

## Public Works Department – Executive Summary

### Department Overview

The Marco Island Public Works Department consists of 13 employees and oversees an annual capital improvement program (\$3M–\$16M). Responsibilities include infrastructure construction and maintenance (roads, drainage, landscaping, utilities, traffic control), permit reviews, engineering oversight, and emergency storm response. The department supports four city council advisory committees and is the city’s leading grant applicant. It manages over 1,500 storm inlets annually and maintains city aesthetics and infrastructure through significant field operations.

### Key Challenges

1. **Understaffed Admin Support** – One admin and one liaison manage four advisory committees in addition to departmental operations, limiting level of service.
2. **Engineering Workload** – A single engineer handles all permitting, compliance, grant administration, inspections, and capital projects.
3. **Aging Drainage Infrastructure** – Up to ten drainage outfalls from the roads to the canals fail each year. Each failure costs up to \$130k to replace.
4. **Aging Bridges** – Several city bridges are among the worst in Collier County; major rehab/replacement required.
5. **Obsolete Traffic Systems** – Signal infrastructure is eight generations old with no replacement parts.
6. **Deteriorating Roads** – Many streets haven’t been resurfaced in over 20 years, causing safety hazards and significant increased costs from deferred maintenance.
7. **Median Landscaping** – Storm impacts and irrigation issues have affected city appearance.
8. **Surface Water Quality** – Dead end canals and nutrient loading over decades have degraded the water quality.

### Recommendations

- **Staffing:** Convert agenda/minutes position to full-time; add a Public Works project manager.
- **Facilities:** Finalize and construct the new Public Works building (already funded).
- **Bridge Rehab:** Continue phased bridge rehabilitation and prepare for a \$7M bond in FY27.
- **Traffic Signals:** Replace outdated systems (budgeted in FY25).
- **Road Resurfacing:** Request \$1.5M in FY26 and annually thereafter.
- **Landscaping:** Fund irrigation/landscape restoration for Collier Blvd. medians in FY26.
- **Water Quality:** Requires a comprehensive solution including remediation (dredging, flushing, and aeration) and prevention (fertilizer controls, street sweeping, nutrient loading mitigation, physical treatment with swales).