely visit Walters Street and the immediate area to assess the condition and take action to ensure the entrance into Fort Sam Houston is pleasant for drivers and pedestrians.

Immediate Improvements	Lead Department	Timeline
Trash piles removed	Solid Waste	Completed 1/20
Drainage outfall structure cleared at the SW intersection of Hood & Walters Street	PW	Completed 1/22
Trash removed along ROW	HNS	Completed 1/23
Dead, dying and diseased tree material removed, trees pruned and tree canopy raised	Parks	Completed 1/23
ROW mowed, sidewalks cleared of grass & sand	HNS	Completed 1/23
Property owners cited for 18 wheelers and trailers	HNS	Completed 1/23
Property owners notified to clean & secure vacant structures & mow lots	HNS	Completed 1/23
Property owners notified to remove junked vehicles	HNS	Completed 1/23
Install No Dumping signs near the UPRR ROW	Solid Waste	Completed 1/23
Pavement repairs on the outside southbound lane of Walters & the intersection at Carson	PW	Completed 1/28
Handrail repairs at the drainage inlet at the SW intersection with Hood Street	PW	Completed 2/19
Patch repairs to the drainage inlet and sidewalk at the SW intersection with Hood Street	PW	Completed 2/17
Large debris removal in UPRR ROW	HNS	Completed by 2/27
Removal of a pole on the west side of Walters near Carson	PW	TBD Staff is looking into the source and options for removal
Pavement markings & overhead signs as a result of gate alignment	PW	March 2009 Lanes will be restriped and new directional signs will be installed
Improvements within 90 days	Lead Department	Timeline
Minor sidewalk repairs	PW	Staff is identifying gap and tripping hazards. Minor repairs to begin March
Engage various organizations with the "Adopt a Spot" litter collection program	Solid Waste	SW staff has not identified any group to adopt the spot. Previous Veterans group involved with clean-up have declined. Staff is inquiring within Fort Sam.
Inform & encourage homeowner participation in City home improvement programs	HNS	Staff has distributed brochures and is currently taking applications and determining eligibility
Improvements within 6 months	Lead Department	Timeline
Inform & encourage homeowner participation in City Neighborhood Tree Challenge Program	Parks	City Forester has mailed postcards to property owners and is in contact with the neighborhood association president to encourage participation in the City Neighborhood Tree Challenge Program. Possible tree planting coordination with the Walters Street GO Bond project.
Improvements within 2 years	Lead Department	Timeline
Three additional Code Compliance Officers (proposed in GMP)	HNS	Proposed funding with BRAC \$2M approved in FY 2009 Budget
Capital Projects	CIMS	On schedule; substantial completion by Dec. 2011
Growth Management Plan (GMP) Initiatives	OMA	Pursuing OEA grant; Implementation Working Group meets monthly

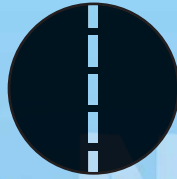
What's On the Horizon?

In addition to current projects, Public Works is researching the following areas to enhance operation and maintenance for all divisions.



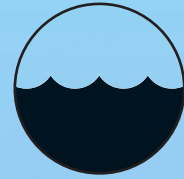
Transportation

- Coordinate with CPS Energy to erect combined traffic signal and street light poles for new signal installations
- Research the use of Light Emitting Diode (LED) regulatory and warning signs
- Spearhead the effort to receive Transportation Funds from the Federal Stimulus Package



Street Maintenance

- Initiating the implementation of an Automated Pavement Condition survey process to support the Pavement Management Program
- Leading the implementation of a centralized Geographic Information System (GIS) database for all Public Works data, that is also linked to the City wide GIS
- Increasing materials testing capabilities through collaboration with the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA)



Storm Water

- Develop Storm Water Master Plans for each of the three (3) watersheds
- Research the development of a storm water maintenance management system for underground utilities
- Optimize Storm Water 311 call response

Website Tools

The Public Works website has many great tools and resources to learn more about the department and find information on current programs. Listed below are some of the improvements implemented within the website which have enhanced customer service.

- Created a direct link to the Public Works Director so residents may send an email directly to the Director to voice concerns and suggestions
- Trained Council District staff on how to use the tools available on the website to retrieve information on projects
- Informed residents of the tools available on the Public Works website such as the interactive cost estimator and the Infrastructure Management Program (IMP) project listing
- Changed the format of the department website
- Developed an emergency notification section on the website to provide updates at a moments notice related to low water crossings or road closures
- Created a newsletter section to provide information about the departments high profile projects, such as IMP and Traffic Signal Synchronization Modernization (TSSM) program, that can be viewed and printed.

We welcome everyone to come and view our website at www.sanantonio.gov/publicworks