

VOL. 4 ISSUE 1 · JANUARY - MARCH 2024

IN THE WORKS

Employee Newsletter -
Public Works Department - Fairfield, CA



Message from the Director

Dear Public Works Team,

Over the last several months Public Works leadership have been developing a Public Works Strategic Plan. The Plan is being informed by workshops conducted with all Public Works managers and supervisors, as well as through input received from a department-wide employee survey. Our Strategic Plan framework once finalized will serve as a tool for communication and decision making as we work to align resources with priorities across our five core service divisions: Operations, Utilities, Engineering, Fleet, and Transportation. We intend to finalize the Plan and begin implementation this summer.

Speaking of priorities, one of City Council's six strategic priorities is Quality of Life - advancing Fairfield as the place to live, work, and play. This aligns remarkably well with this year's theme for National Public Works Week (NPWW) - Advancing the Quality of Life for all. So as NPWW approaches on May 19-25, 2024, let's take a moment to acknowledge and take pride in the fact that our day-to-day efforts and dedication contribute to improving and advancing the quality of life in Fairfield.

Finally, we'll take a pause on future In the Works newsletter editions to shift focus towards wrapping up and implementing the Strategic Plan, as well as developing a Public Works Annual Report each year. Thank you to the committee for your efforts over the past editions in creating this employee newsletter.
- Paul Kaushal

This issue:

PW Strategic Plan

PAGE 02

Employee Spotlight

PAGE 04

Project Updates

PAGE 05

In Other News

PAGE 09

2023 Holiday BBQ

PAGE 11

2023 Holiday Breakfast

PAGE 08

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Corey Beavers
Marisa Cumpian
Melissa Minton
Ria Sherman

Nigel Browne
Maribel Galsim
Lindsay Parker
Valerie Standfill

Public Works Strategic Plan

Last year the Public Works Department began the process of developing a strategic plan. Utilizing consulting services from Cyrus Abhar (former PW Director and City Manager), PW Director, Paul Kaushal outlined a series of goals, objectives, and milestones to accomplish a department strategic plan. The goal is to have a finalized plan by Summer 2024.

One element of the strategic planning process is the development/refinement of the department's Vision, Mission, and Values.

Over the course of several meetings Public Works leadership met to discuss, develop, and update our Vision, Mission, and Values.

- Our Vision describes what we aspire to achieve as a department.
- Our Mission summarizes at the highest level why we are here. Everything we do contributes to our ability to achieve the mission.
- Our Values set the standards for how we will interact along the way. How we treat each other is just as important as what we achieve.

Other elements of the department strategic planning process have included a Public Works employee survey and a detailed accounting of priority projects, initiatives, and associated timelines from each division to ensure alignment with City Council priorities.



Public Works Strategic Plan



**VISION:
STRIVE TO DELIVER THE
HIGHEST QUALITY OF SERVICE.**

**MISSION:
BUILD, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN CITY
ASSETS AND DELIVER QUALITY SERVICES**

**VALUES:
TRANSPARENCY, INTEGRITY, STEWARDSHIP,
EXCELLENCE, AND INNOVATION.**

Employee Spotlight

Meet the Zendejas Brothers!



Diego and Armando Zendejas are Equipment Mechanics in the Fleet Management Division. Diego was hired first and Armando followed six months later. Diego is the oldest and Armando is 4 years younger. Growing up as first-generation Americans with hard-working parents who didn't have a chance to go to high school, they learned the importance of family, self-reliance, problem solving, and goal setting. They both graduated from Napa High School and went on to UTI Sacramento.

Family, Football, and Fast Cars

As kids, the brothers spent time going to football (soccer for the uninitiated) tournaments with their dad and in high school they worked on their first cars. Diego's was a 99' Mitsubishi Eclipse and Armando's was a 98' Mazda Miata. Now, Armando's favorite vehicles to work on are dump trucks!

Armando and his wife, Ana welcomed a son in 2021; that was his proudest moment. Diego, "single" (he says with a grin), is proud of himself and his family for overcoming the challenges and pressures experienced by immigrant families.

