



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Virgil de la Cruz, Chair

Sean Boeger, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, January 31, 2022
Time: 6:30pm
Place: This meeting was held remotely

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair de la Cruz, Vice Chair Boeger, and Committee Member Reps. Baxter, Coleman, Ley, Sherwood, Stella, and Tomas. Excused was Rep. Watkins. Also present were Reps. Adams, Campbell, Cottrell, Fedeli, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Mays, Miller, Morson, Nabel, Pavia, and Summerville; Matt Quinones, Director of Operations; Lou Casolo, Engineering Dept.; Frank Petise, Acting Transportation Bureau Chief; Lauren Meyer and Bridget Fox, Mayor's Office; Bill Brink, Ed Kelly, and Ann Brown, WPCA; and eight members of the public.

Chair de la Cruz called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. 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 . 12/08/21 – Submitted by Rep. de la Cruz 12/20/21 – Held by Committee 9-0-0	Held 8-0-0
A motion to hold Item #1 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. de la Cruz, Boeger, Baxter, Coleman, Ley, Sherwood, Stella, and Tomas in favor).		
13. O31.003	REVIEW; WPCA Significant Improvements Being Completed, and Plans, if any, to Address Climate Change Effects such as Sea Level Rise, Storm Surges, and Intense Rain Events. 01/05/22 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz and Goldberg	Report Made

Item #3 was taken up out of order.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:03:45

Mr. Brink, Mr. Kelly, and Ms. Brown reviewed the [attached](#) presentation and there was discussion. Some points included:

- The WPCA is an enterprise fund within the City. The money comes from the customers, who are billed for both connection and usage.
- It exists for two main reasons: 1) to collect wastewater and 2) to treat the wastewater before it enters Long Island Sound.
- The Operating budget for FY2021-2022 is \$27.2M.
- Capital projects completed in the past five years:
 - Improved flow distribution to bioreactors and four final clarifiers to improve treatment.
 - Modified discharge piping for three final effluent pumps to increase capacity.
 - Upgrade of WPCF raw sewage pump station.
 - Upgrade of UV disinfection system.
 - Secondary treatment improvements.
 - Repair of raw sewage pump station force main.
 - Upgrade of Dyke Lane storm water pump station.
- Stamford's storm water is handled separately from the wastewater. Most cities this size have a combined system which can be problematic.
- When there are severe storm events with road flooding, it impacts the treatment plant.
- The WPCA and the City Engineering Dept. are working together to look at storm water and drainage that will impact storm water pump stations.
- The WPCA will talk to the Army Corps about the hurricane barrier in regards to future sea level rise, to see if the barrier should be raised.

²2. [O31.002](#) RESOLUTION: Sense of the Board Regarding Replacement of West Main Street Bridge.(Previously [O30.102](#)) **Approved as Amended 7-1-0**
12/08/21 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz and Nabel
12/20/21 – Approved by Committee, as amended, 8-0-1
01/03/22 – Recommitted by Full Board

Rep. Nabel discussed the current revision to the Resolution that Chair de la Cruz, Rep. Sherwood, and she worked on.

- The goal of this Resolution is to ensure that all of the pieces are together and the BOR can have a plan of action that can be agreed upon.
- The Resolution has four possible solutions as to what kind of bridge will eventually be built. All four options will be evaluated with the same criteria.
- There will be community outreach dialogues conducted by the Administration, including informal surveys to residents and business owners to gauge what they would like to see happen.

² Video Time Stamp: 01:14:25

- All information will be brought to the BOR along with the information on what each solution would require to be implemented, and hopefully this will present a clear plan on how to move forward.

A motion to replace the draft Resolution language with the revised language of 1/28/2022 was made, second and approved by a vote of 6-0-2 (Reps. de la Cruz, Boeger, Baxter, Sherwood, Stella, and Tomas in favor; Reps. Coleman and Ley abstaining).

Director Quinones gave an overview on the approach being taken towards addressing the West Main Street Bridge. During the discussions with stakeholders, four main perspectives have been shared:

- Prioritize making a decision on the long-term vision of the bridge.
- Engage constituents and stakeholders in authentic discussions.
- Provide the BOF and BOR with updated information and analysis from the Administration.
- Provide a safe alternative pedestrian bridge as soon as possible.

The Operations Department along with the Mayor's Office will continue moving forward with the permitting process for the prefabricated pedestrian bridge. Construction is anticipated between June 15, 2022 and November 15, 2022.

A motion to insert the word "**emergency**" before the word "vehicle" in Now Therefore Be It Resolved clause 1.b was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. de la Cruz, Boeger, Baxter, Coleman, Ley, Sherwood, Stella, and Tomas in favor).

A motion to approve Item #2 as amended was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-1-0 (Reps. de la Cruz, Boeger, Baxter, Ley, Sherwood, Stella, and Tomas in favor; Rep. Coleman opposed).

Chair de la Cruz adjourned the meeting at 8:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Virgil de la Cruz, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).