

Memorandum



Date: February 3, 2015

To: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carlos A. Gimenez".

Subject: Supplemental Memorandum: Public Outreach Activities for Miami-Dade
Water and Sewer Department's Capital Improvement Program

Supplement to
Agenda Item Nos. 802,
803, 804 and 805

At the January 13, 2015 Infrastructure and Capital Improvements Committee meeting, the Water and Sewer Department (WASD) recommended for approval two (2) Professional Services agreements and two (2) Design-Build contracts.

The four (4) groups of consultants and contractors included outreach firms within their teams. Commissioner Juan C. Zapata inquired as to the necessity of the outreach services being included in these contracts. He requested that WASD provide an explanation of the services rendered by these consultants and that the Department explore the possibility of establishing its own outreach contract for use when necessary.

These contracts included the outreach component by the firms in order to comply with Implementing Order No. 10-13 (IO). This IO requires all County departments or recipients of County capital improvement funding to incorporate a Public Involvement Plan (Plan) as a component of capital improvement projects for projects that exceed \$1 million in construction costs. The objective of the Plan is to notify local governments, affected property owners, tenants, business owners, schools and the public at large of the proposed design, construction, and the anticipated impact of construction. The Plan focuses on issues such as accessibility to property owners and business owners, maintenance of traffic, construction schedules, and the duration of the project. While the IO allows for an administrative waiver, WASD has not requested such waivers. Since 2012, WASD has paid \$45,502 for these types of services to comply with this IO.

Currently, firms recommended for award for WASD contracts with a public outreach component, select their own outreach firm. This approach may lead to inefficiencies or duplication of services at an increased cost.

In order to address the concerns raised by Commissioner Zapata and other committee members, I have directed the management team at WASD to review the applicability of the IO and identify opportunities to coordinate this valuable service within a reasonable cost.

WASD and the Internal Services Department (ISD) are in the process of establishing a limited number of contracts to provide this service countywide for all departments. Once these contracts are established, we will be able to develop standardized plans that include outreach methods such as mailers, social media and community meetings to ensure the community is informed of the project impacts. More importantly, we hope to reduce our cost by utilizing the plans across multiple projects and departments. Depending on the timing of establishing contracts specific for outreach, we would look to migrate the services away from these and other contracts.

Additionally, I have requested that the Community Information and Outreach Department (CIAO) participate in the development and management of the plans to reduce the duplication of services between the County and our consultants and contractors.

On the February 3, 2015 Board of County Commissioners (Board) agenda, there are four (4) contracts recommended for award, they include two (2) professional service agreements and two (2) design-build contracts as listed below.

Item No. 8(O)(2) - Professional Service Agreement to King Engineering Associates, Inc.

Item No. 8(O)(3) - Professional Service Agreement to A&P Consulting Transp. Engineers

Item No. 8(O)(4) - Design-Build Contract to Ric-Man Construction Florida, Inc.

Item No. 8(O)(5) - Design-Build Contract to Lanzo Construction Co., Florida

All four (4) contracts are time sensitive and critical to WASD's capital improvement efforts. They require a Plan to allow for the resolution of potential issues during the design and construction phases. Impacts to the community include: (1) maintenance of traffic to avoid delays, (2) road closures, (3) timing of construction, (4) interruption of power and water service, (5) environmental complaints due to noise and dust, (6) landscape impact due to construction and heavy equipment activity, (7) accessibility to affected property owners and businesses, (8) timely and proper restoration of the site, (9) health and safety concerns, and (10) pipe routing issues.

The two (2) professional service agreements will provide the essential design service capacity to replace aged and corroded water and wastewater pipelines that have been documented in the County's water and wastewater system. These pipelines need to be replaced/renewed to avoid the possibility of future sewage spills and water line breaks.

The two (2) design-build contracts will provide the necessary services to eliminate existing backyard undersized dual water pipelines and replace them with larger sized lines in front of the property. The design and construction of these new water pipelines will replace old, corroded, and undersized water mains with new mains to provide adequate hydraulic capacity for fire protection and enhanced water pressures in the Shenandoah area. The Department believes that the inclusion of a Plan is an important component of these four (4) contracts to keep the residents of the affected communities aware of the project impacts and of WASD's efforts to mitigate them.

The Board's approval of these contracts will allow work to begin and allow WASD to deliver on these critical path projects.



Jack Osterholt
Deputy Mayor