



City of Santa Barbara
Mayor and Council Office

Memorandum

DATE: January 27, 2014

TO: James L. Armstrong, City Administrator

FROM: *Bendy White* and *Randy Rowse*

SUBJECT: City Infrastructure

- Summary of Information to be Presented to the City Council
A Recap of "Keeping Santa Barbara in Shape"
Infrastructure Financing Report, 2008
- Statement of Specific Action the Council will be asked to take
- Discuss status, advisability, and strategies for moving forward with further action, as described in the attached memo.
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- Statement of the Reasons Why it is Appropriate and Within the Jurisdiction of the Council to Consider this Subject Matter and to Take the Requested Action

Proper Infrastructure maintenance is a fundamental responsibility of City Government. As economic conditions improve, this is an opportune time to resume the Community Dialogue on this critical topic.

Please see the attachment, "Infrastructure 2.4" for more detail.

The foresight and generosity of generations past gave us Santa Barbara's beautiful buildings, boulevards and parks, with the implied promise that they would be maintained in perpetuity. Yet there is a severe backlog of deferred infrastructure maintenance that threatens to degrade our quality of life. Deferred maintenance also damages our ability to generate revenue from tourism, our biggest economic engine.

In 2008, a Taskforce of City leaders released "Keeping Santa Barbara In Shape", which provides an excellent summary of our infrastructure and maintenance needs. The recession of 2008-10 forced the issue to be deferred still further.

We propose that Council take a fresh present-day look at the work of the taskforce and, in collaboration with today's citizen-stakeholders, create a list of priority infrastructure needs. We therefore request that the City Council place this topic on an agenda in the near future. Our hope is that Council can facilitate a community dialogue on the topic to accomplish the following:

Frame the Issue

Convene Stakeholders to develop a strong understanding of the problem

Educate the community

Develop a strategy for making headway that is focused and has a broad base of support.

Implement that strategy.