


CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: May 1, 2023

To: Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee

Attn: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer
Office of the City Administrative Officer

From: 
Ted Allen, P.E., City Engineer
Bureau of Engineering

Subject: Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee Question No. 388

The Budget and Finance Committee, during its April 28, 2023 hearing on the Mayor's fiscal year (FY) 2023-24 Proposed Budget, requested the Bureau of Engineering (ENGINEERING) to report back on the resources required and a staffing plan to reduce the sidewalk repair timeline. Since inception, the Sidewalk Repair Program (SRP) in ENGINEERING has been provided a total of 17 positions to deliver the SRP under the terms of the Willits', et. al. Settlement (Settlement). As the Citywide SRP Manager, ENGINEERING manages over \$8M in annual SRP construction contracts and \$2M in consultant contracts, prepares and issues about \$12M in work/designs/permits for StreetsLA crews, administers the Rebate Program, monitors City practices for compliance, and reports on Settlement compliance.

ENGINEERING focuses the majority of its resources on the Access Request Program, which remediates pedestrian facilities in response to direct requests from people with mobility disabilities. ENGINEERING's capacity to complete Access Requests with the resources provided has not been able to keep pace with the number of requests received. Currently there are more than 3,400 verified, eligible Access Requests in the SRP queue. The time for an Access Request to be completed exceeds one year from the date of submittal for high priority locations. The wait time can exceed 10 years for requests in lower priority locations (non-residential and/or more than 500 feet from a transit stop).

In recent years, the City Council and the Mayor have desired to reduce the Access Request backlog by providing supplemental funding to accelerate the program. However, ENGINEERING is not able to further expand delivery without additional staffing, even if provided additional consultant funding, due to a minimum level of City staffing needed to manage contracts, package work, review designs, manage construction, and further implement Community Level Contracting.

The proposed 11 regular authority positions below, with funding, would allow ENGINEERING to better manage and deliver the SRP, including the capacity to complete a significant number of additional Access Request Program requests to reduce the current wait times.

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 - Senior Civil Engineer | 2 - Civil Engineering Associate III |
| 1 - Senior Construction Engineer | 2 - Management Analyst |
| 1 - Senior Management Analyst II | 1 - Environmental Supervisor |
| 1 - Senior Management Analyst I | 1 - Project Coordinator |
| 1 - Civil Engineer | |

The cost of the proposed positions is less than the annual amount that has been budgeted for consultant support in recent years. ENGINEERING proposes that a portion of unspent funds from prior year consultant or acceleration accounts be used to fund the positions for FY 2023-24, and that the cost of the positions may be offset by reductions in consultant funding in future years should the acceleration funding be discontinued.

ENGINEERING will report back by the end of this fiscal year with recommendations for policy changes in response to the City Council's direction to more strategically prioritize sidewalk repair to address significant access barriers and to better align with the City's safety, mobility, and accessibility priorities (C.F. 21-1469).

If there is any additional information required, please contact me at (213) 485-4935 or Robert Kadomatsu at (213) 272-8072.

cc: Randall Winston, Office of the Mayor
Sharon Tso, Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst
Aura Garcia, Board of Public Works
M. Teresa Villegas, Board of Public Works

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