



# **2025 Vibrant Denver Bond**

**Department of Finance  
Mayor's Office  
Office of Social Equity & Innovation  
May 14, 2025**

# Thank You

Special thank you to all of City Council for participating in this time-intensive process

# Agenda

- I. Progress Updates
- II. Equity in Processes
- III. Executive Committee Update
- IV. Legislative Timeline



# Community Engagement Update

- **7,569 touchpoints**, coming from:
  - 5,299 online survey responses  
(At least 4,374 unique responders online)
  - 924 print surveys
  - ~1,000 community conversation/town hall attendees
  - 70+ online "submit a comment" forms/letters



# 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  
Final  
Recommended  
Project List for  
submittal to Mayor

## MAYORAL REVIEW

Mayor to review  
recommendations  
from Executive  
Committee and  
present final list to  
City Council

## LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Process is led by  
City Council and  
determines the  
final Project List  
to be referred to  
the ballot

# Project Intake Result: 215 Projects/Programs

Total Touchpoints ( <i>Count includes surveys without specific project ideas</i> )	7,569
Total Project Ideas Reviewed by Technical Review Committee (TRC)	1,101
Project Ideas Referred off Bond Review and to Departments by TRC	448
Projects Advanced to Costing/Feasibility (includes programs & duplicates)	653
<b>Projects/Citywide Programs Reviewed by Subcommittees</b>	
<b>Tranche A</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Tranche B</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Tranche C</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Tranche D</b>	<b>88</b>

# Subcommittee Work

- Five subcommittees convened on a weekly basis to review projects with SMEs over the past month
- Tiered into three main categories: High (1), Medium (2) and Low (3)
- Subcommittee will provide their respective recommendations to the Executive Committee at the end of this week
- Special thank you to all of City Council for participating in this time-intensive project review process



**Parks,  
playgrounds,  
trees, trails,  
and our  
climate**



**Arts and  
cultural  
venues**



**Recreation  
centers,  
libraries, and  
other city  
facilities**



**Connectivity:  
street,  
bridge, bike,  
and  
pedestrian  
safety**



**Public safety  
(police, fire,  
sheriff and other  
emergencies)**

# # Of Projects Reviewed By Subcommittees

Subcommittee	# of Projects
Connectivity	65
Arts and Cultural Venues	16
Recreation Centers, Libraries, Housing & Other Facilities	50
Safe & Healthy Neighborhoods	11
Parks, Playgrounds, Trees, Trails & Our Climate	73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>215</b>

**Subcommittee tiering will be presented at the next Executive Committee meeting**



# Citywide Programs

- Similar projects with common set of goals/metrics
- Smaller projects that can be implemented as part of a citywide program, e.g.:
  - Playgrounds (e.g., Alamo Placita Playground)
  - Park Lighting (e.g., Barnum Park Lighting)
  - Pedestrian Crossings (e.g., Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons, Ped Crossing Lights, Crosswalk Improvements)
  - Traffic Calming (e.g., Alameda Ave.)
- Consistent with Elevate/RISE & Annual Capital Improvement Plan

# Citywide Program Examples

- Bike and Corral Build Out – Tranche A
- Pedestrian Crossing Program – Tranche A
- Traffic Calming Program – Tranche A
- Traffic Signals Program – Tranche A
- Neighborhood Streets with Bikeways – Tranche B
- Athletic Fields Rehabilitation Bundle – Tranche D
- Dog Parks (New and Upgrades) Bundles – Tranche D
- Trail Upgrades Bundle – Tranche D
- Outdoor Pool Upgrades Bundle – Tranche D
- Recreation Center Interiors and Indoor Pool Enhancements Bundle – Tranche D


# Other Factors Affecting Project List Count

- Projects that did not meet bond eligibility criteria:
  - Able to complete within the 6-year timeframe,
  - Be part of a city-owned asset, such as city park, recreation center, street, or library,
  - Serve a public purpose, and
  - Have an expected useful life of at least 10 years
- Duplicate projects

# Community Equity

Where race and other social identities no longer predict life outcomes


How does this project address historic deficits in services and investment?



How will this project impact the community holistically?



Do the long-term benefits from the project outweigh the negative impacts from project implementation?



Does the project serve or represent a community that has been or is at risk of being marginalized, displaced, or exploited?

