



2025 Vibrant Denver Bond

**Department of Finance
Mayor's Office
July 9, 2025**

Agenda

I. Executive Committee Recommendations

II. Ballot & Companion Ordinance Examples

III. Timeline

IV. Discussion



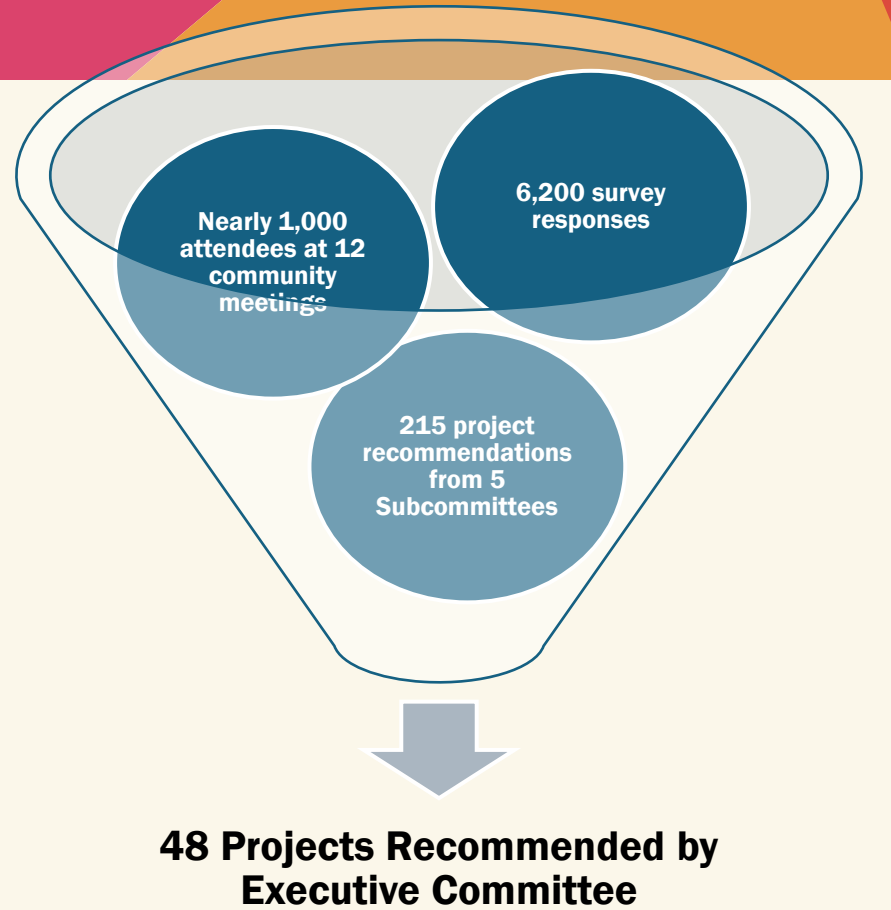
Executive Committee Recommendations

Executive Committee Members

- **Amanda P. Sandoval**, Denver City Council President
- **Nicole Doheny**, Chief Financial Officer, City and County of Denver
- **Dr. Ben Sanders**, Chief Equity Officer, City and County of Denver
- **Christine Benero**, President & CEO, Mile High United Way
- **Kayla Garcia**, President & CEO, Girls, Inc.
- **Mowa Haile**, Chair-elect of the Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and Founder & President, Sky Blue Builders
- **Happy Haynes**, Former Executive Director of Denver Parks & Recreation
- **Mary Nguyen**, Founder & President, Olive & Finch Collective
- **Federico Peña**, Former Denver Mayor & Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation and Energy
- **Murphy Robinson**, CEO, SurePass, and former City & County of Denver deputy mayor, COO & executive director of the Denver Department of Safety

Narrowing Down the Bond Package to the Most Essential and Needed Projects

- Fewer projects than previous bonds
- More transparency on exact projects



Executive Committee Considerations

The Executive Committee weighed several criteria, including:

- Community needs and benefit
- Equity
- City Council priority and district distribution
- Agency priority
- Subcommittee tiering
- Economic impacts
- Health, safety, and environmental impacts
- Project readiness and feasibility
- Budget

Executive Committee Process

- Met throughout May-June 2025
- Followed months of public engagement, including
 - >6,200 survey responses
 - ~1,000 attendees at town halls across Denver
 - Five subcommittees (55 community and City Council members)
- Heard from subcommittees, city agencies, partner organizations, public comment, community advocacy groups
- Considered projects in deep detail

