

Public/Private Infrastructure and Facilities Technical Advisory Committee

The need for rapid restoration of infrastructure and critical public facilities after a disaster is an obvious recovery need and one that is addressed in response and short-term recovery plans of both the local government and private utilities and infrastructure companies. There are however long-term redevelopment considerations for infrastructure restoration that must be considered in conjunction with land use, environmental restoration, and economic redevelopment issues. Taking advantage of opportunities to upgrade, mitigate, or even relocate infrastructure or public facilities during repairs are items that can be addressed in a post-disaster redevelopment plan (PDRP). The purpose of the Infrastructure and Public Facilities Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is to consider the long-term recovery implications of damaged infrastructure and public facilities and determine the most disaster-resilient way to restore these public assets.

Post-Disaster Redevelopment Issues for Public/Private Infrastructure and Facilities

Below are the Public/Private Infrastructure and Facilities Technical Advisory Committee's prioritized issues with a brief description of each.

1. **Security of critical infrastructure information** – In planning for and conducting infrastructure restoration and repair, care must be taken to not release information that could endanger the security of our infrastructure and critical facilities. This will require that some data be protected under Statute 119 and, when appropriate, planning and implementation meetings of the Infrastructure Technical Advisory Committee may need to be closed to the public.
2. **Infrastructure services to priority redevelopment areas and other areas of new service resulting from redevelopment** – In the event of a major disaster, redevelopment may be focused in priority redevelopment areas (PRAs) as recommended by the Land Use Technical Advisory Committee and designated by the county and municipal commissions. These PRAs may require new infrastructure service or enhanced capacity if intensity or density is increased as development from more hazardous areas transfers to less impacted community centers. The county and municipalities may also decide to enhance infrastructure and facilities in PRAs before a disaster occurs as an incentive for sustainable development patterns.
3. **Infrastructure services to interim redevelopment needs** – After a disaster there are many temporary recovery needs that arise, particularly for debris removal, construction staging, housing, and business relocation. Infrastructure and utility services are often needed for these temporary uses and ideally these interim redevelopment needs should be pre-planned to ensure rapid recovery operations and to determine the long-term implications of temporary use locations.

4. **Infrastructure and public facility repair** – The repair of transportation, water, sewer, and power infrastructure is essential to establishing normal operations within a community. Post-disaster redevelopment can be used as an opportunity to make modifications, improvements, and additions to existing transportation networks and other infrastructure systems. Incorporating hazard mitigation into the repair and reconstruction of infrastructure and public facilities can ensure that when disaster strikes again, the infrastructure and facilities are better able to handle the impacts.

5. **Communication and coordination among agencies, jurisdictions, and stakeholders** – There are many agencies, companies, and jurisdictions involved in providing infrastructure, public facilities, and utility services. Before and after a disaster, these private and public entities need to establish communication and coordination procedures to make sure that long-term recovery and redevelopment occurs in an efficient and organized manner. Each agency or company should have their own recovery plan; however, coordination and communication are critical, if any opportunities for directing redevelopment are to be taken. For instance, prioritizing and sequencing recovery efforts in priority recovery areas or providing needed temporary services will best be done with all infrastructure stakeholders working together with the other technical advisory committees focused on housing, land use, etc.