# Subcommittee & Executive Committee Values

- Commitment to Equity
- Commitment to Sustainability
- Transparency
- No Advocating/Lobbying on Behalf of Projects or Organizations
- Serve to Present a Balanced Package of Investments that Address City Needs

# Subcommittee Evaluation Criteria

## Projects were evaluated based on their:

- **Community Needs and Benefit** – How does this project change or improve the lives of the people in the community?
- **Community Equity** – Does this address historic deficits in services and investment? How will this project impact the community holistically? Do the long-term benefits from the project outweigh the negative impacts from project implementation?
- **Economic Impacts** – Does this project promote economic activity? Does this project create growth? Does this project require long term O&M investment?
- **Health, Safety, and Environmental impacts** – Does this project address health and safety concerns? Does it increase or decrease environmental impacts?
- **Project Readiness** – Can this project be completed in 6 years?

# Example: Connectivity-Specific Additional Evaluation Criteria

- **Vision Zero and eliminating traffic fatalities**
  - Is the project on the High Injury Network?
- **Completing the multimodal networks and reducing the percent of people driving alone**
  - Is the project located on a transit priority street in the Denver Moves Transit Plan?
  - Is the project located on a bicycle priority street in the Denver Moves Bikes Plan?
- **Equity**
  - Is the project located in a NEST neighborhood?

## **Example: Connectivity Subcommittee Tiering Recommendations**

- **Councilmembers Hinds, Kashmann, and Watson served on this committee**
- **Met weekly for 2+ hours April 14 - May 12 (five meetings)**
- **Ranked projects in each tranche as "high," "medium," or "low" priority**
- **Reconsidered and revised overall rankings after receiving all four tranches**
- **Recommended revising some projects by**
  - Combining multiple projects into one
  - Splitting one project into multiple
  - Reducing the scope
- **Considered a total of 65 projects, totaling more than \$3B**



# Example: Connectivity Subcommittee's Overall Recommendations

- **Approximately half of the overall bond funding should be allocated to Connectivity**
- **Within Connectivity, 30% of funding should be allocated to "Citywide Programs," 70% to "Named Projects"**
- **As a whole, "Citywide Programs" should prioritize:**
  - Equity
  - Denver Moves Everyone priorities
  - Some allocation to each City Council District

# Example: Connectivity Final Tiering

## Named Projects

Tier	# of Projects	Total Cost
1	18	\$897,373,800
2	21	\$770,969,700
3	20	\$1,480,256,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>\$3,148,599,500</b>

## Citywide Programs

Tier	Program	Cost Per Unit
1	Neighborhood Streets with Bikeways	\$500,000-\$2,000,000/mile
1	Pedestrian Crossing	\$150,000 - \$250,000 /crossing
1	Traffic Calming	\$1,000,000-\$2,000,000/mile
1	Bike + Corral Build Out	Up to \$3,000 /corral
2	Transit-Supportive Improvements	\$1,200,000/mi
2	Traffic Signals	\$300,000 - \$1,500,000 /signal

## Example: Summary of How Tier 1 Named Projects in Connectivity Subcommittee Met Their Additional Criteria

Tier 1 Projects	Total	On High-Injury Network	DME Transit Designation	DME Bikes Designation	NEST Neighborhood
# of Projects	18	15	13	10	11
Cost	\$897,373,800	\$804,193,700	\$684,724,200	\$369,793,300	\$595,828,800

# Executive Committee Evaluation Process

- Subcommittee Chairs/Co-Chairs will present their recommendations at the next group meeting; Executive Committee members will receive summaries of each project
- During the weekly meetings, Executive Committee will review tier recommendations from each subcommittee and make project-by-project recommendations by project type/subcommittee
- Executive Committee will share final recommendations with the Mayor before the full bond package is sent to Denver City Council for possible inclusion in the November ballot

# Executive Committee Evaluation Criteria

## **Project evaluations should include:**

### **Community Needs and Benefit**

- How does this project change or improve the lives of the people in the community?
- What level of community involvement and support exists for this project?

### **Community Equity**

- How does this project address historic deficits in services and investment?
- How will this project impact the community holistically?
- Do the long-term benefits from the project outweigh the negative impacts from project implementation?
- Does the project serve or represent a community that has been or is at risk of being marginalized, displaced, or exploited?

