

Department of Public Works-Citizen Centric Report  
Fiscal Year 2025

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**1. Who We Are:** The Department of Public Works (DPW) was established under Public Law 1-8 to support the infrastructure and public service needs of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

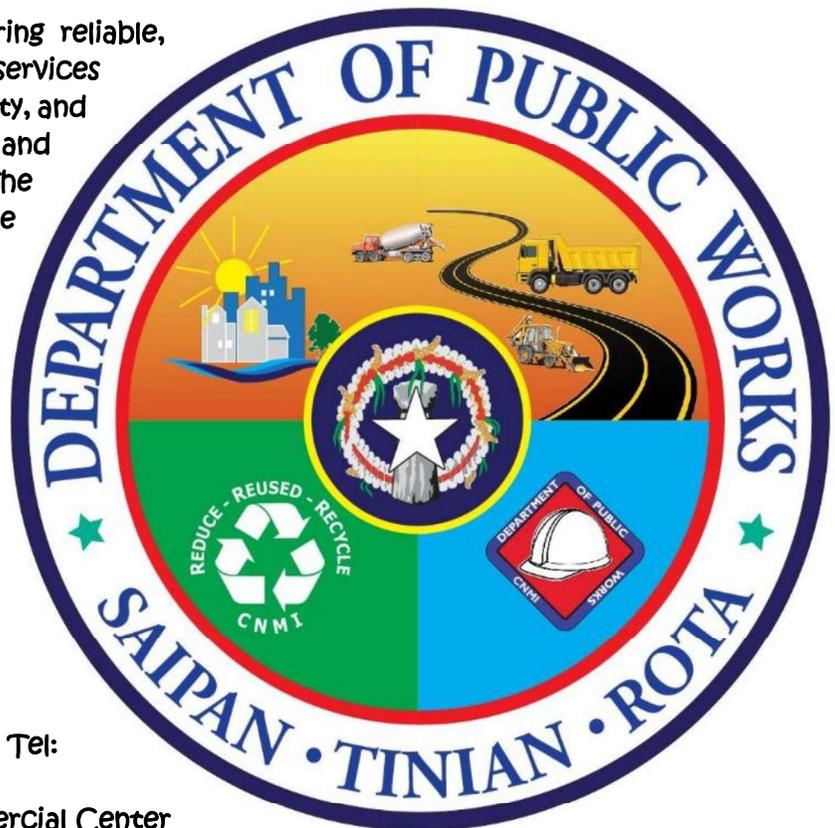
Our responsibilities include the construction and maintenance of public roads, management of traffic signals and signage, solid waste management, enforcement of building code compliance, and promotion of energy conservation.

DPW is committed to delivering reliable, efficient, and sustainable services that enhance the safety, mobility, and quality of life for all residents and visitors of the CNMI. The Department is led by the Secretary of Public works, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, who is responsible for ensuring these mandates are carried out effectively across the Commonwealth.

**Contact Information!**

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- Building Safety Code  
Division: Tel: (670) 234-2726
- Technical Services Division: Tel:  
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2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center  
Saipan, MP 96950
- Roads & Grounds Division: Tel: (670) 322-9498  
Lower Base Saipan, MP 96950
- Solid Waste Management Division: Tel: (670) 322-2745  
Lower Base & Marpi Transfer Station Saipan, MP 96950
- Energy Division: Tel: (670) 664-4480/1 Facsimile: (670) 6644483  
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**WEBSITE:** [dpw.gov.mp](http://dpw.gov.mp)



## 2. HOW ARE WE DOING

### Roads & Grounds Division

**Keeping Our Roads Clear & Safe** by performing Road Shoulder Maintenance: We maintained the shoulders of major roadways such as Papago, San Vicente, Chalan Kiya, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, and Isa Drive in Kagman. This included: Mowing and trimming vegetation, Blowing and clearing debris, Controlling overgrowth for better visibility. These efforts make our roads safer for all drivers. Including an Adopt-A-Highway cleanups program, promoting a cleaner and more beautiful Saipan.

**Protecting Our Island from Flooding** by performing Storm Drainage Maintenance from Sadog Tasi to As Matuis, our teams cleared debris from both primary and secondary storm drains to ensure proper water flow, reduce flood risks and maintain safe infrastructure during heavy rains.

**Serving Families with Dignity** by accommodating Grave Site Excavations request. We respectfully provided excavation services for burials held at the U.S. Veterans Cemetery and Tanapag Public Cemetery. This service ensures timely and dignified burials for our community.

**Responding When It Matters Most.** Emergency Response – DPW RAC Team During severe weather events such as: flooding, tropical storms, high winds, and typhoons our DPW RAC Team took action by removing fallen trees and debris, clearing clog drainage system, clearing roads for emergency access. These quick responses helped restore safe travel and protect lives.

**Fixing Our Roads.** Road Patching Activities. We repaired damaged road surfaces in areas such as Chalan Kanoa and Texas Road. These patching projects improve driving safety, Prevent further road deterioration and extend the lifespan of our infrastructure.

**Building a Skilled Workforce.** Training & Development. From January to May 2025, Roads & Grounds staff completed Part 1 of the Solid Waste Management Training Program at NMTI. Currently, three staff members are undergoing Part 2: Heavy Equipment Operations. Once completed, they will be certified equipment operators, enhancing our ability to deliver services effectively.

**Boosting Our Capabilities** New Equipment – MAP Grant Thanks to the Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP) Grant through the Office of Insular Affairs, we acquired a Howo 430 Tractor Truck and A Titan Lowboy Trailer. This equipment is now in active use, enabling us to complete infrastructure projects more efficiently and with greater capacity.

### Solid Waste Management Division

**Protecting Our Water, Reducing Costs.** Groundwater Monitoring update at Marpi Landfill. DPW repaired 4 gas and 5 groundwater monitoring well casings at the Marpi Landfill. Testing showed groundwater quality remains within safe DEQ limits. With approval from BECQ, we've now shifted from quarterly to annual water monitoring, lowering operational costs while staying fully compliant with federal standards.

**Giving Glass a New Purpose.** Used glass bottles are collected, crushed, and repurposed into fine and coarse glass aggregate. This recycled material is ideal for a wide range of uses, including garden paths, landscaping, flooring, concrete mixes, and DIY art projects. This is available to the community.

**Facility Improvements.** Roll-Off Container Bay Rehab Completed. The rehabilitation of the Roll-Off Container Bay Dumpster at Lower Base was completed ahead of schedule and is now fully operational, ensuring improved waste handling at the Transfer Station/Tipping Floor.

**New Equipment in Action.** Multi-Shredder Now Operational at Marpi Landfill. Using federal ASADRA funds, we purchased and deployed a multi-shredder to process Construction & typhoon debris (CMD). As of October 2025: 3,734.2 metric tons of CMS debris shredded. Over 137 hours of runtime. This greatly reduces the volume of waste and supports disaster recovery efforts.

**Growing a Skilled Workforce.** Training & Certification from January to May 2025. SWM Staff completed Part 1 of the Solid

Waste Management Training at NMTI. Part 2 (Heavy Equipment Operations) is on-going. Upon completion, 3 SWM staff will be certified equipment operators. This investment in training boosts staff capability and ensures safe, efficient operations.

**Tire Baling Efforts.** 369 bales produced containing an estimated 16,600–18,450 tires. Total weight: 590,400 lbs. Each bale: 1,600 lbs and holds 45–50 tires. This prevents tires from taking up space at the transfer station and supports safe, compact waste storage.

**Cardboard & Paper Baling.** 91 bales produced with a total weight: 81,900 lbs. Each bale weighs 900 lbs. Impact: equivalent to saving 696 trees; a major step in protecting our environment.

**CISWMP.** On September 25, 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved the CNMI's Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, unlocking nearly \$35 million in federal funding. The investment will support major improvements to solid waste and recycling infrastructure benefiting Saipan, Tinian, and Rota helping build a cleaner, more sustainable CNMI for all residents.

### Building Safety Code Division

#### Permit Issuance Overview FY 2025

Permit Type	SPN	TIN	ROT
Annual Certificates of Compliance	1,235	89	90
Certificates of Occupancy	129	4	4
Residential Building Permits	99	7	7
Commercial Building Permits	34	8	1
Government Building Permits	44	6	4
Special Permits	3	0	0
Demolition Permits (Res/Com)	12	3	0
Inspection (Res/Com/Gov't)	812	250	150
Notices of Violation	0	0	0
Stop Work Orders	0	0	0

#### Revenue Collected Overview FY 2025

Fee Type	SPN	TIN	ROT
Developer's Tax	\$336,679	\$13,948	0
Administrative Fees	\$150,919	\$7,772	\$6,615
Residential Building Permit Fees	\$188,359	\$4,750	\$17,057
Government Building Permit Fees	\$150,651	\$6,229	\$9,778
Commercial Building Permit Fees	\$200,789	\$10,935	\$1,900
Demolition Permit Fees	\$6,200	\$1,400	\$100
Special Permit Fees	\$300	0	0
Certificate of Occupancy	\$2,700	\$500	\$420
Annual Cert. Of Compliance Fees	\$91,330	\$6,480	\$6,775
Inspection Fees (Res/Com/Gov't)	\$38,580	\$5,500	\$3,800

**Floodplain Certification & Permitting:** In FY 2025, the Floodplain Management Section processed certifications and permits for eight (8) locations within FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), ensuring development compliance and public safety.

**Garapan Drainage & Watershed Improvement (Phases I & II):** Phase I of this federally funded project, valued at \$727,466.60, was successfully completed on January 28, 2025, and is currently in the final billing review stage by DPW. Building on this momentum, DPW submitted a \$12.8 million grant application for Phase II in July 2025. In response to FEMA's Request for Information (RFI) issued in September, DPW promptly provided the necessary documentation. The grant application remains under FEMA review.

**Planning Road Condition & Flood Hazard Mapping Project:** This project (\$438,866.00) received contract approval on October 3, 2025, with a Notice to Proceed issued on October 21, 2025. Work has commenced.

**Dandan Flood & Stormwater Drainage (Design Phase):** Funded

at \$254,973.00 under BRIC, the project began in March 2025 but was paused in April due to a FEMA-wide BRIC suspension. FEMA re-approved the project in October, and DPW is now requesting a time extension before restarting.

**Building Code Enforcement & Capacity Enhancement:** This BRIC-funded initiative (\$173,038.00) launched in January 2025 but remains paused due to the federal program hold.

**Building Code Adoption, Training & Technical Assistance:** Also under BRIC, this \$968,398.15 project began initial processing in February 2025. It remains active but in early documentation stages.

### Technical Services Division

**FHWA Projects:** 1. The Beach Road Route 33 roadway and drainage construction project has been successfully completed, with Phases II and III representing a major investment of approximately \$30 million to improve traffic flow, pedestrian access, and flood resilience along this critical corridor. 2. The Route 302 Naftan Project is nearing completion and will significantly improve access to the southern region of the island, supporting economic activity and community mobility. 3. In the northern region, Phase IA of Route 36 is currently underway, aimed at enhancing roadway connectivity and improving regional access to Marpi. 4. The Route 38 Roundabout Project at American Memorial Park has reached a key milestone, with design work now completed and the project moving into the next phase of development. 5. Groundbreaking ceremonies was held for Route 310 (Mount Tapochao) and Route 38 (Chalan Galaide), signalling the start of infrastructure improvements in these areas that will boost accessibility and safety. 6. Drainage system improvements are already in progress along Route 30 in Tanapag, specifically addressing long-standing flooding concerns near the Agatan Stream. These works will enhance stormwater management and community resilience. 7. Upcoming plans include the Route 35 Airport Road Improvement Project, located along the airport football field in Dan Dan. This project is estimated at \$3 million and will improve road conditions and access in the area.

**Right-of-Way (ROW) Activities:** Temporary Occupancy Permits: 50 active (Saipan, Tinian, Rota). Acquisitions: 100 active cases and 7 decertification completed (Saipan, Rota). New Road Openings: 14 pending completion (Saipan), 1 complete (Tinian) and 1 complete (Rota). Surveys: 6 identifying public road boundaries (Saipan) 4 complete (Saipan). Encroachments: 4 unauthorized occupations (Saipan) and 1 administrative case. Inquiries: 30 public vs. private area verifications (Saipan). Construction Certifications: 8 authorizations for beautification/modification (Saipan). Road Cutting Permit and Traffic Control Plan: Road Cutting Permits: FY24 (100), FY25 (148). Traffic Control Plans Approved: FY24 (100), FY25 (148).

### Energy Division

**WAP Formula Work Plan:** PY24/FY25 (55) homes weatherized (replacement of inefficient appliances, Led Lightbulbs and smoke detectors) save money on electrical utility bill and improve quality of Life.

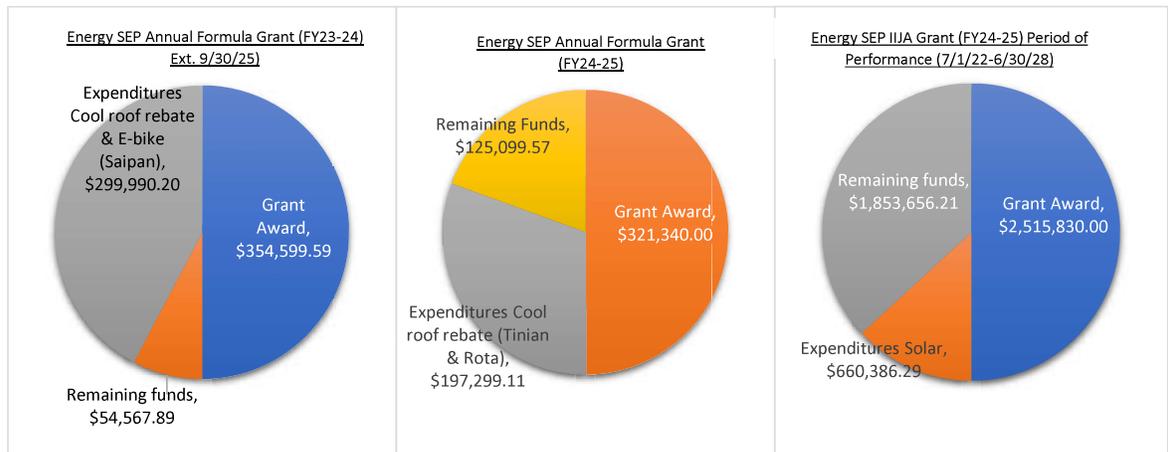
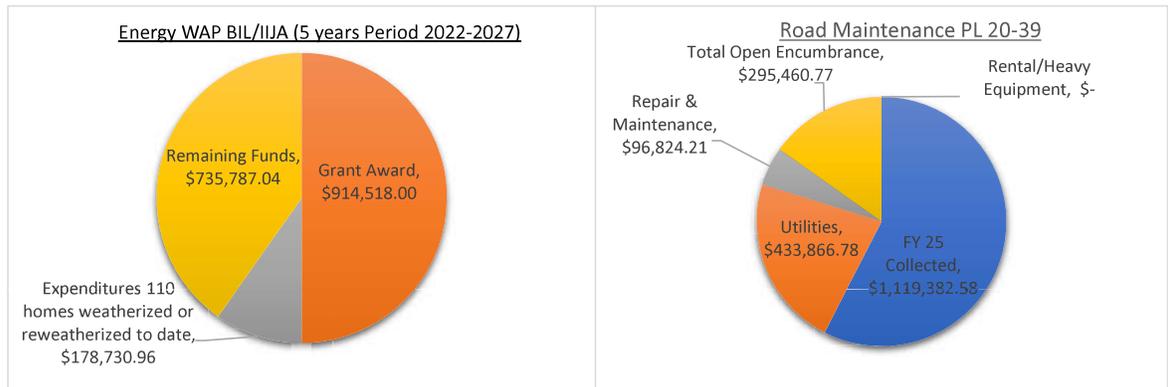
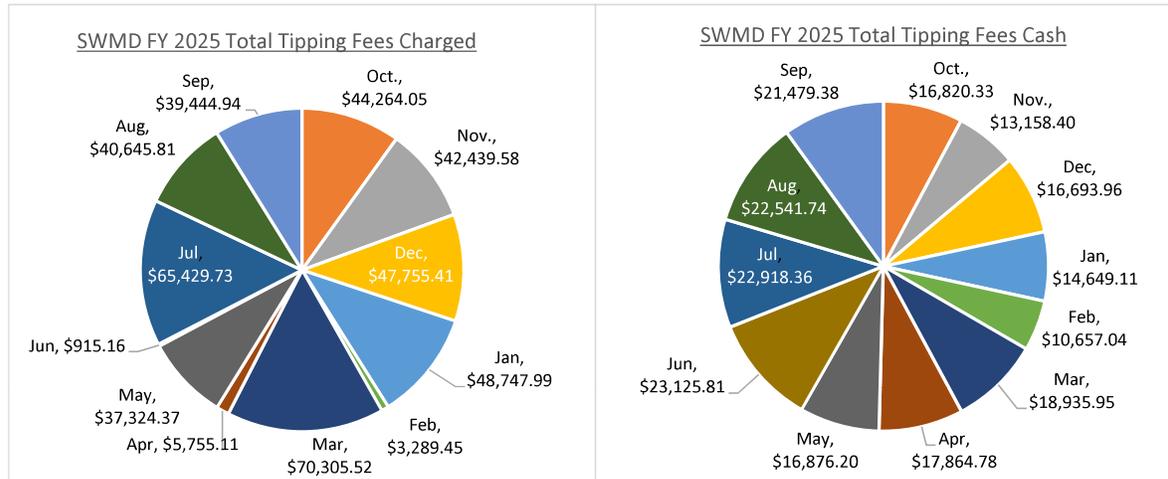
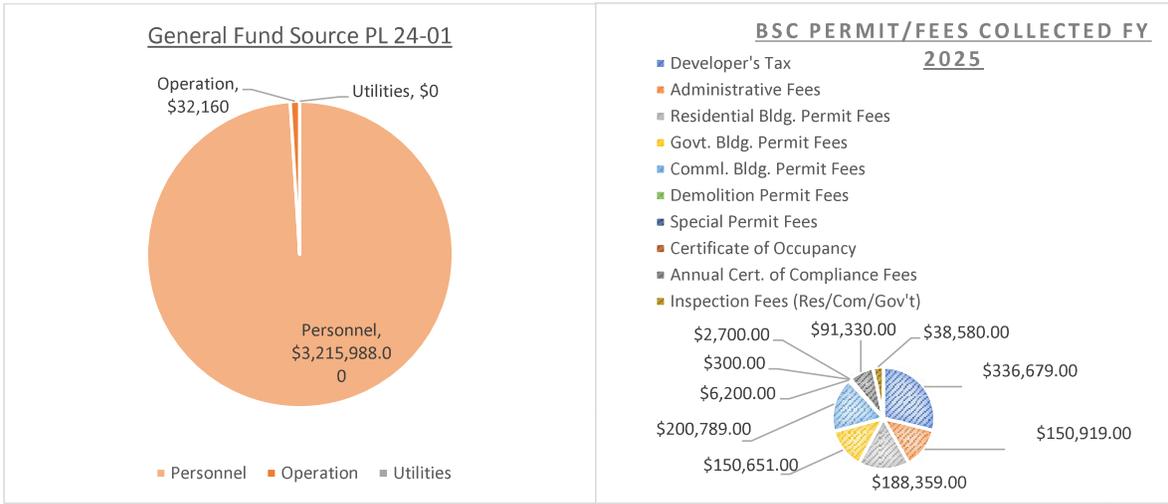
**WAP BIL/IIIA Formula Work Plan:** PY24/FY25 (78) homes weatherized (3) home re-weatherized (replacement of inefficient appliances, Led Lightbulbs and smoke detectors) save money on electrical utility bill and improve quality of Life.

