



HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

COMMISSIONERS COURT

1001 Preston, Suite 938 • Houston, Texas 77002-1817 • (713) 755-5113

Ed Emmett
County Judge

El Franco Lee
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Jack Morman
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Steve Radack
Commissioner, Precinct 3

R. Jack Cagle
Commissioner, Precinct 4

June 25, 2013

To: County Judge Emmett and
Commissioners Lee, Morman,
Radack and Cagle

Re. **Capital Improvements Plan**

The Capital Improvements Plan for Fiscal Year 2013-14 includes the following:

Executive Summary

1. Public Infrastructure Department
 - a. Flood Control District
 - b. Harris County Toll Road Authority
 - c. Architecture & Engineering
2. Information Technology
3. Other Projects
 - a. Electronic Filing Project
 - b. Fleet Services
4. Debt and Financing
5. Harris County Sports & Convention Corporation
6. Harris County Hospital District
7. Port of Houston Authority
8. Recommendations for Court Approval

Executive Summary

The following is a summary of the key issues and plans related to capital assets and improvements as of June 25, 2013.

1. Public Infrastructure Department

- a. **Flood Control District** – Budget Management, PID and the Flood Control District have worked out a plan to spend a total of \$120 million per year on flood control projects. A minimum of \$60 million is intended for capital projects with the remainder available to fund operations & maintenance.
- b. **Harris County Toll Road Authority** – Information showing the plans for major toll road development projects is included. Existing resources are available to fund the projects without additional debt issuance for the next twelve months.
- c. **Architecture & Engineering** – A report showing the plans for Architecture & Engineering capital projects is included.
 1. **Buildings & Infrastructure** – New Repair & Replacement cost centers were established this year primarily using rollover funds for both PID and Facilities & Property Management (FPM). The PID cost center is intended for small capital projects that require engineering design services, while the FPM cost center is intended for routine maintenance and replacements that don't require engineering services. A list of planned projects, subject to funding, is included.
 2. **County Roads** – There is an estimated \$202.6 million of funding that is available but not yet assigned for precinct road projects through the General and Mobility Funds, road bond proceeds and other sources including the METRO General Mobility Program.
 3. **Joint Processing Center** – The development of a plan for a new joint County-City processing center with a cost sharing arrangement is in progress. This project impacts several county departments and the city of Houston. The goal of the project is to significantly improve the efficiency of the system and improve outcomes for people who are entering or leaving the criminal justice system. The plans will be brought to Court along with alternatives to finance the project when it is ready.

2. Information Technology

ITC has a number of significant technology projects that are in progress or planned for the next few years. Replacing or improving systems for justice management and accounting systems are the most significant in terms of cost and impact on the delivery of services to the public. A report from the ITC Director is included.

3. **Other Projects**

- a. **Electronic Filing Project** – On December 11, 2012, the Texas Supreme Court mandated electronic filing of court records for all courts with a required implementation date of January 1, 2014. The District Clerk presented a plan to Commissioners Court in May and the project involves several departments including the District and County Clerks as well as ITC and court administration. Budget Management recommends that this project be funded entirely in Fund 2360, a special revenue fund established for Records Management and Preservation. A report on the funding recommendation is included.
 - b. **Fleet Services** – The Fleet Services division was originally in Management Services but was moved to Purchasing during the reorganization. Fleet Services manages the fleet of approximately 2,700 vehicles for law enforcement and other departments. Budget Management is proposing to move the planning and financing of new vehicles from Purchasing back to Budget Management. Other policies related to the use of vehicles and allowances will be brought back to Court at Mid Year.
4. **Debt and Financing** – An analysis of the financing needs and the County’s debt situation related to county roads, buildings & infrastructure and flood control projects is included.
 5. **Harris County Sports & Convention Corporation** – The future of the Harris County Domed Stadium and the HCSCC repair and replacement projects related to Reliant Park are addressed in a report from the HCSCC Board.
 6. **Harris County Hospital District** – An update on the capital improvements program for the Harris County Hospital District is included.
 7. **Port of Houston Authority** – The Port currently has bonds outstanding with a principal balance of \$737 million and total debt service of \$1.4 billion over the next 26 years. Harris County collects property taxes to cover these debt service payments which total \$52 million for the current fiscal year and approximately the same amount each year for the next several years.
 8. **Recommendations for Court Approval** – The following are recommended for Court approval at this time.
 - a. The PID plan proposed in the letter from Art Storey, subject to funding.
 - b. To move responsibility for planning and financing new vehicle purchases from Fleet Services back to Budget Management.