### **Economic Impacts**

- How does this project promote economic activity both through implementation and through long term O&M?
- How would this project promote economic stabilization and growth?
- Does the project present the possibility for catalytic growth?

# Executive Committee Evaluation Criteria Cont.

## **Health, Safety, and Environmental Impacts**

- How would this project contribute to Health, Safety, or Environmental Goals in Denver such as Energize Denver?
- Would this project help to advance Health outcomes in the City including Mental Health?
- What is the context and interaction to nearby projects? Does the project create synergies, or does it stress existing systems?

## **Project Readiness**

- Is this project suited to accommodate uncertain market conditions such as material availability and sourcing, or rising and volatile costs?
- What level of risk does the project present, and does it have viable mitigation options?

## **Project Budget**

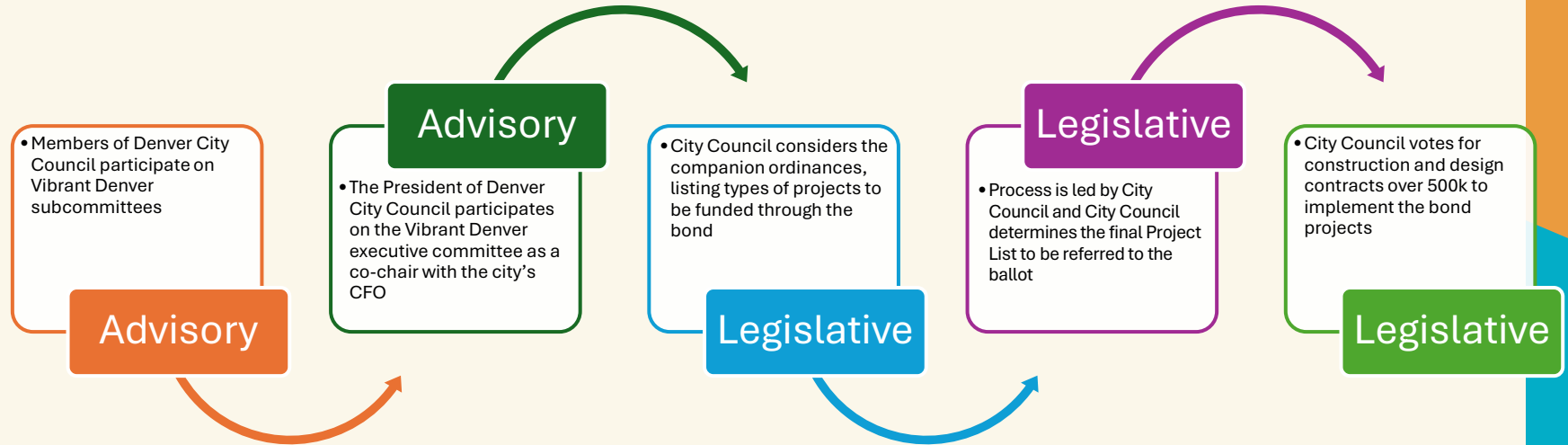
- Is the project scalable or does it have opportunity for phasing?
- How does the project provide value for its requested budget?
- Does the project have opportunities for alternative funding sources?

# Evaluation Timeline

- **By Monday, May 19:** City Council to receive full tiered list, which will also be posted to the webpage
- **May 19:** Subcommittee Chairs and Staff Facilitators to present to Executive Committee on tiering/project recommendations
  - Executive Committee will receive all materials provided to subcommittees
- **May 27, June 6, June 13:** Executive Committee meets weekly to review tiers and refine the list / provide final recommendations to the Mayor
- **July 8 (tentative):** Bond package presented to Denver City Council (briefings prior)

Meetings are open to the public. The Executive Committee will reserve the first 15 minutes of each meeting for public comment, starting with the May 27 meeting date. Speakers can sign up to speak in person or virtually at [denvergov.org/vibrantbond](https://denvergov.org/vibrantbond).

# Leadership & Legislative Role





# Updated Proposed Legislative Timeline

June 11

- Informational Briefing at the General Obligation Bond Committee

July 8

- Finance & Governance Committee
- Request action on Ballot Question Language

July 14

- Courtesy Public Hearing
- City Council First Reading

July 21

- City Council Second Reading



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— **BOND** —

## Questions & Discussion



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**BOND**

**Thank you**