

Commission on Infrastructure Asset Reporting and Investment

Draft Minutes – 03/26/2025

City County Building Suite 646, the Learning Lab

Attendees

Commissioners (13 of 18 present): Scott McMurtry sub for Erika Strassburger, *City Council*; Patrick Cornell, *City OMB*; Lisa Frank, *Mayor's Rep*; Eric Setzler, *City DOMI*; Zachary Workman, *City DOMI*; Chris Hornstein, *City DPW*; Andrew DeWitt, *City Controller's Office*; Darryl Jones, *City Public Safety*; April Brouwer, *Southwestern Engineering Outreach*; Andy Waple, *At Large*; Tyler Watts, *At-Large*; Sam Miclot, *At Large*; Lou Ruzzi, *WSP Ad Hoc Commissioner*.

Absent Commissioners (5): Darrin Kelly, *Organized Labor*; Barata Bey, *AA Chamber of Commerce*; Tom Melisko (retired - to be replaced by Jesse DiRenna); Greg Bernarding, *Construction Industry*; Michele Miller Beener, *At-Large*;

Non-Commissioned Attendees (4): David Maynard, *City OMB*; Jacob Williams, *City MO*; Marco Penner, *Prudential Realty Company*; Joshua Evans, *City PLI*.

Unfilled Commission Spots (5): Jesse DiRenna, *Organized Labor* (not yet confirmed); Joshua Evans, *City PLI* (not yet confirmed); DeWitt Walton, *A. Philip Randolph Institute*; (not yet confirmed); Representative of the National Society of Black Engineers, A Second representative of Organized Labor.

Minutes

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
 - Quorum established
- Recognize Newly Confirmed Commissioners
 - Jesse DiRenna is replacing Tom Melisko. Still being confirmed by Council.
- Adopt Previous Minutes
 - Eric moves to adopt, Chris seconds. Adopted with no updates.
- DOMI Updates
 - New TIP projects (design): Bloomfield Bridge, two bridges on McCardle, East Sycamore bridge
 - PennDOT reimbursement agreements have been executed
 - This is all preservation work

- Charles Anderson Bridge had a slight delay because the railroad would not provide flaggers. After filing a formal complaint w/ the PUC, the railroad has agreed to provide two weeks' worth of flaggers and work will resume soon.
- Davis Ave Bridge construction moving along, new truss is in place.
- Bridge Maintenance Division – Bridge Foreman was hired; vehicles & team have been deployed in their new Strip District location on Liberty. Still hiring an Ironworker and General Laborer for the team. Offer extended for the Ironworker. Had three candidates for the laborer that did not pass competency tests. Team has already done some washing and painting, expect more action from a fuller roster before the end of the year.
- New Inspection Contract with PennDOT started in 2025, it should provide better oversight and guidance for our inspection program.
- Retaining walls inventory is proceeding at a good clip. Team has two inspectors and a manager. Each wall needs ~8 hours of inspection time with both inspectors present. Inspectors are spending 40% of their week on the inventory. There are 980 City walls tracked in Cartegraph and 478 over 4 feet. Ideally, we can get more resources on the team and get regular inspection schedules for both walls and steps.
- Bridge Dashboard – Dashboard is still up. Could do more to update it with bridge maintenance items and make it more accessible amid the new website shuffling things around.
- DPW Updates
 - Oliver Bath House renovation is almost finished.
 - Medic 4 construction & Fire House 8 renovations ongoing.
 - Fire House 20/Medic 12 is being relocated to a new location because it's on a floodplain.
 - Fire House 15 was not operational due to carbon monoxide caused by a faulty boiler. There's no money in the budget to replace the boiler but we repaired it with a band aid that should hold for 3-4 more years.
 - Unfortunately, PWSA is canceling some stormwater projects at Fowler and South Side Park due to lack of funding.
 - Our recruiters have found three registered plumbers and an apprentice.
- PLI Updates
 - We're working through the rental registry program now. Voluntary registration first and mandatory scheduled to begin in April.
- Discussion on 2025 Budget
 - Regional Asset District (RAD) Funds being used in a new way: a project moves on a two-year cycle for design and then construction. There will be one project in design and one in construction each year.
 - 2025 construction: Serpentine Drive retaining wall (Schenley)
 - 2025 design: Grandview Park Bandshell (Emerald View)

