



VIBRANT DENVER
BOND

2025 Vibrant Denver Bond Update

City Council Committee

Department of Finance
Mayor's Office
March 2025

Agenda

- I. Bond Refresher
- II. Vibrant Denver Bond Process
- III. Community Engagement Updates
- IV. Timeline
- V. Questions and Discussion



How do GO Bonds work?



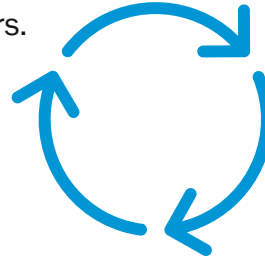
Denver voters approve the GO Bond program every 4-10 years.



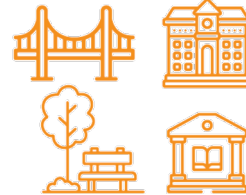
City and County of Denver issues the GO Bonds.



Investors buy the GO Bonds from the city.



Investors are repaid by the city's property tax revenue over time.



Citywide projects are funded by the proceeds of the GO Bond sales.

What GO Bonds Are and Aren't

Sources of Funding

BONDS

Restore, replace and expand city amenities

Infrastructure improvements

Reinvestment, Deferred Maintenance

CIP

Regular maintenance or funding (i.e., annually)

Can help “initiate” larger projects

Capital programs with smaller scope projects

OTHER

GRANTS, SPECIAL DISTRICTS, DEDICATED CAPITAL FUNDS

Grants: state or federal, competitive or formula programs

Special Districts: geographically constrained, supports public infrastructure

Dedicated Capital Funds: restricted to specific uses

Examples of What GO Bonds Cannot

Pay For

Operations

Schools

Drainage

Golf Course

Airport

City Services

Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Foundational Plan

Result was two project lists:

1. New Capital Improvements
2. Reinvestment and Upkeep (Deferred Maintenance)

denvergov.org/sixyearCIP



How Bonds Help Us

GO Bonds Allow the City to Control our Own Destiny

\$7 Billion

Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan identified ~250 needed projects worth over \$7B, but our annual capital budget is ~\$300M



Bond projects are an economic stimulus tool



Local financing tool for public infrastructure like parks, roads, and buildings



Asks voters for input on the most important capital and infrastructure projects

No new taxes

Denver's current bond programs are nearly complete, creating capacity for new projects – **without raising taxes**

Recent Bond Programs



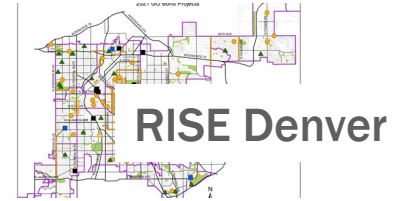
2007 Better Denver
Bond

\$550 million
380 capital projects
10-year bond



2017 Elevate Denver
Bond

\$937 million
500 capital projects
10-year bond



2021 RISE Denver
Bond

\$260 million
80 capital projects
5-year bond

Highlights of Proposed New Vibrant Denver Bond Program

~\$800M

Target investments
across the city



Parks, playgrounds,
trees, trails, and
our climate



Arts and
cultural
venues

6 years

Delivery
timeframe



Recreation centers,
libraries, and other
city facilities

Shorter timeframe with fewer projects
reduces risk and ensures residents
see improvements in their
neighborhoods sooner



Connectivity: street,
bridge, bike, and
pedestrian safety



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

Bond Process

PROJECT IDEA SUBMISSION/ INTAKE

Via Survey, Community Meetings, and Reinvestment Project Opportunities

TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Validate Scope, Schedule, Budget. OSEI and citywide equity review. Validate Intake Forms. Is it Bond Eligible?

SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW

Review and evaluate Project List to sort into Tiers

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REVIEW

Combine Subcommittee Tiered Project List into a Master Ranked Project List

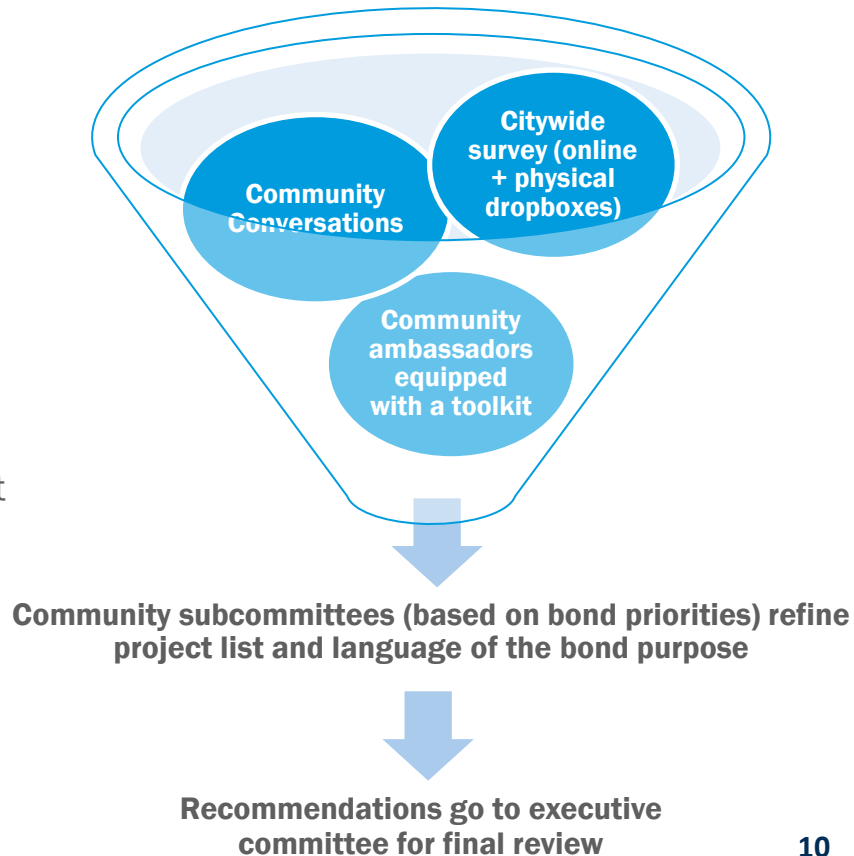
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Process is led by the Mayor's Office and determines the final Project List to be referred to City Council for Ballot Approval



Community Engagement

- Multiple avenues for people to participate
- Subcommittees composed of:
 - Community ambassadors and leaders
 - City Council member(s) appointed by Council President
 - City subject-matter experts (non-voting)
- Executive committee composed of:
 - Mayor's Office designees
 - Chief Financial Officer
 - City Council President
 - Community leaders



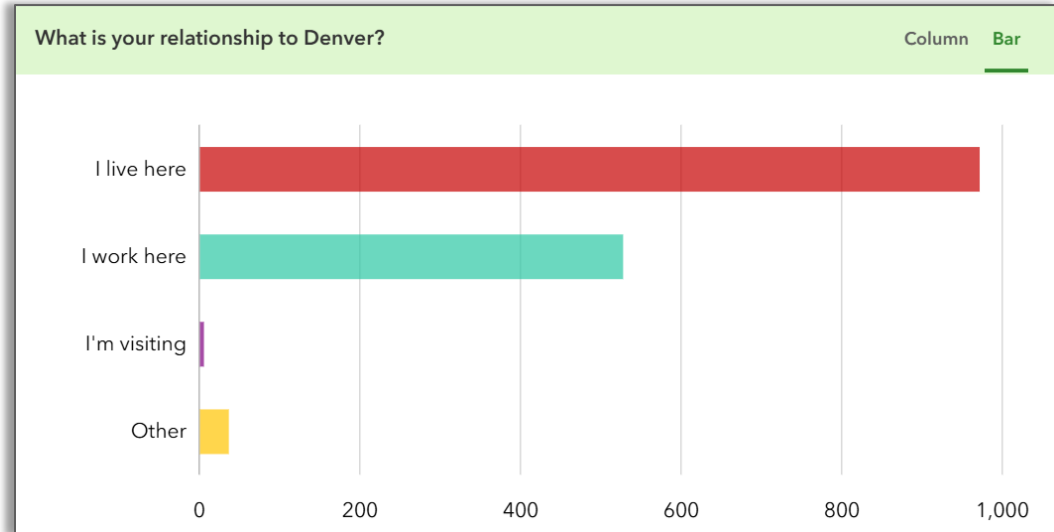
Subcommittees

Thank you for providing community contacts in your districts!

