



Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Report

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

Brownsville City Commission | September 16, 2025

Gerardo Martinez,
BPUB Chair

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.

An MOU has been executed between BPUB and the City of Brownsville to further improve our collective services to the greater community.

1. Eliminate Duplication of Services

2. Create Administrative Efficiency

3. Provide Joint Service Efforts

4. Ensure Quality of Service at Lower Cost

Goal 1: Eliminate Duplication of Services

BPUB collaborates with the City of Brownsville on road and infrastructure projects to avoid redundant efforts, completing utility upgrades like water and sewer installations in areas such as Buenos Aires, Portway, and Avenida de la Plata, while ongoing projects like Calvin Street and Old Hwy 77 involve pole relocations, temporary supports, and backflow testing to minimize costs and disruptions.

Major Infrastructure Projects Completed

Buenos Aires, Norteña, and Jose Marti:

3,330
linear feet of new waterlines

3,000
linear feet of new sewer lines

215
water & sewer services replaced

Portway, 11th and 12th:

2,000
linear feet of 8" waterline

1,600+
linear feet of sewer pipe

Avenida de la Plata, San Pedro, Elsa, Marvis:

2,535
linear feet of 8" waterline

3,400+
linear feet of PVC pipe

66
single and 6 double sewer service lines

Goal 1: Eliminate Duplication of Services

Ongoing Projects

Calvin Street Project:

18

water and sewer service connections

931

linear feet of new 10-inch sanitary sewer line

Old HWY 77 (FM802-Morrison):

5

distribution poles to relocate

30

poles require temporary support

Extensive utility coordination

Upcoming Major Projects:

Coffee Port Road: FM 802 to Old Port Isabel Road - Full urban rebuild

Old Alice Road: 4,200 ft waterline, 4,330 ft sewer, 24 manholes

Wildrose Lane: 2,410 ft sewer pipe, 2,300 ft water pipe upgrades

Goal 2: Create Administrative Efficiency

BPUB enhances administrative efficiency by integrating City fees into utility invoices for streamlined billing and reduced redundancies, and by adopting Accela software with DigEPlan licenses to improve digital plan reviews, customer communication, and collaborative processes with City staff.

City Fee Collections:

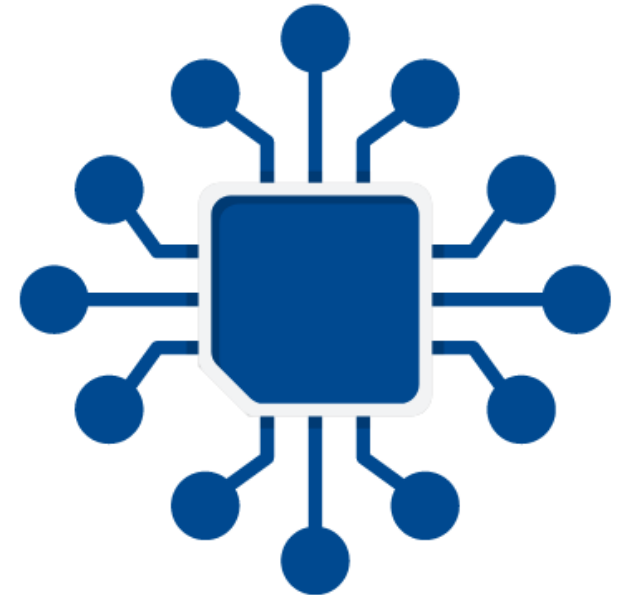
- Consolidated billing strategy implemented
- Streamlined garbage, city maintenance, and environmental compliance fees
- Collaborating with the City to integrate a new recycling service, establish rates, and enhance existing services within the billing software.

Accela Software Integration:

- 9 licenses purchased for digital plan review
- Enhanced customer engagement and permitting process
- Multiple meetings with City staff for seamless integration

Backflow Testing Program:

- 124 City-owned backflow preventers tested annually
- Removes financial burden from City
- Ensures state regulation compliance



Goal 3: Provide Joint Service Efforts

BPUB and the City jointly deliver services through streetlight installations, LED upgrades, and maintenance programs, electrical support for parks, markets, transit stations, fiber networks, airport reliability, resaca restoration, enhanced communication channels, event collaborations, and drought awareness campaigns to boost public safety, infrastructure, and community engagement.

Streetlight Projects

13,752

Total Streetlights
Maintained

9,741

LED Lights
Installed

12

New Streetlights
Installed FY25

Trail Illumination Project (Belden Trail • Westrail Trail • Brownsville Historic Battlefield Trail • Paseo De La Resaca Trail)

\$135,165

BPUB Investment

177

LED Fixtures

10

Distribution
Transformers

Expressway Lights Maintenance Program

- 800+ roadway fixtures maintained
- 150+ fixtures replaced • 4 major maintenance operations
- 2 circuits repaired

Goal 3: Provide Joint Service Efforts

Ongoing Projects

Jose Colunga Metro Station

- Multimodal Transportation Hub
- Successfully energized May 2025
- Enhanced public transportation

Cannery Public Market

- Local farmers & artisans hub
- Electric infrastructure completed Q4 2024
- Supporting local enterprise

Tony Gonzalez Park

- New pavilion & restroom facilities
- Energized July 2025
- Master Improvement Plan support

SPI Airport Electrical Reliability

83% Complete

2.12 miles cable replacement project in progress including:

- 28 tree trimming jobs
- 10 pole replacements
- 11 lightning arresters
- 9 transformer replacements
- 174 fog bowl insulators
- 12 fault indicators

BTXFiber Project Support

- **2,279** pole reviews completed
- City reimbursed **\$228,984.87**
- Middle-mile fiber network support

Resaca de la Guerra Resiliency and Restoration Project Update

Funding: \$3M WaterSMART award + \$1.6M local cost-share

Goals: Restore aquatic/riparian habitats, add potable water storage, enhance city water system resilience

Key Milestones:

- Final design: Dec 2025
- Permitting/compliance: Mar 2026
- Contractor selection: Apr 2026
- Sediment removal: Aug 2026–Mar 2027
- Subsequent phases (vegetation removal, re-vegetation, trails, stormwater units): Through Spring 2027

Goal 3: Provide Joint Service Efforts

Communication Synergy and Event Collaboration

Communication Structure

BPUB's Chief Administrative Officer serves as the primary point of contact for all communications between BPUB and the City of Brownsville to enhance transparency and ensure timely responses to inquiries and requests.

Community Engagement Events

- All-Hazards Awareness Fair
- One City Information Fair
- Careers and Coffee Expo
- District 2 Spring Fling Touch-a-Truck
- Scout Government Day
- BISD Tree Planting Ceremony

Drought Response & Partnerships

- Brownsville Day at the Capitol
- Drought-related billboard messaging
- Social media conservation campaigns
- Touch-a-Truck with Children's Museum
- State of the City sponsorship
- Educational institution partnerships



Goal 4: Ensure Quality of Service at Lower Costs

BPUB aims to ensure quality utility services at lower costs by implementing financial measures like quarterly transfers from BPUB to the City based on adjusted gross revenues and providing reduced utility rates of about 20% to the City.

Financial Benefits & Cost Savings

General Fund Transfer

10%

of gross revenues transferred
quarterly to City (per Ordinance 2022-1700)

- Adjusted for power/fuel costs
- Reduced by City utility debts

Reduced Utility Rates

City of Brownsville receives
20% discount on all BPUB utility services
(City Ordinance Sec 102 Article III)

Questions?