Project Recommendations Coalescing Around Core Themes

Connectivity
(transportation, mobility,
streets, and bridges)

Public Health
& Safety

Parks, Recreation, Art,
Culture, Libraries,
Housing, & City Facilities

Connectivity (Transportation, Mobility, Streets and Bridges)

- Much-needed multi-modal and safety improvements to Santa Fe Drive between 6th and 13th Ave. and to W. 38th Ave. between Sheridan Blvd. and Fox St.
- Intersection improvements to 1st and University
- Repairs to bridges and underpasses including GES Connections – Marion Underpass, 38th Ave. & Blake St. Underpass, 6th and 8th Ave. Viaducts, Bridges over Cherry Creek, Quebec St. Bridge over Airlawn
- New pedestrian crossings, repaved streets, and traffic signals

Public Health and Safety

- Improvements to the Denver Health Sam Sandos Westside Family Health Center
- Construction of the Denver Children's Advocacy Center's (DCAC) Children's Center
- Expansion of the Denver Animal Shelter
- Construction of a First Responder Safety Training Center
- Accessibility improvements to emergency shelter and supportive housing

Parks, Recreation, Art, Culture, Libraries, Housing, and City Facilities

- New safety lighting along the Cherry Creek Trail and Highline Canal Trail
- Build-out of two new parks at Park Hill Park and Emporia Park
- Improvements to playgrounds, sports courts, lighting, pool upgrades, and repairs at Harvey Park, Garland Park, Lindsley Park, Aztlan Pool, Eisenhower Pool, Cook Park Pool, Montbello Recreation Center, Washington Park Pool, Sun Valley Riverfront Park, Southwest Recreation Center Pool, and Southwest Auto Park
- Aquatic and environmental health improvements to Sloan's Lake

Parks, Recreation, Art, Culture, Libraries, Housing, and City Facilities (Cont'd)

- Renovations of the Decker Library, Montbello Library, and the Blair Caldwell African American Research Library and Museum
- Landmark signage and public art for the 303 ArtWay
- Electrification and repairs at city facilities
- Co-locating housing alongside city facilities, starting with funding for a new library (with housing on site) in East Denver
- Middle-income housing project development

Support for These Arts & Culture Facilities

- Denver Zoo
- Boettcher Concert Hall
- Denver Botanic Gardens
- Denver Museum of Nature and Science
- Red Rocks Amphitheater
- American Indian Cultural Embassy

Take a Deeper Dive with Our Online Resources

www.denvergov.org/vibrantbond webpage updated to include:

- Executive Committee Recommendations, Meeting Records
- Bond Program FAQs

Ballot Questions & Companion Ordinance

What's in the Ballot & Companion Ordinance Language

Ballot Questions

Ballot questions are legislatively referred to the ballot by City Council, the legal language is drafted and reviewed by city attorneys and outside counsel. Projects are referenced at a high-level in the question

Elevate Example

In the Elevate program, City Council referred bond questions for Public Facilities, Parks and Recreation, Libraries, Public Safety, Denver Health and Hospital Authority, Cultural Facilities and Transportation and Mobility Systems

Companion Ordinance

Projects are shared in slightly more detail in the companion ordinance that City Council considers

Elevate Denver Parks and Recreation System Example

Ballot Question for 2D

SHALL THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER DEBT BE INCREASED \$151,615,000, WITH A MAXIMUM REPAYMENT COST OF \$272,948,000, WITH NO INCREASE IN THE CITY'S CURRENT RATE OF TAXATION FOR GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT SERVICE BASED ON THE CITY'S PROJECTED ASSESSED VALUE, THE PROCEEDS THEREOF TO BE USED FOR REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE DENVER PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION: ● RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENTS AT PARKS INCLUDING REPLACING AND UPGRADING COURTS, WALKING PATHS, PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, AND PICNIC AREAS, ● REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS AT RECREATION CENTERS, INCLUDING UPGRADES TO ACTIVITY ROOMS, WEIGHT ROOMS, LOCKER ROOMS, LOBBY AREAS, AND RESTROOMS, ● CRITICAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES TO SUPPORT CITYWIDE SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS TO INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND COST SAVINGS BY UPGRADING HEATING, VENTILATION AND COOLING SYSTEMS, ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS AND ROOFING SYSTEMS, ● IMPROVE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS IN PARKS BY REPLACING OR REPAIRING DAMAGED OR OUT OF DATE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS TO INCREASE WATER CONSERVATION AND ACHIEVE COST SAVINGS SYSTEM-WIDE, ● CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION OF THREE CITY SWIMMING POOLS, ● CONSTRUCTION OF A RECREATION CENTER TO SERVE WEST DENVER NEIGHBORHOODS, ● CONSTRUCTION OF A PARK IN THE SUN VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD TO INCLUDE RESTORATION OF RIVERFRONT AREA, SPORTS FIELDS AND WALKING PATHS, ● PRESERVE AND REFURBISH HISTORIC PARK FACILITIES, INCLUDING THE DENVER MOUNTAIN PARK'S CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS CAMP, AND ● CREATE THE PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY ALONG THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER NORTH OF DOWNTOWN ...

