



CITY OF HOUSTON

City Council

To: Mayor John Whitmire

Subject: Joint Committee of Budget and Finance
Affairs (BFA) & Economic Development (EDC)

CC: Cynthia Wilson, Steven David,
Josh Sanders

From: Sallie Alcorn, BFA Chair
Martha Castex-Tatum, EDC Chair

Date: December 11, 2025

Dear Mayor Whitmire,

This memorandum formally advises you of actions taken during the joint committee meeting of BFA and EDC on Tuesday, December 9, 2025. Please see the attached committee report.

The committee took up three amendments, two CIP amendments and one operating budget amendment. This was the second committee meeting held to discuss these amendments. There were ten council members in attendance, with nine remaining when votes were taken to advance the measures to the city council agenda for consideration. Each measure received unanimous support for advancement.

The most time was spent on CM Ramirez's transparency amendments. Council members expressed general support for these amendments and their aim to provide greater notice and transparency of significant changes to Houston Public Works' projects.

Some members expressed the following concerns about the transparency amendments including:

1. Potential delays to projects
2. Amendments as written apply to *all* HPW projects; it may be better to more narrowly define the type of project affected – perhaps based on funding source (example: CDSF) or projects which were originally designed with significant community input
3. The three-council member objection should include the district council member representing the project area

Due to time constraints, CM Kamin's operating budget amendment related to the budget stabilization fund was not thoroughly discussed at this meeting but was advanced by the



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committee to city council for consideration. Previous deliberations on her amendment took place at the September 2, 2025, committee meeting.

Similarly, Vice-Mayor Pro-Tem's Peck's amendment to establish a working group to explore a more equitable distribution of CIP funds was initially presented at the August 26 committee meeting. Discussion at this meeting was also limited, but the committee voted to advance the measure affirming support for the concept. Vice-Mayor Pro-Tem Peck has indicated it does not need to come to council as establishing a working group does not need to be done by ordinance.

We respectfully ask Council Member Ramirez's transparency amendments and Council Member Kamin's budget stabilization fund amendment be placed on the city council agenda within 60 days.