



CITY OF HOUSTON

Interoffice

Department of Public Works and Engineering

Correspondence

To: District Council Members

From: 
Daniel W. Krueger, P.E.
Director

Date: April 16, 2013

cc: Mayor Annise D. Parker
At-Large Council Members

Subject: **REBUILD HOUSTON
NEED AREA IDENTIFICATION**

Following the completion of District CIP meetings, Public Works and Engineering (PWE) finalized its recommendation for both the FY 2014 - 2018 CIP street and drainage improvements and for the FY 2019 - 2023 identification and prioritization of street and drainage needs. The recommendations are available at <http://www.rebuildhouston.org/index.php/capital-improvements/m-5-plus-5-year-plan-documents/m-overview-documents>

These recommendations were developed in accordance with PWE's published *CIP Process Manual* which delineates our planning methodology for the development and recommendation of capital improvement projects. This planning methodology implements the worst-first approach to which the administration publicly committed prior to voter approval of the charter amendment in 2010 and again prior to Council's approval of the drainage utility in early 2011. The planning methodology outlines an objective and transparent multi-step process by which PWE recommends a project for the CIP. Simplified, these four sequential steps are:

- 1) **Identify & prioritize needs** utilizing city-wide, comprehensive data.
- 2) **Pre-engineer potential solutions** for the needs. Analysis is performed on the highest priority need areas, solutions are developed, scopes for candidate projects are defined, costs are estimated.
- 3) **Prioritize candidate projects** based on the number of benefitted users divided by the cost of the candidate project. All candidate projects in their respective category (Storm Drainage, Thoroughfares/Collectors or Local Streets) compete with one another.
- 4) **Recommend the best candidate projects** for the next CIP.

PWE is currently preparing to conduct further pre-engineering of identified high need areas during the coming year, based on the 2019 - 2023 needs area prioritization.

PWE is again soliciting your input for identification of worst needs for specific segments of thoroughfares or collectors, areas of local streets, or areas of drainage problems. While the city-wide, comprehensive data base and the SWEET are unsurpassed in capacity to objectively identify and rank the worst needs of the City, we also realize that we yet do not have the full extent of relevant and updated data we would seek, and that no system is perfect. Your identification of such needs at this time would allow us to consider them in our pre-engineering work plan.

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With your input, and so that we may yet improve both the methodology and data bases, I would want to discuss with you:

- What is the boundary of the perceived high-priority Need Area?
- Why it is perceived to be a high-priority Need Area.
- Availability of data not yet captured that is relevant to the need?

I respectfully request that you forward such input no later than May 16th so that we will have sufficient time to consider these needs with other pre-engineering, and so that all candidate projects developed as a result can be scored and ranked in time for development of the draft FY 2015 – 2019 CIP recommendation in February 2014.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at 832-395-2500, or Dale Rudick at 832-395-2483.

DWK:DAR:lac

