

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Jin Wang, Bridge Program Manager
Dana Hornkohl, Capital Projects Manager
Brad Buckman, City Engineer

SUBJECT

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 049, 2026, Appropriating Prior Year Reserves and Authorizing Transfers of Appropriations for the Vine Drive Bridge Replacement Project and Related Art in Public Places.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance, unanimously adopted on First Reading on May 5, 2026, enables the City to expend local funds for the Vine Drive Bridge Replacement project (Project). The funds will be used to design and construct the replacement of the existing bridge conveying Vine Drive over Lake Canal. The replacement bridge will meet current standards, accommodate anticipated levels of traffic, and provide the bicycle and pedestrian facilities recommended in the adopted Active Modes Plan. If approved, the item will: 1) transfer \$1,935,500 in Bridge Program funds to the Project; 2) appropriate \$1,423,010 of Transportation Capital Expansion Fee reserve funds to the Project; 3) transfer \$400,000 of Community Capital Improvement Program – Pedestrian Sidewalk (CCIP-PS) funds to the Project; 4) transfer \$100,000 of Community Capital Improvement Program – Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements (CCIP-BII) funds to the Project; 5) appropriate \$753,135 of Transportation Services Reserve Funds to the Project; 6) transfer \$22,654 (1% of the eligible funds) in capital project funds to the Art in Public Places (APP) Program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on Second Reading.

FIRST READING BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Lake Canal crosses under East Vine Drive west of Emmerson Boulevard. The roadway is supported over the canal by a bridge that was initially constructed in 1950 (Attachment 1). The original structure was approximately eighteen feet wide. The bridge deck was subsequently widened by seven feet. The existing bridge deck, with a width of twenty-five feet, is only wide enough to accommodate two-way motor vehicle traffic. The existing bridge does not have sufficient width for shoulders, bike lanes, or sidewalks. The lack of width on the existing bridge makes it vulnerable to vehicle strikes and damage.

Biennial bridge inspections conducted by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) gave the bridge a poor rating in recent years. The City's Bridge Program identified the structure for replacement and began design work on the Project in 2019. Other bridge projects such as Laporte Avenue (two bridges), South Timberline Avenue, Mountain Vista Road, and Trilby Road were prioritized ahead of this Project.

Bridge Program funding was relatively steady between 2020 and 2025 at \$2,700,000 annually (ongoing offer \$1,700,000, enhancement offer \$1,000,000). In general, \$2,700,000 allows for the replacement of one, average size, bridge per year. Larger bridges like those over the Poudre River cost significantly more to maintain and replace. In 2026 the enhancement offer was not funded. The City owns and maintains 308 bridges. In 2025, an aging culvert/bridge on Environmental Drive was compromised and needed emergency replacement. The City has applied for State grant funding annually (2021-2025) through the Special Highway Committee and the Off-System Bridge Program to help expedite the Project. These applications have not been successful due to the limited amount of State funding allocated to the Off-System Bridge Program and the demand for assistance from other cities and counties.

In 2025 and 2026, the existing bridge was struck by motor vehicles and damaged. City staff requested CDOT reinspect the bridge after each incident (Attachments 2 and 3). After the 2025 incident, CDOT reduced the load rating on the bridge to 3 tons. Specifically, the load rating applies to the widened portion of the bridge, which roughly corresponds to the east bound lane of Vine Drive. This significantly limits the vehicles that can travel over the bridge in the eastbound direction. For example, a Subaru Crosstrek weighs approximately 3,300 pounds or 1.65 tons. A standard full-size school bus typically weighs between 7.5 and 13 tons. City staff are currently monitoring the bridge daily. Further deterioration of the bridge may lead to the closure of the east bound lane of Vine Drive and the temporary reduction to one-lane of traffic over the bridge until it can be replaced. Staff are working with a consulting designer to refresh the bridge design and prepare for construction in the fall of 2026 when water stops flowing in the Lake Canal. Currently the Bridge Program reserves of approximately \$1,900,000 are not sufficient to construct the replacement bridge in 2026. Construction is estimated to cost \$4,700,000; through this agenda item staff are seeking additional City funding of approximately \$2,800,000 to complete the work this year. If the appropriation in this agenda item is not approved and additional funding does not become available by October of this year, the construction project will be required to wait until October of 2027, assuming additional Bridge Program funding is available in 2027.

The proposed bridge replacement will have two (2) eleven-foot (11') motor vehicle travel lanes, two (2) six-foot (6') bike lanes, and a ten-foot (10') sidepath on the north side of the bridge. No sidepath is anticipated on the south side of Vine Drive as this is adjacent to the BNSF rail yard. This cross section meets the recommendations of the Active Modes Plan (AMP) for this section of Vine Drive. The City will receive \$111,860 later in 2026 from Parker Land Investments as one of the requirements included in the development agreement for Waterfield Fourth Filing, Section II.D.4.B (Attachment 4). This is a development contribution to construct a sidepath on the north side of Vine Drive that will connect to the sidepath on the new bridge. The Project will construct the sidepath. The development contribution funds will be appropriated to the Project later in 2026 as part of the annual budget cleanup process. For simplicity the calculated amount of funding for the APP Program contribution from the Project will include this development contribution.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The following is a summary of the Project funding anticipated for design and construction for the Vine Bridge project. The total fund amount for the Project is \$4,589,000 composed of funds appropriated or transferred with this action. The development contribution (\$111,860) has not been received at the time of this action. The City has provided an invoice and is expecting payment in May 2026. The development contribution will be appropriated to the Project in the annual budget cleanup process later this year. Upon this appropriation, the total fund amount for the Project will be \$4,700,860. The transfer to the APP Program is calculated on this total fund amount for the Project.

Funds to be Appropriated or Transferred	
Bridge Program (BP) - previously appropriated	\$ 1,935,500
Transportation Capital Expansion Fee (TCEF)	\$ 1,423,019
Community Capital Improvement Program - Pedestrian Sidewalk (CCIP-PS)	\$ 400,000
Community Capital Improvement Program - Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements (CCIP-BI)	\$ 100,000
Development Contribution (DC) - via Budget Cleanup later in 2026	\$ 111,860
Transportation Services Reserve Fund (TSRF)	\$ 753,135
Net Total Project Funds to be Appropriated or Transferred	\$ 4,723,514

Proposed Transfer to Art in Public Places (APP) Program	\$ 22,654
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Total Capital Project Funds	\$ 4,700,860
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BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Council Finance Committee reviewed the request for supplemental appropriation for the Project at their April 2, 2026, meeting. The Committee supported the supplement appropriation request go before the full Council (Attachment 5).

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Vine Drive bridge is identified in the City’s current State of the Infrastructure report (January 2026). The bridge was originally identified in the initial report dated January 2024.

ATTACHMENTS / LINKS

First Reading attachments available in May 5, 2026, agenda materials at the following link: <https://fortcollins-co.municodemeetings.com/>.

1. Ordinance No. 049, 2026