



Department of Public Works

Ghassan Korban, P.E.
Commissioner of Public Works

January 31, 2018

Honorable Members of the Common Council,
200 East Wells Street, Room 205

Subject: Feasibility Study – Performing Infrastructure Contracting Work In-House

Dear Honorable Council Members:

On December 19, 2017, the Common Council adopted Resolution File Number 171384 requiring the Department of Public Works to study the feasibility of performing infrastructure repairs and improvements using City staff as opposed to contracting the work out. The resolution required the Department of Public Works to provide preliminary findings by January 31 and February 28, with the final report due by March 31, 2018. This letter is to provide the council members with an update on the department's actions regarding the feasibility study.

As a first step in the feasibility study, the department has indentified all of the work that is currently being contracted out. The enclosure shows the work for each area of the department that is performed by contractors. In some instances, a portion of the work is completed by department staff, with the remaining portion being performed by contractors. The report submitted by the department as required by Resolution Number 171383 indicates the work that is currently being done by both department staff and contractors.

For each of the activities that are being contracted out, the department is currently developing the types of workers needed, the number of workers for each category required, and the equipment and tools required to perform the work. We are using the current capital budgets as the basis to develop the number of workers and equipment needed to complete the projects funded each year. Once we have completed this portion of the study, we will develop the pay rates for each worker category and costs to purchase the equipment needed to perform the work. A portion of the study will also look at the land and buildings required to house the additional staff and equipment, including the maintenance of the construction equipment. Along with storage of equipment, land will also be needed for storage of materials prior to their use on the various construction sites.





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Other aspects of the study will need to look at any impacts or restrictions on using department staff on state and federal funded paving and bridge projects, sewer projects funded through the Clean Water Fund loan program, and water projects funded through the Safe Drinking Water loan program. If there are restrictions to using department staff, we will need to include the financial impact to the City if these programs are no longer used. We will also be looking at the possible impact on other City departments resulting from the significant increase in the number of employees.

Please let me know if you would like to meet to discuss the enclosed information.

Sincerely,

Ghassan Korban, Commissioner
Department of Public Works

Enclosure

TJT

