FACT SHEET

Sidewalk Infrastructure Partners (SIP)

December 2020

I. The Future of Infrastructure

Sidewalk Infrastructure Partners (SIP) pioneers more sustainable, resilient, and efficient infrastructure using technology. SIP owns, acquires, and invests in advanced mobility, distributed and clean energy, the circular economy, digital infrastructure, and social infrastructure at the district and campus scale. SIP investors include Alphabet, Google’s parent company, and the Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan, one of the world’s most respected institutional investors in infrastructure.

For too long, the U.S. has relied on infrastructure designed for past generations. The country has neglected the hard work of reimagining infrastructure for the 21st century economy and beyond.

The need for transformative infrastructure only grows. The population living in urban areas is expected to double by 2050. Cities — and the people who live in them — face daunting challenges. Climate change threatens to bring storms, flooding, and fires with increased frequency; greater density is causing congestion, air pollution, and a lack of affordable transportation; outdated waste and water systems are strained.

There is broad consensus — spanning sectors and political divides — that the country is in urgent need of trillions of dollars in new infrastructure spending. The question is how to spend those trillions. It will not work to keep investing in Band-Aids for infrastructure from a bygone era.

This is the moment to invest in next-generation infrastructure that prepares us for tomorrow’s challenges, such as urbanization, sustainability, and climate change. It’s the moment to drive innovation and accelerate long-term economic growth. It’s the moment to create an entirely new asset class: technology-enabled infrastructure.

This is the mission of Sidewalk Infrastructure Partners (SIP).

II. A More Resilient Power Grid

SIP believes power grids should be bidirectional, transactive, and distributed, responsive to surges in demand and modernized and built with the tools of today and tomorrow in mind. Such grids will be more like a symphony than a solo—a sequence of energy-taking and energy-giving systems that communicate and cooperate with one another to deliver electricity safely, cheaply, and efficiently.

Power grids are being pressured like never before by unprecedented shifts in demand, starting with California, and with climate change driving the need to continue investing in clean energy. In August 2020, California experienced severe heat waves and a series of rolling blackouts as the state’s electricity system struggled to keep up with demand surges and unexpected outages of fossil-fueled assets. California residents also pay among the highest residential power prices in the nation at almost 21 cents per kWh, versus 13 cents on average nationally.

SIP is launching its Resilia advanced power grid platform, a new innovation platform, that will speed the transition to advanced power grids. SIP’s first Resilia transaction is a $100 million investment in making California’s grid more resilient, and more rewarding for residents, including a $20 million investment in
OhmConnect, Inc., a leader in clean residential demand response, and an $80 million project to finance North America’s largest distributed clean power plant, Resi-Station. The 550 MW Resi-Station project will be funded by SIP and developed in partnership with OhmConnect and would comprise a fleet of in-home, smart devices capable of delivering targeted energy reductions, orchestrated by technology that predicts, incentivizes, and coordinates residential energy use.

Resi-Station is one of the few clean, sustainable resources that can come online by 2021 and address the urgent need for capacity to prevent outages in the next peak season in California - while delivering millions of dollars in savings for California residents. At peak stress on the power grid between August 13 and 20, 2020, OhmConnect engaged its customers to reduce almost one GWh of total energy usage, the equivalent of taking more than 600,000 homes off the grid for an hour and helping avoid additional potential blackouts, and OhmConnect toggled its customers’ smart devices and appliances off and on 739,000 times to save energy, paying out $1 million to users. Resi-Station will scale up this flexible, fast-responding, sustainable resource base in order to help prevent the next crisis for California’s grid.

III. About SIP

SIP takes a hybrid approach to its acquisitions and portfolio. SIP seeks to develop — or acquire and hold — large-scale infrastructure projects, typically with a commitment of $100 million or more. At the same time, SIP seeks to create or acquire technology that powers those projects (often in a way that’s founder-friendly and minimizes equity dilution). This hybrid approach allows SIP to help entrepreneurs develop new technologies while also backing the major infrastructure projects that scale those technologies. As those companies grow, SIP can marshal additional capital and expertise.

Rather than chase a specific deal or project, SIP applies its hybrid approach to big, complicated, sector-wide infrastructure challenges. SIP starts with first principles, convening experts across sectors — technologists, investors, policymakers, academics — so it can attack the challenge from all perspectives before it deploys capital toward specific solutions. In August 2020, SIP launched Cavnue, a company building the future of roads, as well as its initial project, a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership to pioneer a corridor for connected and autonomous vehicles with the state of Michigan.

Sometimes that means challenging the conventional way of doing things. And it always means thinking about how technology can transform infrastructure.