

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY BOARD
JUNE 3, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Infrastructure Advisory Board (IAB) occurred virtually through videoconference and telephone conference on Thursday, June 3, 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. Neil Abramson, Secretary
3. Bill Hammack
4. Karen Raymond
5. Elisa Speranza
6. Casey Tingle

REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Presentations

Eric Smith, City of New Orleans, provided an update on Fair Share Agreement revenues. As of June 3, 2021, the City has transferred \$35.6MM in one-time funds to the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO), which represents no change since the March IAB meeting. Smith reiterated the three (3) phase Hazzard Mitigation Grant Program is currently in-process. Regarding recurring revenues, since the City executed a Short-Term Rental (STR) agreement with New Orleans & Company there has been an increase in revenue from short-term rentals with a collection of \$1.4MM in revenue from STR Equalization tax and \$697,955 from STR Occupancy tax from September 2020 through April 2021. Collections from the 1% "Lost Penny" Hotel tax continue to gradually improve, with \$7.8MM in revenue from July 2019 through April 2021. Although hotel rates and occupancy have increased and are projected to continue to rise, the original estimates of revenue generated from STR Equalization and Local Privilege taxes have been revised upward only slightly (or downward) due to the prolonged economic effects of COVID-19. Notable items in the Fair Share Agreement over the next sixty (60) days include: the possible STR Equalization platform update and the Department of Public Works beginning expansion of its Maintenance Division for internal work force (e.g., drainage and asphalt crews and administrative personnel). Smith reported on the Downtown Development District's infrastructure update efforts which include monthly meetings centered on the status of drainage improvement projects. Smith provided an update on the capital outlay sequence spending by SWBNO, which to date totals \$7.3MM. The City received \$34MM in Priority 5 (P5) funding and \$12.7MM in Priority 1 (P1) funding for the SWBNO power plant and frequency changer. The City is currently spending the \$12.7M in P1 funding to facilitate moving \$20MM of the \$34MM from P5 to P1 status during the 2021 Regular Louisiana Legislative Session.

Grey Lewis, CFO, SWBNO, reported expenditures related to the Automated Infrastructure Project are expected to increase in the coming months as the project progresses. Lewis provided an update on SWBNO's Project Spending Plan, highlighting the SELA Algiers Drainage Project. Lewis noted the US Army Corps of Engineers submitted its funding request of \$2.3MM in April 2021 for the project, which SWBNO paid from its system funds and is expecting to reimburse from Fair Share funds, pending IAB approval.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agenda

The agenda was presented and unanimously approved subject to the following amendment: Allowing time for a discussion about a proposed resolution regarding allocating American Rescue Plan funds to offset lost Fair Share Agreement tax revenues.

Minutes

The minutes of the March 4, 2021 regular meeting were presented, and no corrections were offered. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Quarterly Report

The Quarterly Report was unanimously approved.

Other Business

IAB member Hammack introduced and read a resolution recommending the State of Louisiana and the City utilize a portion of the State and/or City's American Rescue Plan funding to restore the Fair Share revenue funding shortfall incurred by SWBNO as a result of the pandemic. Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Infrastructure Ramsey Green objected to the Resolution. Hammack made a motion for passage and adoption of the Resolution. IAB member Tingle recused himself and abstained from voting. The motion was seconded by IAB member Speranza and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: IAB member Abramson, Hammack, Speranza, Raymond, and Flower. Nays, none.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 3:08 p.m.