



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Virgil de la Cruz, Chair

Carmine Tomas, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, October 16, 2023
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held remotely*

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair de la Cruz and Committee Member Reps. Boeger, Ley, Tomas, Dakary Watkins, and David Watkins. Also in attendance were Rep. Adams; Lou Casolo, City Engineer; and Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations. Rep. David Watkins left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Chair de la Cruz called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. O31.037	APPROVAL; Agreement between City of Stamford and Aquarion Water Company for Paving Restoration in Shippan Area pursuant to Bid Waiver [Agreement Amount: \$320,491.20] 09/29/23 - Submitted by Mayor Simmons 10/11/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-0	Approved 6-0-0

Mr. Casolo explained that Aquarion recently completed one of several water main installation projects in Shippan. The roadway patching is completed and it is now time for roadway restoration by Aquarion where they did the work. The balance of the road was evaluated by the Highway Supervisor who determined that the other half of the road also needs restoration.

The bid waiver was approved by the Board of Finance. This item is a contract between the City and Aquarion to pay Aquarion for restoration of the portion of the restoration which is the City's responsibility. This project relates solely to the water main installation on Ocean Drive East, Hobson Street, and Sea Beach Drive.

A motion to approve Item No. 1 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. de la Cruz, Boeger, Ley, Tomas, Dakary Watkins, and David Watkins in favor).

The Committee next took up Item No. 5.

5. [O31.001](#) REVIEW; Administration plans to Develop Short and Long Term Plan to Mitigate the Impact of Severe Storm and Rain Events as expressed in [Resolution 4113](#). **Recommended to Steering 6-0-0**
- 12/08/21 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz and Berns
12/20/21 – Held by Committee 9-0-0
01/31/22 – Held by Committee
03/03/22 – Held by Committee 5-0-0
03/11/22 – Moved to Pending
04/27/22 – Held by Committee 7-0-0
06/20/22 – Report Made & Held by Committee 9-0-0
07/11/22 – Moved to Pending
07/31/23 – Report Made
08/07/23 – Held by Full Board
08/14/23 – Moved to Pending

A motion to recommit Item No. 5 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. de la Cruz, Boeger, Ley, Tomas, Dakary Watkins, and David Watkins in favor).

2. O31.036 REVIEW; Road Paving Plans with Consideration to Using Permeable and Light Colored Paving Products, such as Permeable White Asphalt, to Reduce Flooding Potential, Relieve Capacity of Storm Water Drains, Offset Global Warming, and Reduce the Urban Heat Island Effect. **Report Made & Recommended to Steering 6-0-0**
- 09/06/23 – Submitted by Rep. de la Cruz
09/18/23 – Report Made and Recommended to Steering 7-0-0

Representative de la Cruz stated that he placed this item on the agenda because the City will be embarking on a major paving program, and given the concerns about flooding, global warming, and the heat island effect, permeable and light colored paving could help mitigate this concerns.

Committee members discussed Item No. 2 with Mr. Casolo. Items discussed included the following:

- Permeable pavement and light colored paving are two separate issues
- Permeable pavement permits stormwater to permeate the paving structure; in theory there would be less runoff
- The City has seen it in parking lot applications; the City has not contemplated using it in roadways. In parking lot use it also has limitations
- The salt and sand used during winter can clog a porous surface, making it not porous
- Some parking lots at Stamford Hospital are porous; he was concerned about how these lots would be maintained. If they are not maintained, there would be runoff with no form of collection system, which could lead to flooding.
- Typically, runoff is diverted. With porous pavement, the water is directed to a base layer of the pavement, which acts as a conduit to direct the water out from under the pavement. The entire pavement structure needs to be designed to support this and a road would need to be rebuilt from scratch so there is a

permeable subbase and the water is directed to a collection system or a rain garden

- If porous pavement were introduced on an existing road, the exiting subbase is so compacted it would not be sufficient to redirect any flow.
- Porous paving is more costly than hot mix asphalt because of the overall production of the product.
- It is possible that it would be more feasible in the future for broad application; it could be tested in a small application.
- Playgrounds use a permeable rubber surface
- It might be worth discussing the use of permeable surfaces in non-road situations
- It might be worth seeing what other communities are doing
- Permeable pavement is used in the NY watershed; it works best in signature project areas where the pavement can be maintained
- Re winter and road structure concerns, Representative de la Cruz countered that Chicago and other cold winter places, such as Utah, use permeable pavement. Chicago uses permeable pavement on narrow strips along the curb to direct some storm water underground, relieving the load on the storm water drainage lines, without impacting the characteristics of the roadway. Renderings and a description of the Chicago approach were displayed. Re porous paving being more expensive, the benefits could outweigh the additional cost and should be further researched.

A motion to recommit Item No. 2 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. de la Cruz, Boeger, Ley, Tomas, Dakary Watkins, and David Watkins in favor).

3. O31.038 REVIEW; Status of plans to replace multiple gas fired HVAC units with fewer heat pumps units and installation of solar panels on the roof of the Yerwood Community Center. **Report Made & Recommended to Steering 5-0-0**
10/05/23 – Submitted by Rep. de la Cruz

Committee members discussed Item No. 3 with Mr. Casolo. Items discussed included the following:

- In March, the Board approved a contract to retain a consultant to review the mechanical systems in Yerwood, do a roofing project in Yerwood and evaluate solar panels on the roof and to evaluate different energy equipment
- He has worked with the solar consultant to seek rebates, incentives and credits through Eversource to put solar on the roof
- The upcoming capital budget will include a request to fund this project
- The schematic design is about 50% complete. They are evaluating overall energy use in the building
- Geothermal is not in the architect's contract; it is analyzed in conjunction with larger projects; it is very expensive

A motion to recommit Item No. 3 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. de la Cruz, Boeger, Ley, Tomas, and Dakary Watkins in favor).

4. O31.018 REVIEW; West Main Street Bridge. **Report Made &
08/03/22 – Submitted by Director Quinones Recommended to
08/15/22 – Report Made & Held by Committee 7-0-0 Steering 5-0-0
09/12/22 – Moved to Pending
12/29/22 –Held by Committee 9-0-0
01/09/23 – Moved to Pending**

Committee members discussed Item No.4 with Mr. Quinones and Mr. Casolo. Items discussed included the following:

- A consultant has been identified for the project regarding the old bridge; the project will range between \$60k - \$80k.
- On September 14 a prefabricated bridge was installed to the north of the existing bridge.
- Six five-inch steel electric conduits and four communication conduits were installed. Support hangers for the water main and the gas main will be installed.
- Utility work takes time
- There has been community outreach regarding the old bridge. The community is split regarding the future of the bridge, including pedestrian only or pedestrian/vehicular; there will be a cost/benefit analysis done on the future of the old bridge
- It is not clear yet if the temporary bridge will be taken down once a solution has been reached concerning the old bridge's reconstruction
- The plan is to have the pedestrian bridge open by year's end.

A motion to recommit Item No. 4 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. de la Cruz, Boeger, Ley, Tomas, and Dakary Watkins in favor).

Chair de la Cruz adjourned the meeting at 7:41p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Virgil de la Cruz, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)