

FY 2021 Borough Budget Consultations

Manhattan - Department of Environmental Protection

Meeting Date 9/18/2019

AGENDA ITEM 1 : General Agency Funding Discussion

The purpose of holding the Borough Budget Consultations is to provide Community Boards with important information to assist in drafting their statement of District Needs and Budget Priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. As you know, Community Board Members are volunteers who may not be familiar with the budget process and how agencies' programs are funded. At the same time, Community Board members are very knowledgeable about local service needs.

This year's Manhattan agendas have three sections:

I. Agencies begin the consultation with a presentation of their goals, funding decision process, and highlights of their funding needs.

II. Then, the agenda continues with Community Boards asking about specific program funding.

III. Lastly, the agendas include Boards' requests on district-specific budget questions. We request that the agency respond in writing, but have any further discussions on these items with the Community Boards outside of the consultation.

For the first section, please present on the four topics below for 10-15 minutes at the beginning of our Consultation. Also, please provide written responses or even a PowerPoint presentation that we can use to fully and accurately educate our Board Members.

1. What are your priorities and operational goals for FY20 and projected priorities and operational goals for FY21?
2. What are the current proposed FY20 and FY21 service and operational goals and proposed funding?
3. Which programs is the agency adding, dropping, or changing for FY20 and projected for FY21?
4. What are your benchmarks for new and existing programs and what are your benchmarks/key performance indicators for measuring success?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

DEP has overall responsibility for the City's water supply and sewer systems, including providing drinking water to all New Yorkers, maintaining pressure to fire hydrants, managing storm water, and treating wastewater. In addition, DEP also regulates air quality, hazardous waste, and critical quality of life issues, including noise.

A copy of our agency Strategic Plan 2018 can be found at:

https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/about_dep/dep_strategic_plan.shtml

The One Year Progress Report can be found at:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dep/downloads/pdf/about/strategic-plan/2018-strategic-plan-year-one-progress-report.pdf>

Operation goals can be found in the Preliminary Mayor's Management Report,

https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/operations/downloads/pdf/pmmr2019/2019_pmmr.pdf

New York City Water Board - Water and Wastewater Rate Report - FY 2020 found in your folder.

Our priorities continue to be the management of our drinking water and stormwater collection system, our wastewater treatment facilities and the continued improvement of the quality of water bodies surrounding New York City, protection of our watershed lands serving the Catskill/Delaware and Croton water supplies, and our very important mission to remain responsive to complaints about air and noise violations and asbestos abatement.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

Priorities lie in ongoing capital work and maintenance of water plants and water shed that provide potable water to the City

NOTES:

No follow up

AGENDA ITEM 2 : Manhattan Water Tunnel and Sewer Project

1. Have additional DEP\DDC projects in Manhattan been funded in FY2020 and FY2021?
2. Please provide list of newly funded projects and start dates.
3. Are the current ongoing DEP\DDC projects in Manhattan fully funded?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

Please see DDC's list of capital projects, maps, and associated schedules.

All current/ongoing DEP/DDC projects are fully funded.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

DEP provide list/maps of current capital projects with status and projection of timeline

CB4 express concerned of impact that the capital projects have on businesses during construction. Signage is not consistent.

Request of coordination with SBS/DEP/DDC to address signage issues and laws that prevent business from having signs in what's considered City property

NOTES:

CB 4 request coordination between SBS/DEP/DDC for help with signage for businesses impacted by construction

AGENDA ITEM 3 : Noise Pollution

Last year DEP reported that the Bureau of Environmental Compliance (BEC) was approved for 9 additional noise pollution inspector positions and hiring would take place in FY2019.

1. Have all those positions been filled and What are the current staffing numbers for the Manhattan Day Unit, the Early Morning Construction Unit, and the night unit?
2. Did DEP request for additional funding for more inspectors for the FY2020 budget?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. Have all those positions been filled. – Yes. All of the positions have been filled.

- The current staffing the Manhattan Day Unit - currently 1 supervisor, 2 Senior Inspectors and 8 inspectors assigned to the Manhattan day unit
- The Early Morning Construction Unit – Tuesday to Saturday – 5 (4 inspectors/1 Senior); Sunday to Thursday – 4 (3/1)
- Citywide, there are currently 11 inspectors and 4 senior inspections assigned to the night unit. (covers all boroughs)

2. Yes. Additional funding has been requested for more inspectors for the FY'2020 budget

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

DEP filled vacant inspector positions and has inspectors 24/7 except for Saturday night to Saturday morning.

CB 2 expressed concern about noise from bars at night and asked for additional noise enforcement in light of the additional inspectors

NOTES:

CB 4 asked that bars are visited and DEP addresses owners/staff- not necessarily for fines but to educate and warn.

