

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY BOARD
DECEMBER 2, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Infrastructure Advisory Board (IAB) occurred virtually through video and telephone conference on Thursday, December 2, 2021, due to health and safety concerns and in compliance with state and local COVID-19 protocols.

The following IAB members were present:

1. Paul Flower, Chair
2. Casey Tingle, Vice Chair
3. Neil Abramson, Secretary
4. Bill Hammack
5. Karen Raymond
6. Elisa Speranza
7. Chuck Morse

REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Presentations

Eric Smith, City of New Orleans, provided an update on Fair Share Agreement revenues. As of November 1, 2021, the City has transferred \$35.6 million in one-time funds to the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO), which represents no change since the June 3, 2021 IAB meeting. Smith compared 2020 and 2021 recurring revenue collections, explaining in 2021 the City saw a growth in sales tax along with other tax collections resulting in numbers similar to those realized prior to the impacts of COVID-19. Overall, the City has collected over \$15 million in recurring revenue, which despite being lower than the original projections show a positive change. Hotel occupancy rates have increased and are projected to continue to rise in 2022, potentially doubling last year's rates. For most of 2021, the revenue generated from Short Term Rental (STR) Equalization and Local Privilege taxes was similar to revenue realized in 2019; revenue dipped in the latter portion of the year due to prolonged effects of COVID-19 and Hurricane Ida. Notable Fair Share Agreement undertakings over the next sixty days include: (1) City of New Orleans Department of Finance will begin integrating new platform for STR tax enforcement; and (2) the City of New Orleans Department of Public Works continuing expansion of its Maintenance Division. Smith reported on the Downtown Development District's installation of permeable pavement in seven (7) City corridors. Smith also provided an update on capital outlay sequence spending by SWBNO.

Ghassan Korban, Executive Director, SWBNO, reported a steady increase in total revenue with \$13.6 million collected through November 2021. Expenditures related to Meter Reading Initiatives, SELA Algiers Drainage Project, Strategic Plan development, Turbine 7 design, and Smart Metering Program (AMI) total approximately \$4.9 million. Korban requested approval to use Fair Share Agreement funds to update inventory and begin working on lead service line replacement projects to maximize the expected infusion of federal infrastructure-related funds. Korban shared updates on priority projects: (1) the survey for the Smart Metering Program is complete and vendor RFP is nearing finalization; (2) the permitting process and specs for Turbine 7 are complete, with the SWBNO expected to issue an RFP for the work in mid-December 2021; and (3) SWBNO anticipates sharing a final draft of its Strategic Plan with its directors in January 2022. Korban requested the IAB permit SWBNO to use available Fair Share funding as a bridge loan to pay for critical equipment acquired in response to Hurricane Ida. And SWBNO committed to paying back the funds once it receives FEMA reimbursement for the expenses; if FEMA does not reimburse the expenses, SWBNO committed to using system funds to pay back Fair Share dollars.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agenda

The agenda was presented and unanimously approved.

Minutes

The minutes of the June 3, 2021 regular meeting were unanimously approved as written.

Quarterly Report

The Quarterly Report was unanimously approved.

Meeting Schedule

The proposed 2022 meeting schedule was unanimously approved.

Other Business

The IAB revisited SWBNO expenditure approval requests:

1. Asset Management System
2. Hurricane Ida Equipment
3. Lead Service Line Task Force Unit

Paul Flower requested the IAB discuss approving the \$1.5 million expenditure for the Asset Management System. Elisa Speranza moved to approve, and Karen Raymond seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Paul Flower asked for a motion to approve spending \$3,301,868.00 from Fair Share Funds for Hurricane Ida critical equipment costs, provided the IAB receive a written commitment from SWBNO stating it will pay the funds back with FEMA reimbursement or system funds. Bill Hammack moved to approve, and Karen Raymond seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Because the Lead Service Line Task Force Unit request lacked a dollar amount, Korban tabled the request to gather more information; SWBNO will renew the request at the next IAB meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 3:14 p.m.

DRAFT