



FY 2023 – 2024 Annual Report

AS PER ARTICLE VI. – UTILITIES BOARD, SECTION 4(F)

B R O W N S V I L L E C I T Y C O M M I S S I O N | S E P T E M B E R 1 7 , 2 0 2 4

MARILYN D. GILBERT
GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO

MARK DOMBROSKI
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER AND COO

Overview

As per Article VI. – Utilities Board, Section 4(f) of the City Charter, the Public Utilities Board shall provide to the City Commission an annual report providing an update on the progress of working with the City of Brownsville on common goals before the end of the fiscal year.

This presentation will cover efforts to:

1. Eliminate Duplication of Services
2. Create Administrative Efficiency
3. Provide Joint Service Efforts
4. Ensure Quality of Service at the Lowest Cost

Eliminate Duplication of Services

Road Projects:

- **Synchronize utility upgrades with city road projects to reduce costs and road closure time.**
 - Old Hwy 77 from FM 802 to Morrison Road
 - Downtown Water/Wastewater Improvement Project
 - Wild Rose Lane Utility Upgrade
 - Portway Street, 11th – 12th Streets, Lourdes Boulevard, and Grande Boulevard
 - Owens Road Bridge Project
 - Cannery Public Market Project
 - Coffee Port Road Street and Drainage Improvement Project



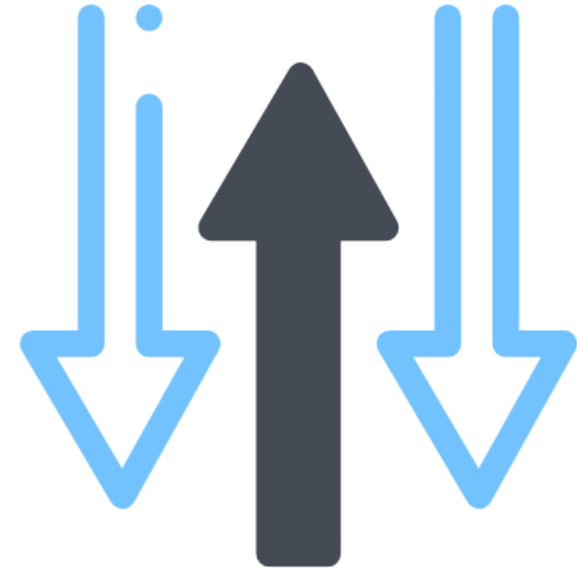
Eliminate Duplication of Services

Backflow Testing Update:

- BPUB Cross Connection Control Department performing annual tests on City-owned backflow preventers
- Backflow preventers protect potable water supply from contamination

- Key Benefits:

- Eliminates testing costs for City
- Increases BPUB customer compliance
- Ensures safety and quality of drinking water



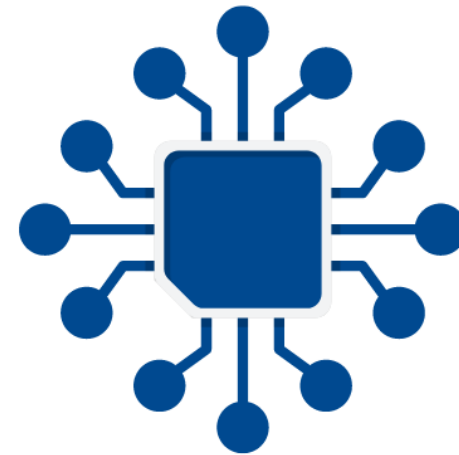
Create Administrative Efficiency

Accela Software Integration Update:

- Allow BPUB to receive instant inspection results via Accela
- Immediate service connection reviews possible after passed inspections

• Key Benefits:

- Eliminates the need for dedicated City staff to relay inspection results
- Expedites service connection process



Integration Milestone:

March 26, 2024
Successful integration of Accela and
CAYENTA systems

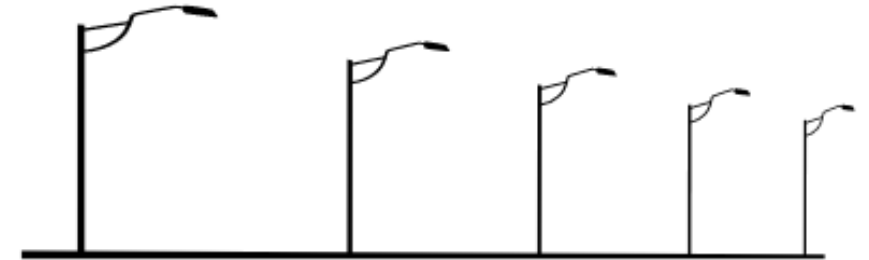
Provide Joint Service Efforts

Streetlight Improvement Initiative:

- Total streetlights: **13,774**
- LED upgrades completed: **8,823 (64%)**
- Project Status:
 - Billy Mitchell Light Improvements – Completed
 - Expressway 77 Streetlight Collaboration – Ongoing Maintenance Program
 - Downtown Lighting Improvement – On Hold

• Key Benefits:

- Enhanced illumination
- Reduced energy consumption



Provide Joint Service Efforts

Communication Synergy:

Increased transparency and unified communication with the City, customers, and community stakeholders.