- Bonds sold last week to fuel Capital Budget. Fully competitive sale for the first time. We received ten bids and accepted PNC Bank.
- \$1.1M in contracted bridge maintenance + the salaries & equipment of the bridge maintenance division + Capital funds for several named projects (in the TIP) and \$800,000 in a fund to buffer named projects as necessary. Most of the bond funding went to Facilities for Public Safety and Parks. Being frank those projects consistently score higher in the Capital Program Facilitation Committee process.
 - Lou asks if the existing budget will cover priority 1 repairs
 - Zach & Eric – Just finished Panther Hollow repair designs and it's going to be \$0.5M-1M dollars. If we can't get federal or state money, that will use most of the maintenance budget right there. Getting federal or state support generally adds 3 years to delivery plus additional costs so we have some complicated priorities to weigh there.
- Discussion on 2026 Budget Statement
 - Chris – this commission should take a serious look at the Capital Requisition forms. It's unfair to ask elected to choose between capital projects, experts should provide detailed recommendations for them. The forms as is don't generally reflect the cost savings of early repairs or the gravity of the need.
 - Lou – The State keeps a critical repair action pot of money that is taken off the top before any budget decisions for individual projects are made to avoid this problem. I can reach out to PennDOT & CALTRANS operators who have Bridge Care calculators for different budget scenarios. They can project the future savings involved in preservation projects as long as DOMI can provide the data.
 - Patrick asks Andrew: as someone on the committee that scores these projects do you find the info on the current sheet useful?
 - Andrew – There aren't rigid standards in Code so each scorer brings their own perspective. I tend to look for signs that a project is shovel ready & that it will impact more than one area.
 - Zach – We post load limits and close bridges when necessary. The scoring process needs to take into consideration that some neighborhoods could become completely shut off from essential services (like a fire truck) if work is not done to repair them.
- Regular Updates:
 - Asset Inventory Updates
 - Chris providing a Park Restroom inventory by next meeting.
 - Discussion about Cartegraph – the City's current asset inventory back end.
 - TIP Updates
 - SPC will hold public input meetings this summer for the next cycle.
 - External Infrastructure Funding

- The City is concerned about the ~\$17M dollars of federal grants that USDOT supplies to our budget via the TIP. It's especially uncertain for grants like Safe Streets 4 All where the grant has been awarded but there is no contract yet and we are unsure if a contract is forthcoming during the spending freeze. Thankfully so far, the TIP spending appears to be insulated from any disruptions.
 - Changing Labor Conditions – we have Plumbers!
 - Supply Chain Concerns
 - Every project is in jeopardy because of the ever-changing tariff environment. Procuring imported materials will bring all spending over budget. The Joint Taskforce on City Finances will be discussing next week.
 - Public Outreach Comments
 - Jacob Williams is the press officer for DOMI and DPW at the Mayor's Office. He's willing to lend his capacity to the Commission for occasional posting on City channels and guidance.
 - Post Idea: We just met, here's what we talked about.
 - Post Idea: Did you know? Snapshots for different asset types.
 - Potential spot in Newsletter or City Channel.
 - Engagement Opportunities from Neighborhood Services
 - Budget meetings are starting up again soon. It would be good to include some kind of deferred maintenance cost calculator to help people understand the significance of infrastructure spending.
 - Tyler – Alcosan Open House has reached out. We'll know mid-May if there is room for us to table.
 - Five City in the Streets events in the summer.
- Next Steps
 - Ask Commission to review budget request form
 - Prepare Annual Report
 - Initiate social media strategy & website updates
 - DOMI & Lou to follow up with CALTRANS & PENNDOT
- Adjournment
 - Eric motions to adjourn; Chris seconds