
Infrastructure & Development Committee

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

FROM: Justin Scharnhorst, Deputy Director of Public Works

MEETING: May 21, 2025

SUBJECT:

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide direction regarding a stormwater utility and street maintenance fee. *(Staff Contact: Justin Scharnhorst, Deputy Director of Public Works)*

SUMMARY:

In coordination with Freese and Nichols, staff has developed high-level conceptual renderings that illustrate the potential impact of a stormwater utility fee and a street maintenance fee. This process is intended to support internal discussions and help shape future policy conversations should the City choose to move forward with implementation.

Stormwater Utility Fee Detail:

The stormwater utility fee provides a dedicated funding source to manage the city's drainage infrastructure and related activities. As more surfaces become impervious due to development, runoff increases, placing additional strain on storm systems and increasing flood risk.

Fee revenue would support:

- Maintenance and improvement of storm drains, culverts, and ditches
- Flood prevention and drainage capacity upgrades
- Water quality improvements and environmental compliance
- Replacement of aging drainage infrastructure
- Planning and design of long-term capital improvements
- Environmental activities that support storm water quality

Street Maintenance Fee Detail:

The street maintenance fee creates a consistent, reliable funding stream for maintaining and preserving the city's roadway network. Streets are one of the city's most valuable and visible assets, and regular upkeep is critical to extending their lifespan and improving drivability.

Fee revenue would support:

- Pavement preservation (e.g., crack sealing, PressurePave, Mill and Overlay)
- Resurfacing and panel replacement
- Reconstruction of deteriorated streets
- Data-driven asset management and prioritization

Purpose and Benefits

Both fees serve as long-term, sustainable solutions to support critical infrastructure, including the development and related activities that are associated with protecting and preserving such items. They reduce reliance on general fund dollars and allow for proactive investment in high-priority improvements. Benefits to include, improved flood protection and drainage system performance, better street conditions and extended pavement life, reduced long-term maintenance and repair costs, transparent, dedicated funding for infrastructure needs

Staff will continue working with Freese and Nichols to refine the concepts and prepare for future steps, including public outreach and policy development. Feedback from the committee is necessary in order to begin crafting policy discussions that will be brought back to the full council as a workshop item, prior to moving to public outreach. Staff needs to obtain guidance from the committee and hear specific recommendations that will help mold the next steps in this process, should it move forward.

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

- Council approved the contract for Freese and Nichols on January 1, 2025

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

Proposed Expenditure/Revenue:

Account Number(s): N/A

Fund: N/A

Account Description: N/A

STAFF CONTACT:

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