- Parks and Climate
- Arts and Culture
- Facilities
- Connectivity
- Public Safety
- Membership:
 - Community ambassadors and leaders
 - City Council members
 - City subject-matter experts (*non-voting*)
- Process:
 - Review potential bond project lists
 - Request additional info as needed
 - Qualitative and equity project evaluation
 - Recommends Tiers 1, 2, 3

Community Survey Update

- 1,150+ survey responses (>1,000 online, >150 print)
 - 650 specific project ideas
- Online dashboard of results in development
- Submitted project ideas under review
- Survey to close April 17
- *Please continue to share!*



Community Conversations

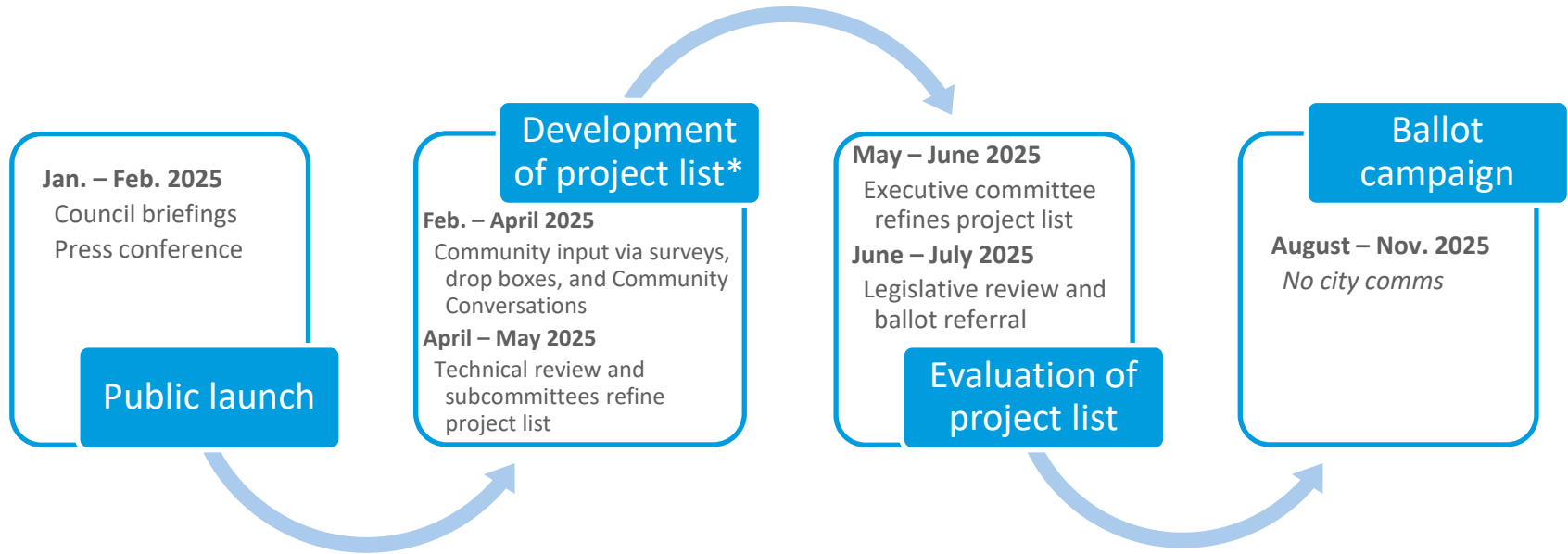
Community Conversations start with District 10 tonight

Agenda Summary

- 4:45 PM | Doors open, Resources and City Staff Available
- 5:15 PM | Welcome and Introductions
- 5:20 PM | Vibrant Denver Bond Overview
- 5:30 PM | Bond Priority Map Table Conversations
- 6:00 PM | Bond Priority Map Table Share-out and Discussion
- 6:30 PM | Questions and Closings

Council District	Date
D10	March 12
D4, D5, D6	March 18
D3	March 19
D9	March 20
D8	April 2
D1	April 3
D7	April 5
At Large	April 8
D2	April 10
D4	April 16

Timeline Overview





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**Questions &
Discussions?**



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Appendix

Potential Bond Priorities and Language

These central themes will help guide community input during the bond planning 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

Bond Project Eligibility

GO bonds can be used to fund construction of public infrastructure and facilities. They cannot be used for operational costs, like staffing and services. For a project to be eligible for bond funding, generally, it must:

- Be ready to construct quickly ("shovel ready")
- Be part of a city-owned asset
- Serve a public purpose
- Have an expected useful life of at least 10 years
- Cannot be studies or design only
- Program should further an equitable distribution of projects across communities



Snapshot of Existing GO Bonds

