



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of:
Placement: 01/09/2024
Administrative Set
Hearing (01/09/2024);
Departmental
02/06/2024
Estimated Time: 30 Minutes on
02/06/2024
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Contact Info: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Transportation, 568-3064
SUBJECT: Receive and File Reports on Pavement Impact Studies related to: Utility Cuts, Heavy Vehicles (Refuse Collection Trucks, Mass Transit/Bus, Fire Trucks and Construction Vehicles) and Consider Options for Pavement Impact Mitigation, All Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: n/a

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors set a hearing for February 6, 2024 (30 minutes) to:

- a) Receive and File reports on Pavement Impact Studies on Roads related to utility cuts and heavy vehicles (refuse collection trucks, mass transit/bus, fire trucks and construction vehicles);
- b) Provide Direction to Public Works staff on whether to pursue each of the following Pavement Impact cost recovery measures:
 - i. Direct staff to implement a Pavement Cut Fee increase;
 - ii. Direct staff to implement a new Heavy Construction Load Development Impact Fee;
 - iii. Direct staff to work with Resource Recovery and Waste Management Division to investigate the feasibility of increasing the Solid Waste Program Fee to include compensation to the County for Heavy Load Road Impacts;
 - iv. Direct staff to work with the County Executive Office to explore a budget expansion request or other options for offsetting costs of pavement impacts caused by Mass Transit/Bus and Fire Trucks; or
- c) Provide other direction, as appropriate; and
- d) Determine that the recommended action is not a Project within the meaning of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines,

because the action is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to set a hearing for January 9, 2024 to present three engineering reports on the impacts of Utility Cuts and Heavy Vehicles on County maintained roads conducted by Nichols Consulting Engineers (NCE), and provide direction to staff on whether to pursue cost recovery measures to mitigate some or all of these impacts to the County roadway system. Each of these measures would require further Board review and approval.

The Public Works Department hired NCE to provide professional consulting services. NCE is familiar with County's Pavement Management System, and has conducted similar studies for other local agencies. The Purchase Contract for the study was ratified by your Board on July 18, 2023.

Background:

Public agencies and utility providers have been investigating pavement deterioration caused by utility cuts and passage of heavy vehicles for over 30 years with the goal of quantifying the impact on roads and estimating the corresponding financial impacts. To fully understand the impact of such factors, site-specific studies and analyses must be performed. In this study, NCE investigated both the structural and functional deterioration of County maintained roads from utility cuts by using field and historical evaluations. NCE developed an appropriate fee schedule to recover costs associated with such damage and compared that fee schedule with typical fees charged by similar California agencies. Heavy vehicles studied in this report include waste collection trucks, mass transit buses, fire trucks, and vehicles associated with construction of buildings.

The study concludes that cuts and excavations have long term effects on the pavement service life after a trench is excavated and backfilled. Additionally, heavy vehicles take a toll on the service life of roadway pavement. Public Works will present various alternatives on how these financial impacts can be mitigated through cost recovery fees imposed through the encroachment permit process, new development impact fees, and an increase to the Solid Waste Program Fee.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to email the minute order of these actions to Yanette Luna at yluna@countyofsb.org.

Authored by:

Eric Pearson, P.E., Construction Manager, 681-4990