Diego came to the City because he wanted to grow as a mechanic and it offered a better situation for his family. Seeing Diego succeed at the City, Armando decided it was a good move for him and his young family too.

Best Part About Working In Fleet

The brothers agree that the best part about working for the City in the Fleet Management Division is the ability to learn new skills from veteran mechanics and take on new challenges. Both are interested in the city's educational reimbursement policy and are looking to fit in some ASE certifications to help them become EMILs in the future.



Project Updates

Water Quality Lab Update at NBR

North Bay Regional Water Treatment Plant houses the official State certified water safety laboratory for the City of Fairfield. The process of maintaining the health and safety of the City's water system encompasses the collection of thirty-five samples per week from various stations located around the city. These samples are then tested for various types of bacteria to ensure compliance with State regulations. In addition to the bacteria testing, daily tests are performed for other parameters such as pH, fluoride, turbidity, etc. The lab has been in operation since 1991 and has not had a significant upgrade/remodel until now. That's approximately 32 years that the lab has been in service!



Various ADA upgrades around the lab include doors, operators, and other layout changes.



The new fume hood captures gases, vapors, and fumes and removes them from the work area to maintain a safe environment for staff.



The upgrades to the facility include office and breakroom upgrades, ADA upgrades, analytical testing area upgrades, and a new fume hood which limits exposure to any hazardous chemicals used during the testing and analyzing of samples. A mobile lab is in place to maintain the same level of safety and water quality testing during construction. The lab at NBR was completed in Q1 2024.

Project Updates

Bank of America Demolition

A key initiative of the Heart of Fairfield Specific Plan is providing opportunities to improve and expand housing within downtown Fairfield through the incorporation of mixed-used development. To advance this initiative, the City of Fairfield acquired approximately 1.25 acres of land at 1120 Texas Street in 2022. This property was previously home to a Bank of America branch building and has been identified as a possible catalyst site for high-density mixed-used development. In April 2023, the City contracted with Unlimited Environmental, Inc. to demolish three existing vacant buildings.



BEFORE

Due to the age of the buildings, testing was required for hazardous asbestos and lead-containing materials. All hazardous materials were hauled and disposed of at a pre-approved site, as mandated by federal, state, regional, and local agencies. Construction demolition operations began in July 2023 and were accepted as complete in May 2024. The project required key collaboration between the City Manager's Office, Public Works Department, and Community Development Department. Economic Development staff is actively soliciting proposals from private developers to build a mixed-use development at the site.



AFTER

Project Updates

Heart of Fairfield Downtown Streetscape



Typical street furniture to be removed.



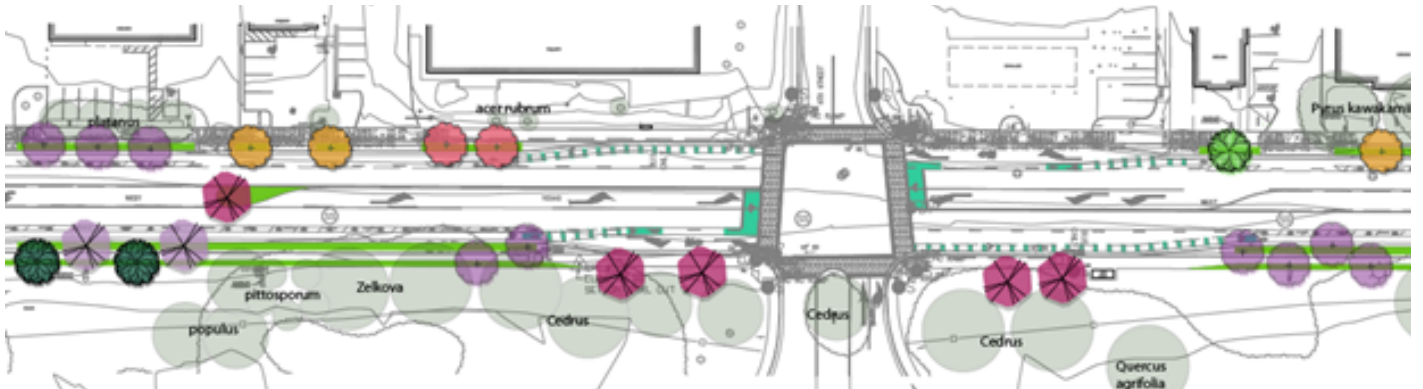
Typical Pergola to be removed.