AGENDA ITEM 4 : Idling Laws

1. What is the total number of idling summons issued in 2019?
2. Has any additional funding been requested and provided for idling inspections and enforcement for FY2020?
3. Does DEP allocate funding for community outreach and education of the city's idling laws?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

For FY 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June30, 2019), 2059 idling summonses were submitted to OATH.(citywide)

2. Yes. Additional funding has been requested and provided for idling inspections and enforcement for FY 2020.
3. DEP has funded and is developing an outreach and education program, which will roll out next year and we will provide that information to you as we get further along. DEP continues to educate the public, provide outreach to public schools, parent coordinators, school bus companies and partner with NYC DOE to transmit the no idling message and educate the public on idling laws.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

Citizen Idling Complaint program has helped the agency to increase their ability to fine idling cars.

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 5 : Water/Sewer Operations

1. Since DEP’s water/sewer-related operations and capital program are funded by water and sewer rate money, and therefore are not considered in the budget consultation process, what budget priorities would DEP like for CBs to help them advocate for during the FY 2021 budget process?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

DEP continues to replace old water mains and install new trunk water mains in Manhattan. DEP is attempting to

obtain funding for outfall repair/replacement projects in the next 4-year plan, and will appreciate any help the CBs can provide.

DEP has 700 combined sewer outfalls citywide. An outfall is an outlet along the waterfront connecting the City's sewer to the open water.

During heavy rainstorms, combined sewers receive higher than normal flows. DEP's wastewater treatment plants are unable to handle flows that are more than twice the design capacity. When this occurs, a mix of stormwater and untreated sewage discharges directly into the City's waterways. These events are called combined sewer overflows (CSOs). We are concerned about CSOs because of their effect on water quality and the recreational use of local water bodies.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 8 : Green Infrastructure

1. What amount of the \$20.6 million dedicated to the implementation of the City's Green Infrastructure, which includes 139 staff positions, will fund Manhattan based projects?
2. Please provide a list of Manhattan based projects and locations.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

When it rains, green infrastructure collects and manages the rain water or "stormwater" that falls on our city's streets and sidewalks. Green Infrastructure prevents stormwater from entering the City's sewer system, which helps to improve the health of local waterways. We have successfully built thousands of Green Infrastructure installations, like Rain Gardens, across New York City.

However, DEP does not have any Manhattan based projects allocated for the implementation of the City's Green Infrastructure program.

There are very limited Green Infrastructure assets in Manhattan that DEP is maintaining. The assets, whether it's rain gardens (planted areas that collect rainwater), storm water green streets or green roofs, just to name a few types, are along the 1st Avenue Select Bus Service line at E 87th Street and E. 14th Street.

Both of these locations were chosen for Green Infrastructure implementation in part by a request from DOT for inclusion in the SBS line capital project. After we investigated and found they were suitable, they were included into the roadway reconstruction plan.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

There are no Manhattan Green Infrastructure projects at this time. Will work with NYCHA, DOE, DPR to install green infrastructure in their properties.

NOTES:

AGENDA ITEM 9 : Permeable Surface Study

1. Will this DEP funded study include Manhattan in its study area?
2. Is there funding dedicated to the studies future recommendations?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

Manhattan is not included in the Permeable Pavement surface study. DEP is hoping to secure funding for area-wide porous pavement in the future but will not likely be in Manhattan since the Hudson and East River mostly meet water quality standards. Green Infrastructure (GI) implementation is focused in watersheds with more challenging water quality conditions.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

CB 7 expressed concern about City's regulations pertaining removing concrete and not requiring via permits that permeable surfaces be installed in its place.

NOTES:

DEP will provide answers on the matter of permits and requirement of installing permeable surfaces whenever concrete is removed.

AGENDA ITEM 10 : Lead Service Line Replacement Program

1. What amount of funding has been provided for the LSLRP for FY2020 and FY2021?
2. What amount of funding is dedicated to marketing and community outreach of this program?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

DEP received State Grants in the value of \$5.3M for FY 2020 to perform outreach and expand efforts to replace lead service lines citywide.

Under this program, New York State is providing funds to the City to work with low-income homeowners to replace privately-owned lead service lines at no cost to the homeowner. Eligible New Yorkers received an information packet and application in the mail.

Eligible homeowners are those who currently receive the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Regular Heating Benefit, are current on their water bill and City records indicate that the property may have a lead service line.

DEP provides the public with a Lead Service Line Map which can be found on our DEP website that provides some historical information, such as third party plumbing records and some information gathered during city inspections.

For Manhattan we identified two properties who fit the criteria mentioned above. One property has followed up and we are working with the property owner. This program requires the cooperation of the homeowner, it's voluntary.

Currently, in total DEP has identified 300 properties citywide who meet this criteria and have responded to our outreach. We are working with the homeowners throughout this process, subsequently having the contractor go out and replacing the line.

For more information about lead exposure and prevention in New York City, visit nyc.gov/leadfreenyc. We included the Lead-Free NYC pamphlet in your folders.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

The program is closed at this time. Unclear if it will be reinstated next Fiscal Year. There was a low response homeowners (2000) but there was very little response. Notifications are sent via mail to homeowners; only 300 replied.

Via water main work, DEP has identified homeowners that they may have lead at the house. A tag is placed at the property.

An interactive map is available with lead service line replacement is available online.

