

MOTION

COVID-19 and the nationwide protests this summer in the wake of the murder of George Floyd have brought a new emphasis on equity. One of the most pronounced ways inequity is visible in the City of Los Angeles is through public infrastructure and services. Wealthy, often white communities, benefit from regular street sweeping, smooth sidewalks, tree trimming, street lighting, and other public services and amenities. These communities often take these amenities for granted and are often unaware of that many parts of the city suffer from decades of neglect and have an incredibly degraded public spaces and infrastructure with rutted streets, cracked or unpaved sidewalks, no regular street sweeping, and deteriorating parks and recreation centers.

Lower income communities of color also have less public facilities. According to the Los Angeles County Parks Needs Assessment, nearly half the city is classified as being high or very high need in terms of parks with the bulk of these neighborhoods being in the East San Fernando Valley as well as Central, South, and East LA. Streets in these areas also have a critical lack of pedestrian infrastructure and contain most of the corridors on the Vision Zero programs High Injury Network.

Public infrastructure is one of the most fundamental services the city provides. In the 2019-2020, the city spent over \$25 million on public infrastructure from the general fund and over \$400 million in other funds. However, the way these funds are apportioned and implemented is often convoluted and divided between multiple agencies and city departments. The City's infrastructure investment is done on an ad-hoc basis and often the critical infrastructure needs in low income communities are ignored.

The city must take a more unified and holistic approach to planning for infrastructure improvements to ensure equity for all neighborhoods. This includes assessing deficits in neighborhoods and creating a plan and prioritization list for addressing them. This type of assessment will ensure that the City can better coordinate between city departments with purview over public infrastructure. In addition, the City can ensure that we are fully leveraging local return funding and grant opportunities from programs such as Measure A, M, and W as well as state and federal grant opportunities.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Administrative Officer as well as the Chief Legislative Analyst to prepare a plan to reform the city's Capital Improvement Expenditure Plan. This plan should assess infrastructure conditions and need across the city, including through consulting existing planning documents and reports, and align current and future funding across city departments to address them. It should also prioritize equity, particularly for low-income communities of color.

ORIGINAL

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