

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY BOARD
APRIL 9, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Infrastructure Advisory Board (IAB) was held on Thursday, April 9, 2020, via video and teleconference due to health and safety concerns and in compliance with the Governor's Proclamation 33 JBE 2020.

The following members were present:

1. Paul Flower, Chair
2. Neil Abramson, Secretary
3. Bill Hammack
4. Karen Raymond
5. Elisa Speranza

REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

Public Comment

The Chair presented the draft agenda and opened a 30-minute period for public comment by email or by telephone. No public comment was received.

Executive Session

The IAB entered into executive session pursuant to La. R.S. §42:17(A)(5) for the purpose of discussing the impact of the pandemic on IAB activities. During executive session, the IAB took no action and held no vote.

Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved.

Minutes

The minutes of the February 6, 2020 regular meeting were presented, and no corrections were offered. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Quarterly Report

Pursuant to Executive Order LC 19-02, the IAB approved its first quarterly report to be presented to the Mayor and the directors of the Sewerage & Water Board (S&WB).

Presentations

Chris Saucier, City of New Orleans, updated the IAB on Fair Share Agreement funding. As of April 9, 2020, \$35.6 million in one-time funds had been transferred to the city, and the 1% local privilege tax had produced \$5.5 million in recurring revenue during its first six months of implementation. All recurring revenues are held in the Infrastructure Maintenance Fund (IMF) and cannot be utilized until a cooperative endeavor agreement between the city and S&WB is agreed and approved by the City Council. The City Council has yet to enact legislation governing the collection of the short-term rental equalization tax, which had been anticipated to generate \$7.8 million per year. The Downtown Development District and the city were still in negotiations regarding a cooperative endeavor agreement for the provision of \$2.5 million per year for infrastructure projects. Local privilege tax revenues that went to the New Orleans Tourism and Marketing Corporation (NOTMC) were expected to be redirected to the IMF as part of the Fair Share Agreement. However, NOTMC was instead reestablished as the New Orleans Tourism and Cultural Fund, and it is uncertain whether the city will be able to replace the anticipated \$5.3 million in recurring annual revenue.

Ghassan Korban, Executive Director, S&WB, discussed S&WB's priority projects, including automated water metering infrastructure, underground drainage canal inspection, development of a Master Plan, continuing renovations to the Sycamore Filter Gallery, and eliminating the cross-connection between turbine cooling and drinking water. Which projects are funded and to what degree is contingent upon the revenues generated under the Fair Share Agreement. As of April 9, 2020, collections under the Fair Share Agreement had fallen well behind original estimates.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.