- City Liaison - Ongoing
- Livestreaming Board and Committee Meetings and Highlighting Board actions - Ongoing
- Unified Drought/Weather Related Messaging - Ongoing
- Civic Plus Integration – In progress
- City/BPUB Attorney Bi-Weekly Meetings – In progress
- Joint Committee Meetings – As scheduled
- Technical Committee meetings (City/BPUB) - Monthly



Provide Joint Service Efforts

Event Collaboration:

Collaborate on various events to leverage resources and achieve community awareness objectives.

- Games of Texas
- All-Hazards Awareness Fair
- One City Information Fair
- Emergency Operations Training and Exercise
- City of Brownsville Regional Training Week
- Careers and Coffee (City/GBIC)
- Event Surveillance Joint Operation
- Brownsville PD and BPUB Joint Threat Assessment Initiative
- City of Brownsville First Responder Electrical Safety Awareness Training



Provide Joint Service Efforts

Drought Response Initiative:

- Joint BPUB & City Efforts:
 - Implemented Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan
 - Filed with TCEQ and TWDB
 - Ongoing public education through media and events

Key Benefits:

- Comprehensive water conservation strategy with official state recognition and public education efforts
- Enhanced stakeholder engagement through high-level roundtables and regional alliances
- Exploration of federal funding opportunities and grants for water and energy efficiency projects

Collaborative Events:

BPUB Drought Roundtable

- Informed key business accounts
- Participants: State Reps, Mayor, Port Chairman, BPUB CEO

South Texas Alliance of Cities

- BPUB presented on regional drought conditions
- Highlighted Southmost Regional Water Authority Plant

US Bureau of Reclamation Meeting

- Deputy Commissioner visited SRWA
- Explored funding opportunities
- Discussed Water and Energy Efficiency Grants

Provide Joint Service Efforts

BTXFiber: Last Mile Project Update:

Project Overview:

- Pole Attachment Agreement signed: Sept. 7, 2023
- Scope: **~12,000 utility poles**
- City reimbursement to BPUB: **\$1,260,000**

Progress as of Aug. 30, 2024:

- Permit applications received: **122 (3,951 poles)**
- Poles reviewed: **3,564**
- Applications approved: **49 (1,876 poles)**

Key Points:

- Three engineering firms contracted for permit reviews
- Focus on safety, pole integrity, and infrastructure reliability
- LIT Fiber paused reviews on Aug. 29, 2024, for project evaluation

Ongoing Collaboration:

- Weekly joint meetings:
LIT, City of Brownsville, BPUB

Quality of Service at Lowest Cost

Valve & Hydrant Maintenance:

- BPUB & City Fire Dept. partnership for inspection and maintenance
- Ensures reliability and AWWA compliance
- Preventative approach minimizes failures

Cost Recovery of Services MOU:

- Equitable agreement for inter-entity services
- Recover costs incurred and prevent under-recovery
- 15+ services included in the draft by City Attorney

Streamlined Project Requests:

- New process developed by the Technical Committee
- Advances City projects
- Defers payment processing per Bond Ordinance



• Key Benefits:

- Enhanced emergency readiness
- Efficient water distribution management
- Improved inter-department collaboration

Quality of Service at Lowest Cost

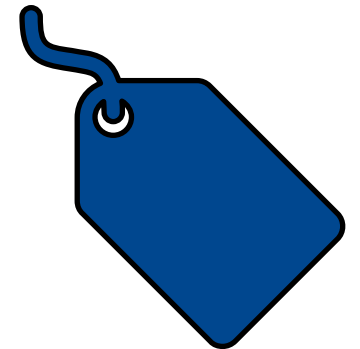
Collaborative City Projects:

Land Use MOU:

- Allows BPUB to use 1 acre of City-owned property as a staging area
- Duration: ~18 months
- Purpose: Covers the demolition and reconstruction phases of the BPUB Airport Substation

Joint Tactical Training Center MOU:

- Outlines the roles, responsibilities, and provisions for installing a temporary generator at the City Police Dept. facility
- BPUB rented a generator to meet demand requirements
- Bridging the gap until permanent power supply construction



Questions?