Elevate Denver Parks and Recreation System Example

Companion Ordinance for 2D

Purpose 6. For the funding of parks and recreation facilities.

Project Descriptions

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| Arkins Court River North Promenade |
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| Aquatic Facilities, for example including but not limited to: |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress Park Pool • Green Valley Ranch Indoor Pool • Swansea Recreation Center Indoor Pool |
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| Irrigation Renovation |
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| Mountain Parks Facility Restoration |
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| Paco Sanchez Re-imagine Play |
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| Park Improvements, for example including but not limited to: |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnum Park Basketball Courts • Bear Valley Tennis Courts • Bible Park Playground • City Park Playground • Civic Center Park (Greek Theatre) • Cheesman Park Picnic Site • Crestmoor Park Picnic Sites • Harvard Gulch West Walks • Inspiration Point Playground (new) • Montbello Park Walks • Rocky Mountain Park Walks • Rosamond Park Playground • Skyline Park • Stanford & Balsam Park Playground • St. Charles Park Playground • Sun Valley Park (new) • Washington Park Picnic Sites |
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| Park Maintenance Facilities |
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| Recreation Center Renovations and Improvements, for example including but not limited to: |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashland Recreation Center • Cook Recreation Center • Eisenhower Recreation Center • Harvey Park Recreation Center • Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center • Montbello Recreation Center • Sheitler Recreation Center • St. Charles Recreation Center |
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| Westwood Recreation Center (new) |
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| TOTAL: |
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| \$151,615,000 |
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Vibrant Denver Bond Focuses on Named Projects

- We heard Council's earlier feedback and concerns on vague citywide programs
- Virtually all Vibrant Denver Bond projects will be "named projects" in the companion ordinance
- "Citywide programs" primarily now focus on pedestrian crossings, traffic signals, and street paving

Bond Team Rechecking Project Costs

- We heard Council's earlier feedback and concerns on different approaches to creating project cost estimates
- We are triple-checking project estimates and scopes with each agency (e.g., DOTI, DPR, DAV, HOST) as well as a third-party consultant with this expertise
- Contingency is built in
- Our goal is to see successful implementation of projects

Bond Process

We are here



PROJECT IDEA SUBMISSION/ INTAKE

Via Survey,
Community
Meetings, CIP,
Outreach, and
Reinvestment
Project
Opportunities

TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Staff experts

Validate Scope,
Schedule, Budget.
OSEI and citywide
equity review.
Validate Intake
Forms.

Is it Bond Eligible?

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW

Community-led
Process

Review and tier
Project List

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REVIEW

Review
Subcommittee
Recommendations
and Refine into
Recommended
Project List for
submission to Mayor

MAYORAL REVIEW

Mayor to consider
recommendations
from Executive
Committee and
present revised
list to City Council

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

City Council-led
Process

Consider and
refer the Vibrant
Denver Bond to
the ballot

Updated Proposed Legislative Timeline

July 8-22

One-on-one
briefings with City
Council

Today

Informational
Briefing at the
General
Obligation Bond
Committee

July 15

Mayor-Council

July 22

- Business & Finance Committee
- Requests for action

July 28

- Courtesy Public Hearing
- City Council First Reading

August 4

- City Council Second Reading

Legislative Actions

- City Council considers the companion ordinance, which lists types of projects to be funded through the bond
- City Council considers ordinances to refer each bond question to the ballot, including the language of the ballot questions, bond purposes, and funding levels

If voters approve the bond:

- City Council considers debt issuances for the bond
- City Council considers construction and design contracts over \$500k to implement the bond projects



Questions & Discussion



VIBRANT DENVER
BOND

Thank you