

FY 2022 Borough Budget Consultations

Manhattan - Department of Environmental Protection

Meeting Date 9/29/2020

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 faced unprecedented cuts and new funding requirements this year due to COVID 19. Can you list the previously unplanned cuts to the FY 21 budget due to COVID and the new initiatives necessitated by the emergency? Please discuss the expected timeline for the new initiatives. What programs and capital projects will be continued uncut. Of the cuts in spending for FY 2021, please identify the most significant cuts that are currently expected to be permanent [or continued at the reduced level into FY 2022].

What is the overall budget decrease for FY 21 adopted budget compared to FY20 budget?

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 FY21 and projected priorities and operational goals for FY22?
2. What are the current proposed FY21 and FY22 service and operational goals and proposed funding?
3. Which programs is the agency adding, dropping, or changing for FY21 and projected for FY22?
4. What are your benchmarks for new and existing programs and what are your benchmarks/key performance indicators for measuring success?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

The mission of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is to enrich the environment and protect public health for all New Yorkers by providing high quality drinking water, managing wastewater and stormwater, and reducing air, noise, and hazardous materials pollution.

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

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dep/about/strategic-plan.page>

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

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/operations/performance/mmr.page>

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.

During the upcoming financial plans, DEP will coordinate with OMB to reevaluate the agency's capital and expense budget in light of the City's fiscal situation. At this time, it is premature for us to comment on how this will impact specific programs and services. We should have more information to share with the boards at the consultations.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM 2: Manhattan Water Tunnel and Sewer Project

1. Have additional DEP\DDC projects in Manhattan been funded in FY2021 and FY2022?
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:

1. MED669 for Distribution water main replacement work is currently being funded in FY22. DDC to provide current project maps/information.
2. DDC to provide current project maps/information.
3. Yes

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM 3: Noise Pollution

In September 2019, DEP reported its current staffing as follows:

Manhattan Day Unit

1 supervisor, 2 Senior Inspectors and 8 inspectors

Early Morning Construction Unit

Tuesday to Saturday – 5 (4 inspectors/1 Senior); Sunday to Thursday – 4 (3/1)

Night unit (covers all boroughs)

11 inspectors and 4 senior inspectors

1. What are the current staffing numbers for the Manhattan Day Unit, the Early Morning Construction Unit, and the night unit?
2. Since funding for DEP comes from the New York City Water Board (which sets water and sewer rates that fund the agency's operations) and the New York City Municipal Water Finance Authority (which issues bonds to fund the agency's capital projects), what impact does DEP expect the coronavirus pandemic financial downturn will have on its funding?
3. Are there plans to fund outreach efforts for DEP staff to visit bars in districts that have a high concentration of establishments in order to educate them on Noise Code standards, so as to pre-emptively address possible noise problems.

AGENCY RESPONSE:**Manhattan Day Unit**

1 Supervisor, 2 Senior Inspectors and 13 Inspectors

Early Morning Construction Unit

Tuesday to Saturday – 6 (5 Inspectors/1 Senior); Sunday to Thursday – 4 (3 Inspectors/1 Senior)

Night unit (covers all boroughs)

1 Supervisor, 4 Senior Inspectors and 16 Inspectors

2. Since funding for DEP comes from the New York City Water Board (which sets water and sewer rates that fund the agency's operations) and the New York City Municipal Water Finance Authority (which issues bonds to fund the agency's capital projects), what impact does DEP expect the coronavirus pandemic financial downturn will have on its funding?

Note: the Air & Noise Enforcement Unit is not funded by the Water Board.

3. Are there plans to fund outreach efforts for DEP staff to visit bars in districts that have a high concentration of establishments in order to educate them on Noise Code standards, so as to pre-emptively address possible noise problems.

Not at this time. However, an effort to address this concern has been occurring with the newly created NYC Office of Nightlife. The Office of Nightlife, at the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, is a liaison for New York City's nightlife industry and community to all City agencies. This Office's purpose is to help establish and coordinate systemic solutions to support the nighttime economy, culture, and quality of life.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM 4: Idling Laws

1. At last year's consultation, DEP reported that 2,059 idling summonses were submitted citywide to the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) in FY 2019. What is the total number of idling summons issued in FY 2020?
2. Will DEP be allocating additional money for idling inspections and enforcement for FY2022?
3. At last year's consultation, DEP reported that the agency "is developing an outreach and education program [on idling], which will roll out next year". What is the status of that program? Does DEP allocate funding for any other community outreach and education of the city's idling laws?
4. How much did DEP pay in FY 20 for Billy Idol? 😊

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. There were 6,174 idling summons issued in FY 2020.
2. This is unknown at this time. DEP is currently reviewing its budget plan for many programs such as idling inspections and enforcement.
3. In February 2020, DEP launched "Billy Never Idols" a citywide behavior change program targeted likely idlers. The campaign programming was also added unto outreach and education programming facilitated by DEP's Community Affairs and Education teams. While several outreach events were canceled due to COVID-a9, DEP lans to continue education programming in the future.

Billy Idol volunteers to do the promotion. DEP paid \$1M for the creative design and targeted placement, namely radio ads and billboards.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

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 2022 budget process?

2. Last year, DEP reported that the agency is attempting to obtain funding for outfall repair/replacement projects in the next 4-year plan. How is that effort progressing?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. 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 and will appreciate any help the CBs can provide.

2. Unfortunately, DEP did not receive any funding from OMB for outfall replacements. DEP will ask again in the January Plan.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM 6: Energy Efficient Programs

Please provide an update on the City's program to retrofit 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:

1. Which buildings in Manhattan are in the pipeline?

The North River Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) and the Wards Island WRRF have capital projects with energy implications in the FY22 time horizon. These projects include a reconstruction of the power distribution system and the digester gas system at North River WRRF and design services for a SHARON conversion at Wards Island WRRF. Additionally, in partnership with NYPA and DCAS, DEP issued an RFP for a solar photovoltaic power purchase agreement at Wards Island WRRF, and construction of the system may extend into 2022 as well.

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

DEP cannot respond on behalf of all City-owned buildings. However, all WRRFs in Manhattan have energy-efficiency projects slated for 2022. There may be other types of facilities in Manhattan, such as pump stations, which will be evaluated during DEP's ongoing Energy and Carbon Neutrality Planning efforts.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS: