

2016 City of Pittsburgh's Capital Budget

A Deliberative Forum

Welcome, and thank you for joining us. Every year, residents of Pittsburgh have the chance to provide their input on the City's budget. This year the City is hosting Deliberative Forums to provide a more robust format for public input. Any City of Pittsburgh resident is welcome to attend these forums. During these forums, you will have a chance to learn about the budget and the budgeting process as you engage with other residents, community leaders, and city officials.

What is a Deliberative Forum?

These Forums will include a brief overview of the budget process, small group discussions focused on budget priorities and the issues residents believe are most important, and the chance to ask questions of an expert panel. At the end of each forum, residents will have the opportunity to add their voices to the budgeting process by completing a survey.

As a resource for these forums, this document contains important details about the City's Capital Budget process.



The Capital Budgeting Process

These Forums will focus only on the City's 2016 Capital Budget. The Capital Budget is one of two budgets the city develops every year. The City develops an Operating Budget that provides funding for dayto-day operations, including general maintenance of buildings and facilities, salaries, services and programming. By contrast, the Capital Budget provides funding for projects that have long-term benefits to the City and its residents, including construction of roads, bridges, buildings (fire stations, senior centers, etc.), parks and other infrastructure.

Developing the Budget

Residents evaluate **Priorities**, discuss **Projects**



Based on the Priorities, city departments and council propose Projects

Mayor proposes



Projects are evaluated by the CPFC



Projects go back to the Mayor, who makes a Plan



Plan gets amended and approved by City Council Capital projects require more funds than are available in any given year; these projects also generally take more than a year to complete. To account for these projects, the City maintains a six-year plan—the Capital Improvement Plan. The plan provides details about all ongoing capital projects, including what funds are needed for each project in the current year and an estimate of the funds each project will need for the five years following. The Capital Improvement Plan is reviewed and updated every year. The annual Capital Budget is developed as part of this process of reviewing and updating the plan.

The process for developing the annual Capital Budget involves the Mayor, City Departments, and City Council.

- Mayor submits a list of priorities to all of the City's departments
- 2 Office of Management and Budget requests Capital Project Proposals from City departments, City Council, and the Urban Redevelopment Authority
- 3 A ten-member committee evaluates Capital Project proposals
- 4 Mayor submits to the City Council a revised Capital Improvement Plan (including a Capital Budget)
- 5 City Council reviews the Mayor's submission, makes revisions, and passes a revised Capital Improvement Plan (including a Capital Budget)

Mayor's Budget Priorities for 2016

For the 2016 Capital Budget, Mayor Peduto has asked City departments to propose capital projects based on the following priorities. These priorities represent the values of the administration.

- An emphasis on 'fixing it first', focusing on extending the useful life and capabilities of existing assets over the acquisition of new assets, where possible
- A 'complete streets' approach to infrastructure construction and maintenance encompassing and supporting all forms of transportation
- A goal of supporting a quality of life in our neighborhoods by improving our public facilities across the City
- Investments in processes and infrastructure that will help the City deliver services faster, more efficiently, with greater customer service, and at lower cost over time
- A commitment to communities in need through economic development and neighborhood building support

Evaluating Capital Project Proposals

City Departments and City Council submit project proposals. These proposals are then evaluated by the Capital Program Facilitation Committee (CPFC), a tenmember committee that includes representatives of the Mayor, City Council, the City Controller, and directors from the various City departments. The CPFC evaluates each project on how well it meets the following criteria:

- Resolves an imminent threat to public or employee safety or health (these projects receive first priority)
- Achieves compliance with federal or state statutory mandates
- Leverages additional non-city funds
- Impacts on the operating budget and potential operational savings
- Improves efficiency or effectiveness of service delivery
- Improves quality of life in all city neighborhoods
- Demonstrates support of the public
- Complies with the Comprehensive Plan, if applicable

After receiving the recommendations of the CPFC, the Mayor develops a revised Capital Improvement Plan, which is submitted to City Council for review, revision, and passage into law.

In the Capital Improvement Plan, projects are grouped by what are called "functional areas" rather than by City departments. The following examples are drawn from the City's 2015 Capital Budget.

2015 CITY OF PITTSBURGH CAPITAL BUDGET

\$76,778,543 (100%)

Engineering and Construction

\$41,837,543 (55%)

These projects improve walls, steps, fences, roads, sidewalks, and bridges. They also include large highway and bridge projects, street resurfacing, as well as projects to make our streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Examples include:

• Brahm street slope remediation: \$200,000,

- Brighton road sidewalk construction: \$25,000,
- Audible signal design and construction at Frankstown road and Homewood Avenue:

\$25,000

Vehicles and Equipment

\$5,290,000 (7%)

These projects involve the purchasing of vehicles and heavy equipment for public safety and service-delivery.

- Fire truck: \$900,000,
- Roadmixer (Pothole Filler): \$250,000,
- Ambulance: \$240,000

Facility Improvements

\$8,517,567 (11%) These projects are major repairs or rehabilitation of City-owned facilities, such as parks, playgrounds, pools, sports fields, and buildings.

• Forestry division roof and plumbing: \$175,000,

• Burgwin Park safety surface: \$185,000,

• Arlington Spray Park construction: \$350,000

Administration/Pass Through

\$9,119,000 (12%)

These projects are distinct from the other functional areas. They include the administration costs of implementing the Capital Improvement Plan. They also include pass-through grants: funds the City receives from grant programs that are distributed to community-based organizations.

- CDBG administrative costs: \$1,000,000,
- Information Technology: \$100,000,
- Community Development Corporations: \$700,000

Neighborhood Development

\$8,714,433 (11%)

These projects are investments in our City's neighborhood business districts, residential communities, and small businesses that raise the quality of life for residents.

- Storefront facade loans: \$80,000,
- Housing Construction loan fund: \$100,000,
- Zoning code reform: \$70,000

Public Safety

\$3,300,000 (4%) These projects repair and replace important infrastructure for the health and well-being of City residents, and eliminate public safety risks.

Demolition of Vacant Buildings:
\$2,000,000,

• Emergency Generator for Southside Senior Center: \$75,000,

Emergency Radios: \$500,000

QUESTIONS FOR THE DELIBERATIVE COMMUNITY FORUM

At this stage of the budgeting process, the Mayor is seeking input from residents about priorities and projects for the 2016–2021 Capital Improvement Plan and Budget. During the Deliberative Community Forum you will have the chance to discuss the following questions with other residents in small groups:

- How well do you think that the priorities identified by the Mayor will address the needs of the City and the needs of you and your neighbors? What other priorities might you add to the list?
- What types of capital projects do you think will be most helpful for the City and your neighborhood in the coming year?
- What specific needs would you and your neighbors like the City to address in the coming year?

Notes

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