



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
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**Agenda Item Number:** 4

**Agenda Date:** January 22, 2024

**In Control:** Governance Committee Meeting

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**DEPARTMENT:** Public Works Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Razi Hosseini

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Green Alleyways Pilot Program Council Consideration Request

**SUMMARY:**

On August 2, 2023, Councilmember Teri Castillo issued a Council Consideration Request (CCR) requesting the use of the FY 2024 Resiliency Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Fund (REES) to develop and implement a Green Alleyways Pilot Program in San Antonio.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

San Antonio has an extensive network of alleyways, many of which are non-serviced. These non-service alleys were historically platted for utility companies and private property owners' use. The property owner must maintain per Chapters 14 and 35 of the City's Development Code. However, many non-service alleys have been neglected by overgrown vegetation and rutting, resulting in drainage and ponding water issues. According to the CCR, alleys with low visibility and irregular or no maintenance can also attract illegal dumping, safety issues, and other types of nuisance

behavior, lowering residents' and businesses' quality of life.

“Green alleys” as described in the CCR, use permeable pavements and other sustainable materials, including reclaimed deconstruction materials to transform alleys into inviting spaces for pedestrians and cyclists. Potential green designs may also incorporate greenery and other amenities.

Staff is requested to consider some of the following to build out the proposed pilot program:

- Work with the materials innovation center to use reclaimed asphalt pavement and other materials when possible.
- Use permeable paving, rain gardens, or other sustainable methods to address stormwater ponding and runoff to adjacent properties.
- Examine green alley best practices from programs in other cities (ex., Chicago's Green Alley Handbook).
- Use of highly reflective materials, native plants and lighting.
- Prioritize high-equity needs areas and collaborate with the surrounding community members.

#### **ISSUE:**

The FY 2024 Adopted Budget increased the Non-Service Alley Program to \$1.35 million to implement a three-year plan to develop a maintenance schedule for non-service alleys with no utilities. In FY 2023, an assessment was completed in which non-service alleys were assigned letter grades, A through F, based on the ease of accessibility, drivability, debris, surface condition, vegetation overgrowth, extent of rutting and ponding, with A being in the best condition and F being in the worst condition. The FY 2024 program will address 80 non-service alleys without utilities in the worst condition. In FY 2025, the program will address 165 non-service alleys that have debris, need repairs, and are overgrown. In FY 2026, a non-service alley maintenance plan for alleys with no utilities will be implemented.

As part of the service and non-service alley maintenance programs, the Public Works Department uses permeable paving, materials, and other sustainable methods to address stormwater ponding and runoff to adjacent properties.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

For briefing purposes only.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

For briefing purposes only.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The intent of the Council Consideration Request has been met as the Public Works Department currently uses permeable paving, materials, and other sustainable methods and infrastructure as part of City's adopted FY 2024 Service and Non-Service Alley Maintenance Program.