

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER HM 26-04

INFRASTRUCTURE COORDINATING COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, reliable streets, drainage, water, sewer, and public utility services are essential to public health, safety, economic vitality, and quality of life in the City of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure outcomes depend on coordinated planning and execution among the Department of Public Works (“DPW”), the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (“SWBNO”), the City’s capital project and delivery agencies, and other public utilities and partners; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor finds that a standing, year-round coordination body will improve project delivery, reduce service disruptions, strengthen communication, and increase accountability—not only for special events, but also as a sustained City operating practice;

NOW THEREFORE, I, HELENA MORENO, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the City of New Orleans by Section 4-206(3) of the New Orleans Home Rule Charter and other applicable law, **DO HEREBY ORDER AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Establishment of Committee.

- A. There is hereby established a mayoral advisory committee known as the Infrastructure Coordinating Council (the “Council”).
- B. The Council is established as an advisory and coordination body within the Chief Administrative Office (“CAO”) for the purposes set forth in this Executive Order.

2. Purpose and Goals.

- A. The purpose of the Council is to make recommendations to the Mayor for aligning and coordinating planning, operations, and project delivery among the DPW, SWBNO, the City’s capital projects and capital delivery functions, and relevant other public utilities and infrastructure partners to deliver coordinated, efficient, and high-quality infrastructure service year-round.
- B. The goals of the Council include:

1. reducing duplicative work, conflicting schedules, and avoidable street cuts and restorations;
2. improving project sequencing, permitting coordination, and construction-zone management;
3. increasing infrastructure reliability through shared operational planning and readiness;
4. strengthening interagency communication and public-facing coordination; and
5. providing the Mayor with a single, consistent forum for monitoring infrastructure performance and resolving cross-entity issues.

In accordance with Home Rule Charter § 4-104, the function of the Council shall be limited to counsel and advice.

3. Chair; Membership.

A. The Council shall be chaired by the Deputy CAO for Infrastructure (the “Chair”) and such other officers as the Council, once constituted, may elect to serve in the Chair’s absence.

B. Core Membership. The Council shall include senior representatives designated by:

1. DPW;
2. SWBNO;
3. the City capital project delivery function(s) (including, as applicable, capital planning, design & construction management, and capital finance coordination);
4. the CAO;
5. New Orleans Foundation;
6. Entergy New Orleans;
7. AT&T;
8. Delta Utilities; and
7. up to 5 additional representatives (to be named in the Chair’s discretion).

C. Nothing herein compels participation by non-City entities.

4. Authority and Scope.

A. The Council shall function as an interagency coordination and advisory body and shall not be construed to alter the legal authority, duties, or governance of any department, board, or utility.

B. The Council may:

1. convene working groups and committees;

2. request routine data, schedules, and project lists necessary for coordination;
3. develop standard operating procedures and coordination protocols for participating entities;
4. elevate conflicts and unresolved issues to the Mayor for direction, consistent with law; and
5. recommend policy, budgeting, contracting, scheduling, and operational changes to improve delivery.

5. Governance and Operations.

A. **Structure and Governance.** Within 45 days of the Effective Date, the Council shall establish rules pertaining to structure, governance, and the transaction of business.

B. The Council shall advise the Mayor and make recommendations with respect to the following:

1. Capital Project Coordination:

- maintaining a dashboard allowing for integrated project calendar;
- aligning capital plans, scopes, timelines, and sequencing across DPW, SWBNO, and City's capital delivery functions; and
- coordination of permitting, restoration standards, and right-of-way planning.

2. Operations and Maintenance Coordination:

- aligning routine maintenance schedules (pothole/roadway, drainage, catch basin, sewer, water, pump readiness, etc.);
- coordinating response protocols for recurring operational disruptions; and
- developing year-round readiness plans (not event-specific).

3. Utilities and Right-of-Way Coordination:

- coordinating utility cuts, restorations, and right-of-way occupancy;
- developing protocols for deconfliction among utilities, DPW, and SWBNO; and
- recommending improvements to public-facing notices and construction-zone management.

4. **Performance, Data, and Public Communication:**

- developing shared performance metrics and reporting;
- establishing data-sharing routines (i.e., project status, restorations, outages, boil water notices (as applicable), and service disruptions); and
- coordinating public updates and messaging to ensure consistent, accurate information.

6. **Meeting Schedule.**

A. The Council shall meet no less than monthly, and more frequently as the Chair determines necessary.

B. Agenda and Minutes. The Chair shall ensure distribution of agendas in advance of meetings and shall maintain written minutes of decisions, action items, and assigned tasks. Meetings shall be noticed and conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law.

7. **Deliverables.** The Council shall produce the following deliverables to the Mayor:

A. Within 90 days of the effective date of this Order, the Council shall deliver an Integrated Infrastructure Workplan, including:

1. establishment of a shared dashboard of maintenance and capital projects being planned or undertaken by each stakeholder;
2. protocols for coordinating street cuts and restorations (including sequencing and notice);
3. a year-round operations coordination plan (i.e., routine maintenance and rapid response alignment); and
4. a prioritized list of “top coordination conflicts” and recommended resolutions.

B. Within 120 days of the Effective Date of this Order and quarterly thereafter, the Council shall provide a report to the Mayor that includes:

1. status of priority coordinated projects;
2. key risks and conflicts requiring mayoral intervention;
3. performance metrics and trendlines (e.g., restoration timeliness, repeat cuts, outage response coordination, project delivery milestones);
4. public communication highlights and upcoming high-impact work; and

5. recommended policy or budget initiatives.

8. Administrative Support.

- A. The CAO shall provide administrative support as needed, including assistance with meeting logistics, data compilation, performance tracking, and interdepartmental coordination.
- B. The Chair may designate a coordinator within the Mayor's Office or another appropriate department, subject to budget and staffing availability, to support day-to-day operations of the Council.

9. Cooperation and Information Sharing.

- A. City departments shall cooperate with the Council and provide requested data and schedules as reasonably necessary to carry out this Order, consistent with law, confidentiality requirements, and operational security considerations.
- B. The Council shall develop and maintain a shared project and operations dashboard, to the extent practicable and permissible due to budget constraints, for internal coordination and for public-facing reporting, as appropriate.

10. No Creation of Rights. This Order is intended as an internal management and coordination directive and does not create any private right of action or enforceable right against the City.

11. Severability. If any provision of this Order is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

12. Effective Date. This Order shall become effective upon execution.

13. Duration. This Executive Order shall remain effective until amended, rescinded, or terminated in accordance with applicable law.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL THIS 12TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2026 AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.

Helena Moreno
Mayor
City of New Orleans