**SEP Annual Formula Grant:** PY23/FY24 Extended through 9/30/2025 (552) Cool roof vouchers and (133) E-Bike vouchers redeemed on Island of Saipan.

**SEP Annual Formula Grant (PY24/FY25):** A total of 150 vouchers are allocated for the Island of Tinian and 150 vouchers are allocated for the Island of Rota. Vouchers will remain available until all have been redeemed.

**SEP IIIA (BIL) Grant:** Period of Performance 7/1/2022-6/30/2025. Projects for Solar PV, and Battery Energy Storage System; Solar-powered LED streetlights; Solar-powered EV charging station; Community outreach distribution events of 3,000 solar-powered fans and 3,000 portable solar-powered LED lights (Saipan, Tinian and Rota)-Promote energy and conservation measures-completed.

### 3. WHAT ARE THEREVENUES AND EXPENSE



**4. WHAT'S NEXT:** As we look ahead, the Department of Public Works remains focused on progress that touches every part of daily life from the roads we drive on, to the waste we manage, to the homes and buildings we safely construct.

The Administrative Services Division will continue to strengthen the Department of Public Works from within by enhancing coordination, efficiency, and transparency across all six divisions. Through effective personnel management, clear policy updates, and streamlined procurement, the division ensures that every project and program operates with integrity and purpose.

The Roads & Grounds Division will continue to improve Saipan's infrastructure through targeted repairs, beautification projects, and roadside maintenance. With a commitment to teamwork and innovation, the division will enhance road safety, improve accessibility, and keep our public spaces clean and well-maintained.

The Solid Waste Management Division is expanding efforts to reduce landfill waste and increase community recycling initiatives. With plans to grow local partnerships and promote on-island reuse solutions like glass crushing and waste segregation. SWM is shaping a future where environmental responsibility is a shared value across the CNMI.

The Building Safety Code Division will strengthen community resilience by improving building safety standards and floodplain management practices. Through updated codes, staff training, and streamlined permitting, the division will continue supporting safe construction and sustainable development across all islands.

The Technical Services Division will move forward on key infrastructure priorities, including new road openings, drainage improvements, and ongoing FHWA-funded projects. With a strong pipeline of projects in areas like Marpi, Naftan, Tanapag, and Dan Dan, the division is paving the way for safer travel, improved stormwater systems, and smarter land use that benefits all residents.

The Energy Division is advancing clean energy and efficiency programs that help families save energy and reduce costs. Through home weatherization, solar projects, energy education, and clean transportation initiatives, the division is powering a more resilient and sustainable CNMI for generations to come.

Together, these divisions are not just maintaining the CNMI, they are preparing it for the future. Every project, permit, and partnership is part of a larger goal: to build a safer, stronger, and more sustainable community for all.