CB 4 has concerns about a number of coalitions/associations/groups of HDFC that may not be a part of the outreach efforts.

NOTES:

CB4 would like to work alongside DEP if there's State funding for additional outreach in outer years. The goal is to ensure that HDFC coalitions are contacted and have access to the program.

AGENDA ITEM 11 : Energy Efficient Programs

It is our understanding that DEP has been provided \$60 million for retrofitting city owned building to make them more energy efficient.

1. Which buildings in Manhattan are in the pipeline?
2. Are there any Manhattan city owned buildings that meet the standards for the program but that are not in the current pipeline?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

Part of Mayor's Fiscal Year 2020 city budget.

- Fulfilling a commitment to energy efficiency with green technology by retrofitting City buildings as part of NYC's Green New Deal (\$60 million).

One of the 10 bills in the New York City Climate Mobilization Act (aka the City's Green New Deal), is bill Int. 1253. This bill establishes an Office of Building Energy Performance and greenhouse gas emissions limits for existing 'covered buildings'. It describes the calculation for buildings emissions intensity, annual reporting requirements, and penalties for non-compliance. This bill also expands existing retro-commissioning requirements to certain buildings over 25,000 square feet.

NYC DCAS will collaborate with agencies that have capital improvement projects already underway to incorporate in-scope energy efficiency measures. They will work with NYC DDC and the School Construction Authority (SCA) to identify projects to advance efficiency opportunities across the existing pipeline of capital improvement. The City benchmarks all City-owned buildings over 10,000 square feet and conducts energy audits and retro-commissioning studies. The City then prioritizes buildings with the greatest opportunity for energy savings through a comprehensive retrofit. The City will expand the types of projects implemented and increase the overall number of energy efficiency retrofits in City buildings. To streamline the process, the City will procure new types of contracts to perform deep retrofits, targeting City buildings with the largest energy demands and most complex energy consuming systems.

DEP has partnered, worked with DCAS at the DEP Port Richmond Wastewater Treatment Plant on Staten Island, whereas DEP installed three new boilers, a new exhaust capture system and one of the city's largest rooftop solar arrays in the city, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from plant operations by more than 28,000 metric tons. The solar array will generate approximately 1.6 million kilowatt hours and will supply as much as 10 percent of the plant's power needs. Eliminating more than 28,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions is the equivalent of removing 5,895 passenger vehicles from the road, providing a year's worth of electricity to 3,851 homes or planting 717,949 trees and allowing them to grow for 10 years. The work builds towards the OneNYC initiative of achieving net-zero energy use at the City's wastewater treatment plants by 2050.

DEP's North River Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility, located in Manhattan, west Harlem, currently has a \$300 million capital upgrade project underway to install new, cleaner-burning co-generation engines. Once that work is completed in 2022, there will be a nearly 50 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. This is comparable to the air quality benefits achieved by removing 5,500 vehicles from the road or planting nearly 700,000 trees. By replacing the 10 existing engines that rely on traditional fuel oil with engines that primarily use green energy, the project will help contribute towards the City's 80 x 50 goal. In addition, over 6,500 lighting fixtures at the facility have been upgraded with energy-saving LED capability. This work reduces greenhouse gas emissions associated with the operation of the facility by over 1,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually, which is comparable to removing over 230 vehicles from the road or planting nearly 29,000 trees. In addition, the upgrade reduces annual operating costs by more than \$300,000. DCAS also contributed funding towards the LED upgrade.

The new cogeneration system will maximize the use of digester gas to produce up to 12 megawatts of electricity and will have the ability to take the facility off the electrical grid to ease pressure during times of high demand. The new system is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide. DCAS contributed funding towards the new cogeneration system, roughly \$16 – 17 Million. Additional supporting work includes the installation of electric motors for the main sewage pumps, replacement of the five engine driven process air blowers with nine energy efficient high-speed turbo blowers, an upgraded HVAC system, upgrades to the in-plant electrical power distribution system and an on-site electric substation to increase reliability of power distribution to Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park. The work, which is being staggered in order to ensure uninterrupted service, represents the first major upgrade to the North River facility since it went into operation in 1986.

DCAS has allocated DEP with \$100 million dollars for 30 - 40 projects citywide (DEP owned properties). DEP will continue to work with DCAS to identify DEP facilities in Manhattan for energy efficiency programs.

MEETING NOTES:

COMMENTS:

DEP offered a tour of the north river water plant were they installed a co generator. CB 1, CB 2 and OMB would like to assist. Other community boards can indicate if they would like to attend at least three weeks in advance of the desired tour date.

Inspected twice a year by NYPD.

CB 12 asked if there's a need for capital funding for hydrants.

DEP reported that hydrants are installed when there's water main installation or work conducted. New hydrants are installed only when there's new construction. Contract or developer may be required to do the infrastructure work.

CB 12 expressed concern about rezoning in their area and the impact on the need for hydrants. DEP requested a list of areas of concern.

NOTES:

CB 7 question about increase capacity as a result of north river plant. DEP to reply the exact amount in increase.

CB 12 to send a list of sites to DEP where board feels there's a need for hydrants