On September 19, 2023, City Council authorized the city manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Gates + Associates to initiate the design of the Heart of Fairfield Downtown Streetscape Project. The project will remove street amenities previously installed in the 1990s along Texas Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Jefferson Street to clear the palate and open the space. Existing trees, pergolas, and potted plants will be removed and replaced with new trees and art sculptures.

Construction will be phased out to minimize the impact on planned events as well as all downtown users. Phase One will consist of the demolition of existing pergolas, planters, and concrete benches, which was completed in April 2024. Phase Two will include the installation of new street furniture allowed by the project budget, as well as the planting of new trees. Details for Phase Two are still being decided by the design team.

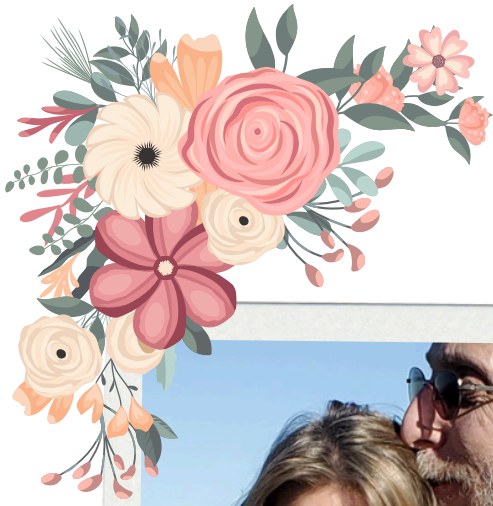
Project Updates

West Texas Complete Streets



Through the Heart of Fairfield Specific Plan, the community identified a new vision for West Texas Street from Beck Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue. A redesign of the roadway and commercial corridor is necessary to spur private investment in new and varied types of housing and businesses. In 2021, the City was successful in obtaining \$10.9 million in state grant funding through the Active Transportation Program (ATP). The ATP grant allows the City to fund the Complete Streets Project in its ultimate configuration for the entire 0.9 - mile stretch of West Texas Street.

The complete streets design for West Texas Street includes reducing the number of vehicle lanes from four to two, the installation of protected (Class IV) and buffered (Class II) bike lanes, new enhanced crosswalks, raised medians, and traffic signal improvements. The plan also includes landscape enhancements, widened sidewalks, and accessible curb ramp upgrades. Construction is anticipated to begin in Q3 of 2025. A water main relocation project on West Texas Street between Curtis Drive and Pennsylvania Avenue is also scheduled to break ground in Q3 of 2024, in preparation for the complete streets surface work.



In Other News... Congratulations!



Richard Ryder, Sr. Parts/Sales, and Ria Sherman, Public Works Assistant, tied the knot on September 22, 2023, in beautiful Anchor Bay, CA. They picked a venue based on the delivery range of Ria's favorite bakery!

The two met at work and bonded over their mutual British heritage and a love for travel and family. Richard and Ria live in Woodland, CA with their Saint Bernard, Maybe. They have been with the City a combined total of 9 years and surprised their co-workers with the top tier of their wedding cake by way of an announcement!



Fleet Babies

WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR!



**MO YACUB, EQUIPMENT MECHANIC II,
WELCOMES GRANDDAUGHTER, LEILA**

**JUSTIN PANETO, EQUIPMENT MECHANIC II,
WELCOMES DAUGHTER KAILANI**

**DAVID RENSCHLER, FLEET DIVISION MANAGER,
WELCOMES GRANDSON, ASHER**

2023 HOLIDAY BBQ





A huge thank you to the Operations Team and all those who helped to put on an awesome BBQ lunch!

2023 HOLIDAY BREAKFAST





CITY OF

FAIRFIELD

CALIFORNIA