Stormwater Utility Rate and Implementation Study Update

Citizens' Stormwater
Task Force
Presentation of
Recommendations

City Council Regular Session Thursday, October 14, 2004





August 8, 2022

Public Works Committee Meeting

George Binger, PE
City Engineer



Stormwater Utility Update

- Historical Review
- **❖**iGNITE Critical Success Factors
 - Current initiatives underway
- *Rate and Implementation Study Update



Current System

Public Infrastructure	Existing	Approved (for 2022)
Miles of Pipe	285	17
Miles of CMP	122	0
Number of Structures	17,212	437
Buried Structures	20	
City-Owned Channel (miles)	12	
19 City-owned basins	12 acres	
# of City-owned BMP	16	



Stormwater Utility Historical Review

Stormwater Infrastructure

- ❖ Material/Design Changes
- ❖ Aging, Corrosion and other failures
- Capacity and Structural Issues

❖Inventory (Scale)

- ❖ Miles of pipe (by type)
- Number of structures
- ❖ Increasing assets (CIP, Development, Annexation), Increasing Costs, Increasing Problem

❖ No dedicated funding source for Stormwater

- Improvements (repairs; flood mitigation)
- Maintenance
- **❖** Quality/Environmental
- Permitting



Stormwater Utility Historical Review

Stormwater Master Plan, 1990s-2002

- ❖ Detailed list of flooding issues reported; all types
- **❖** List of capital projects and estimated costs
- ❖No funding for work; no prioritization of work

❖ 2003-2004 Stormwater Citizens Task Force

- ❖14 citizens; 4 Development Reps; Park Board Member; City Staff; Consultant
- ❖ First effort to prioritize work identified in Stormwater Master Plan
- ❖164 projects; \$34.8 million; Increased operations & maintenance
- Recommended City establish a stormwater utility based on user fee

❖2007: LS 360 Strategic Plan

- Plan recommended a Stormwater Utility be established
- ❖ Preliminary research on utility structures completed
- ❖2008-2010 Recession stymied the political support for a stormwater utility ballot measure
- ❖Other priorities intervened a funding allocation for stormwater utility study.

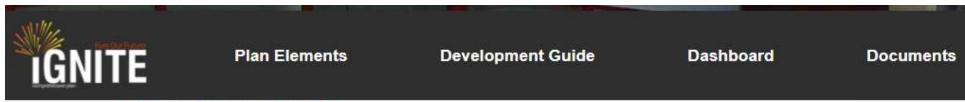


Stormwater Utility Historical Review

- Stormwater Projects through CIP
 - ❖Stormwater improvements only in association with road projects or failed infrastructure
 - ❖2007: \$12M G.O. bond issue for stormwater capital projects
- Stormwater Projects through PW Operations
 - ❖ Projects funded by General Fund to address immediate life-safety threats from failed infrastructure (e.g. pipe collapse, sink holes, etc.)
 - ❖ Cannot keep pace with known and emerging needs due to funding and staffing challenges
- 2016: Council/PWC re-started Stormwater Utility discussions
- ❖2017: CIP Sales Tax Renewal included \$12.5M for stormwater capital projects
 - ❖ Limited to structural flooding mitigation, caused by failed or lack of public infrastructure
 - CMP replacements (NE Lakewood Way; Ward Road near Lea Drive)
- ❖2021: Ignite! Strategic Plan
 - ❖Plan Goal supported by funding Stormwater Utility Study from General Fund in FY22 Budget



Comprehensive Plan



Fuel Our Future Plan Elements

To continue to ignite 'a vibrant community ensuring the finest quality of life for all generations' over the next 20 years, the Lee's Summit community created plans around seven essential elements of a successful community.















Stormwater Utility in iGNITE Comp Plan

- "Create stormwater utility" in 2 Essential Elements of Success
 - Infrastructure & Resiliency to Reduce flood risk & damage to property
 - Sustainable Environment to protect water quality
- Stormwater utility supports 4 Essential Elements of Success
 - Quality of Life (parks, recreation, health, safety)
 - *Resilient economy (sustainable revenues for operations & maintenance)
 - Strong Neighborhoods (preserves property values)
 - Land Use & Community Design (opportunity for watershed-based BMPs)



2016-2020 Scenario Discussions with PWC (costs out of date; to be re-evaluated)

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Current Rate & Implementation Study Jan 2022 startup; Fall 2023 election (?)



Workshop #2



Recommendations

Council

Next Steps

- Finalize concepts and program LOS options
- * Recruit Stormwater Advisory Council (SWAC) and key stakeholders
- Develop scenarios, LOS proposals, questions for policy development
 - ❖ Revenue structures; could lead to credits
 - ❖ User fee program policies
 - Legal reviews
- ❖ Discuss targeted election date (?)
- ❖ Future Projects still exceed CIP, Maintenance and Operation Funds (even with utility). A utility is critical, but also consider the need for future bond issues and sales tax measures.

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