

Introduction

The Capital Improvement Plan guides the construction of major maintenance of City facilities and infrastructure. It constitutes a critical component in the City's system of planning, monitoring, and managing corporate business activities. This system links together in a single process the annual cycle of planning, budgeting, implementation, and quality assessment activities.

Capital Improvement Plan Definitions

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a planning and budgeting tool, which provides information about the City's infrastructure needs. Each year, the list of projects is reviewed for need, cost, and priority. New projects may be added and other projects deleted.

Generally, capital improvement projects are defined as physical assets, constructed or purchased, that have a useful life of ten years or longer and a cost of \$50,000 or more. The following are capital improvements included in the plan:

1. New and expanded facilities for the community.
2. Large scale rehabilitation or replacement of existing facilities.
3. Equipment for any public facility or improvement when first constructed or acquired.
4. The cost of engineering or architectural studies and services related to the improvement.
5. The acquisition of land for a community facility such as park, road, sewer line, etc.

What are Capital Outlays?

"Capital Outlays", which are budgeted within the City's operating budget, include such things as furniture, equipment, vehicles, and motorized equipment needed to support the operation of the City's programs. Generally, a capital outlay item may be defined as an item valued in excess of \$5,000 with a life expectancy of less than 10 years.

What are Capital Projects?

There are two types of capital expenditures. One is infrastructure projects and the other is operating programs. "Capital Projects", which are addressed in the CIP and budgeted within the City's adopted budget, generally include major fixed assets or infrastructure with long term value, such as buildings, roads, and parks; major equipment purchases (large vehicles), computer hardware and computer

software that over the life of the project cost \$250,000 or more. Any of these may involve some form of debt financing.

Capital project costs include all expenditures related to the planning, design, construction, and equipment necessary to open the facility. They include reimbursement for the project manager's time through a transfer from a capital project account.

Why have a Capital Improvement Plan?

The CIP provides information on the current and long-range infrastructure and equipment requirements of the City. It provides a mechanism for balancing needs and resources and for setting priorities and schedules for capital projects. It is based on needs identified through the planning process, requests and recommendations of City departments and the concerns of citizens and elected officials.

The CIP includes identification of the revenue sources, which will be utilized to fund capital improvements. Projects should be included even if revenues are not available to them. Projects may be funded by current revenues or by debt financing, depending on the availability of funds, the nature of the project, and the policies of the City Council.

The CIP strives for efficient use of capital improvement funds by identifying projects and prioritizing them according to their relative importance and urgency of need. Identification assures needed projects are known while prioritization ensures that those projects, which are most urgently needed, are funded first.

Why a separate Capital Improvement Plan?

The Capital Improvement Plan lays out long range capital improvement expenditures. Funds budgeted through the CIP for a specific project during a specific year remain with that project until the project is completed, while the operating budget "terminates" at the end of the fiscal year.

Each year project costs will be reviewed and additional funds may be allocated to a project which, when combined with resources carried over from the prior year, constitute the budget for the new year.