



PRESS RELEASE

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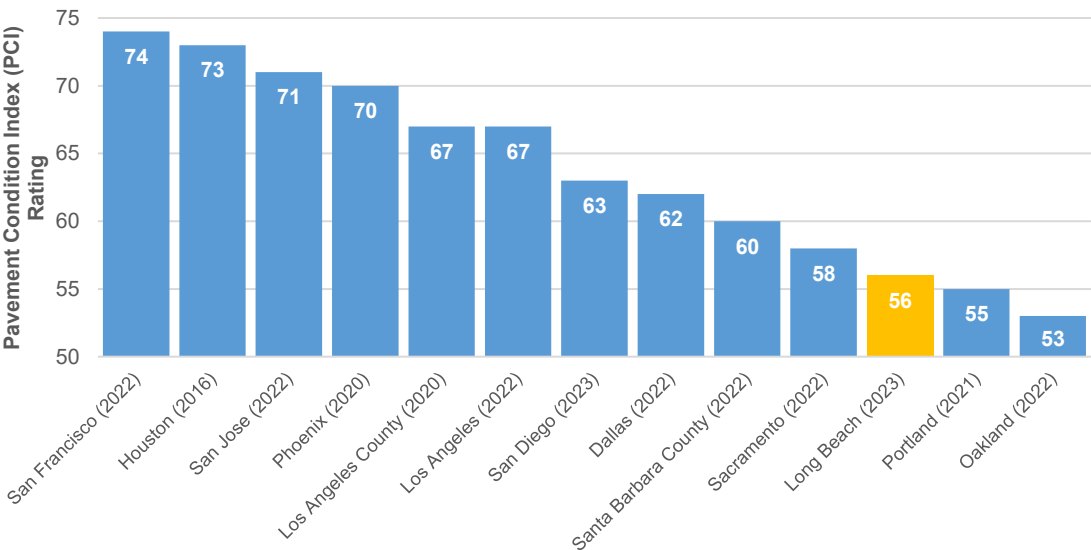
Long Beach City Auditor’s Report Finds Historic Increase in Street Projects Spending, However More Funding and Improved Oversight are Needed to Achieve the Target Pavement Condition Goal

Long Beach, CA – Long Beach City Auditor Laura Doud today released the [Street Projects and Pavement Management Performance Audit](#) conducted by Matrix Consulting Group, a public sector management consulting firm, on behalf of the City Auditor’s Office (Office). The City of Long Beach’s (City’s) Public Works Department (Public Works) is responsible for the repair and maintenance of City streets. The audit reviewed how the City manages its street projects which included \$310 million spent between Fiscal Years (FYs) 2020 through 2024.

Over the past two years Public Works has significantly accelerated street project spending, averaging \$85 million annually compared to the \$47 million average between FYs 2020 and 2022. However, more than \$220 million in previously budgeted funds have been allocated to specific projects remain to be spent.

The audit highlighted that benchmarked against twelve other cities and counties, Long Beach had the third lowest Pavement Condition Index (PCI) rating, ranking below Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles.

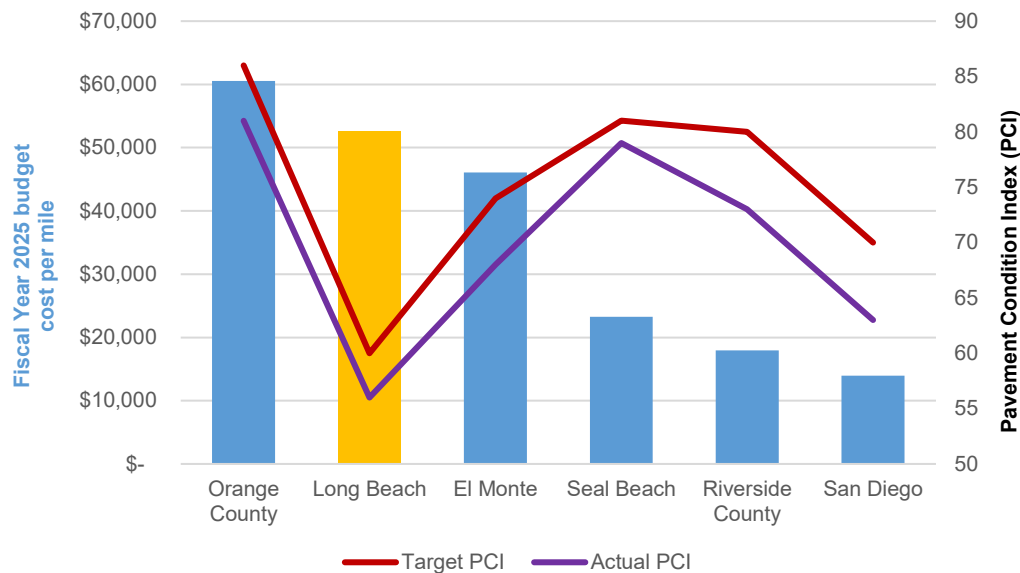
Pavement Condition Index (PCI) Ratings of Benchmarked Cities and Counties  
*\*Dates below indicate the latest available data.*



The City’s actual PCI of 56 and target PCI of 60 are relatively low compared to the benchmarked cities and counties. In addition, the City has budgeted almost four times more per mile than the lowest spending benchmarked city, demonstrating the City’s commitment to addressing the deficiency.

**Average Budgeted Cost per Mile and Pavement Condition Index (PCI) Ratings  
of Long Beach Compared to Benchmarked Cities and Counties**

Jurisdiction	Population	CL Miles	Target PCI	Actual PCI	FY25 Budget	\$ per CL Mile
El Monte, CA	103,794	128	75	68	\$5,900,000	\$46,093
Orange County	3,140,000	336	86	81	\$20,300,000	\$60,557
Riverside County	2,500,000	2,258	80	73	\$40,500,000	\$17,936
San Diego, CA	1,340,000	3,300	70	63	\$46,000,000	\$13,939
Seal Beach, CA	23,352	49	81	79	\$1,150,000	\$23,279
Long Beach, CA	449,468	1,009	60	56	\$53,000,000	\$52,527



With the City’s planned budgets for the next three years, it is projected the PCI for major roadways would improve, however PCIs for residential streets and alleys would continue to decrease. In order for the City to achieve its target overall PCI goal of 60, the City’s Pavement Management Plan (PMP) recommends a minimum investment of \$73 million per year. However, the average budgeted funding of \$53 million annually for the next three years is \$20 million short each year of the proposed investment. More funding is needed for the City to meet its target PCI.

The audit also revealed the City needs to improve its street project oversight including evaluating performance and managing timelines, budgets, and staff time. Furthermore, the audit found the City needs a comprehensive communication plan to report street project status to the public and develop equity metrics in the pavement management planning process.

“The condition of our streets is a top priority for the residents of Long Beach,” said Long Beach City Auditor Laura Doud. “Streets significantly impact quality of life as they affect how residents travel for everyday activities such as work, school, shopping, and social outings. We need to make sure we are getting the most mileage out of our tax dollars. I am pleased the City has agreed with the majority of the audit’s recommendations and is taking action to implement them.”

The complete Street Projects and Pavement Management Performance Audit can be viewed [here](#) and the Report Highlights Sheet can be viewed [here](#).

#### **About the Long Beach City Auditor’s Office**

The Long Beach City Auditor’s Office’s mission is to make Long Beach better through independent audits and fraud investigations. The Office works to provide assurance City funds are spent as intended, promote transparency and accountability of City operations, and prevent fraud, waste and abuse of City resources. For more information visit

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