

Sunnyvale City Council Summary - Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Sunnyvale City Council Special Meeting/Study Session

Location: Teleconference (Zoom)

Date: February 4, 2025

Start Time: 5:32 PM

Council Members Present:

- * Mayor Klein
- * Vice Mayor Sell
- * Council Member Cisneros (remotely)
- * Council Member Mellinger
- * Council Member Srinivasan
- * Council Member Chang
- * Council Member Lay

I. Pavement Management Program:

- Sunnyvale uses a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) to assess 641 lane miles of roads (current PCI ~75).
- Proactive maintenance is prioritized, funded by general funds, SB1 gas tax, Measure B, and the operating budget.
- A PCI of 80 is targeted to increase SB1 funding flexibility; achieving this goal is under review due to increased heavy vehicle traffic and potential impacts of heavier electric vehicles.
- Common pavement defects include cracking and potholes from water intrusion; many cul-de-sacs are in poor condition.
- Bi-annual PCI assessments meet MTC funding requirements.
- Council members requested a PCI visualization map and discussed historical maintenance

inequities.

II. Pavement Maintenance Strategies and Budget Overview:

- Maintenance and engineering teams collaboratively determine treatments (crack sealing, patching, slurry sealing, chip sealing, full-depth repairs).
- The in-house chip seal program is cost-effective, extending road lifecycles; annual resurfacing includes ~5 million sq ft of slurry seal and 1 million sq ft of chip seal.
- Arterial streets have higher costs due to labor, resources, and traffic control; operational and capital budgets are used; no recent full reconstruction projects.
- Grinding and overlay is a cost-effective alternative to full reconstruction.
- Water intrusion is a major cause of road damage; the city boasts a rapid pothole response (5-10 business days).

III. Caltrans and Inter-Jurisdictional Coordination:

- Sunnyvale maintains a good working relationship with Caltrans for roads like El Camino Real, though Caltrans operates independently.
- Coordination with Caltrans involves advance notice of projects, allowing for joint planning; leverage to influence Caltrans' actions is limited.
- Road restriping projects (e.g., bike lanes) are prioritized based on overall pavement maintenance needs and integrated with larger projects when feasible.
- Collaboration with neighboring cities (e.g., Cupertino, Santa Clara) on projects like the Homestead area involves cost-sharing agreements; Santa Clara County is a positive partner for projects such as Central Expressway.
- Jurisdictional boundary issues complicate maintenance, especially concerning off-ramps and areas near city limits.

IV. Technological and Sustainability Initiatives & Funding Concerns:

- The city explores new technologies to improve street treatments and public messaging; active

grant seeking is underway.

- Sustainability initiatives focus on recycled materials and sustainable construction practices.
- Some funding sources mandate maintaining prior spending levels, creating budget allocation challenges.
- Concerns exist regarding the impact of heavier electric vehicles on pavement and potential SB1 funding reductions. New materials and techniques are being explored.

V. Sidewalk Maintenance:

- Sidewalk maintenance differs from road maintenance, lacking a comparable scoring system.
- Water intrusion and tree roots are major causes of sidewalk damage.
- Strategies include preventative measures (e.g., strategic tree planting) and repair techniques like horizontal saw cutting.
- Repair decisions balance cost, tree preservation, and long-term solutions; a citywide data collection effort over the next two years is planned.
- Council Member Mellinger suggested a future study session focusing on data from the sidewalk saw-cutting program and service level definitions.

VI. Public Comment and City Policy on Cooperation with ICE:

- Public comment included concerns about ICE and the unhoused community; one speaker praised the city's non-cooperation policy.
- The City Manager reiterated Sunnyvale's policy of non-cooperation with ICE regarding civil immigration enforcement, aligning with the city's values.
- Council Member Mellinger noted pavement damage scales with the 4th power of axle weight.
- A PCI visualization map is desired but will require time due to limited GIS resources.
- Council Member Mellinger announced Sunnyvale's EV Ride and Drive event on March 8th.

VII. New City Park Naming:

- The council discussed naming a new park at 1142 Dahlia Court (former Corn Palace farm stand).

- The Park and Recreation Commission recommended "Corn Palace Park," citing historical significance. Other names were suggested.
- Council voted to name the park Corn Palace Park, recognizing its historical connection.
- Discussion included the condition of the original Corn Palace sign and a historical plaque. Staff were encouraged to make the park "as corny as possible." Council members thanked staff and commissions for their input. Future parks in the north part of the city may reflect more cultural references.

VIII. Ordinance Amending Campaign and Economic Interest Filings:

- Existing Municipal Code Section 2.29.010 mandates electronic filing.
- AB 1170 requires filing statements of economic interests directly with the FPPC, not the city clerk.
- The ordinance updates the municipal code to align with AB 1170 and updated contribution amounts.
- The city clerk will download, redact, and upload forms from the FPPC to the Sunnyvale Net File system for public access.
- Public comment supported electronic filing, citing increased transparency and improved access to information. The council unanimously approved the ordinance.

IX. Salary Increase for Director of NOVA Workforce Services:

- A resolution was presented to increase the salary range for the Director of NOVA Workforce Services.
- The proposed 20% increase aligns with the most recent federal salary schedule update (20% above the cap). The new range is \$205,182 - \$270,840, funded by grants.
- Council members unanimously approved the resolution, citing the director's excellent work, the importance of attracting top talent, and NOVA's crucial role in supporting the community during economic hardship. The increase does not automatically raise the current director's salary.
- Council discussion highlighted NOVA's wide-ranging impact, supporting laid-off workers, teens, and high schoolers across San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

X. Council Reports on Activities from Intergovernmental Committee Assignments:

- Council Member Srinivasan was appointed to the Emergency Operations Area Council as an alternate.
- Council Member Mellinger was appointed to the Airport Land Use Commission.
- The City Association of Santa Clara County set priorities for the year, including public safety, disaster preparedness, and addressing the needs of older adults, housing, and mental health.
- A council retreat was held to foster team spirit and collaboration.

XI. Other Discussions:

- Councilmember Lay invited colleagues to his son's talent show.
- Council members expressed appreciation for city staff working in inclement weather.
- The City Manager will provide updates on storm drain issues and other impacts of the recent storm.
- The City Manager will be attending the League of California City Managers Conference for three days and will be available via email and phone, with deputy and assistant city managers also available to handle urgent matters.