

WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

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SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

2026 - 2027 Council Priority Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to provide updates on current and future work related to Council Priorities and to ensure alignment on work direction.

GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. What questions do Councilmembers have regarding Council Priority work?
2. Would Councilmembers like to see anything different in future updates?
3. Do Councilmembers support refining and improving the identified workstreams and the progress towards goal statements, where appropriate?

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Each Council term, the newly seated members determine Priorities and a workplan for the 2-year term. Council adopted five Priorities and three additional workplan items. Updates will be provided at Council work sessions in July and October 2026 and in January, May, and September 2027.

Council requested key metric reporting at the July 2026 update. Known metrics are included below; however, this effort has highlighted the need to better define the work streams within the priorities and to better define the progress towards a desired outcome as a reportable success since many of the desired outcomes will not be fully measurable in the short-term.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Make Development Predictable, Efficient, and Cost-Effective to Support Sustainable Growth and Affordability

The bulk of the work in this Priority is being scoped, aligned, and directed through work of the Council Ad Hoc Committee that includes Mayor Francis, Councilmember Conway, and Councilmember Nelsen. This group is meeting on a monthly basis and is working to include community experiences to guide the work.

The staff team is bringing forward a 6-month committee topic agenda which will help to better define the core elements and potential tasks to advance this Priority. The calendar anticipates action items being identified for the full Council following the ad hoc meetings. Council has approved, on first reading, utilizing the Basic Development Review (BDR) process for already allowed housing types in various zone districts.

The City Manager has committed to ensuring that Planning and Development Services have the resources needed through the budget process to meet the desired level of service. Also, additional resources are being re-deployed to help project manage implementation of identified process improvements.

The metrics previously identified under this priority (listed below) will require additional time to measure for impact.

- Reduced development review timelines
 - These timelines have been improving. Application time with the City is down by 49% since 2022.
- Fewer regulatory barriers to building
 - Second reading of BDR process on October 6, 2026.
- Improved customer experience for development applicants
- Increased housing and mixed-use development approvals
- Greater predictability in development processes

Bolster Economic Vitality with a Focus on Small Business, Neighborhood Centers, and Quality Job Creation

This work aligns well with the previously adopted Economic Health Plan. Work is focused on customer support, process improvements, strategies, and developing potential incentives to attract desired businesses.

The Economic Development Department (EDD) has been well mobilized around 3 engagement strategies: pro-active, reactive, and passive. Being able to respond and engage with businesses that is meaningful based on a current situation allows staff to troubleshoot in the moment, capture business trends, and maintain a strategic focus. The bulk of business engagements involve small businesses, and the programs EDD has set up to assist throughout a business life cycle are well received.

Council action to pursue and consider incentive programs has been a new tool the City can offer. To date, Council has considered 5 potential opportunities.

Identified Metrics:

- Job growth in target sectors
 - Annual job reporting is a delayed reporting number.
- Net business openings and expansions
- Sales and use tax revenue increases
- Activation of creative/nighttime economy spots
- Reduced processing times and business entry barriers

Accelerate Progress Toward Vision Zero

Vision Zero work includes specific activity, such as Safer Streets and Safe speed work, as well as cross-departmental work involving police services, parking services, infrastructure, and potential outcomes of the Predictable, Efficient, and Cost-Effective Development Priority ad hoc committee work.

Progress and adjacent work continues across the organization. This year has seen \$70 million+ committed to safer infrastructure including 12 miles of new lanes and sidewalks in plan/design this year and 4 miles of new lanes and sidewalks complete/in construction this year. This fall improvements are planned on sections of Laurel, Shields, and Taft Hill.

Staff is also prepping work to move forward on establishing standardized 20-mile-per-hour speed limits on local neighborhood streets. This will require Council action and will be scheduled at an upcoming regular meeting with Council direction.

Identified Metrics:

- Implementation of Safe Speeds findings and speed compliance
 - Staff can bring code changes to Council
- Conduct and implement recommendations from school safety assessments
- Reduce/eliminate serious injuries & fatalities
 - We have seen an 80% reduction from the high mark in 2023 (15)
- Compliance with speed limits
 - Speed compliance in residential areas has increased year over year since 2024

Connect Community to Council Actions

Communications and Engagement staff are working with Council to focus on more real-time activity sharing that helps residents feel connected and provides insight into the work of Council.

The *City in :60* series continues to be a strong platform to provide information on topics that are important to the community including affordable growth, the budget process, and the development of a surveillance policy.

Additional focus has been placed on Council Priorities, both in the *City in :60* series as well as in the City Manager Quarterly Report and in social media postings.

Identified Metrics:

- Digital & traditional media reach and engagement
 - The Q2 CMQR had 20,000+ views on Instagram and garnered 200+ link clicks on Facebook and more than 250 link clicks across the two platforms
 - OurCity had 42,000 visits July-Sept
- Annual Community Survey (informing, listening to, and welcoming community input)
 - Ratings for informing community members in the Community Survey were stable at 50% very good/good

Ensure Long-term Financial Sustainability

This Priority is heavily focused on the 2027-28 budget and the transition in budgeting process. Council has also been engaged in steps to advance the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software project to ensure success.

Identified Metrics:

- Successful implementation of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software
 - Anticipate having a contract for work in Q1 2027

- Successful Council recommended budget & process.
 - Budget hearings set for November 2026
- Creation of Citywide Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Additional Workplan Items:

Update Marijuana Laws: Work planned in 2027

AI Ready Leadership: Work underway with pilot projects and new tools set to roll out

Creative/Nighttime Economy: Diverse activity happening related to this item within existing workplans

NEXT STEPS

Next update: January 12, 2027

ATTACHMENTS / LINKS

1. Presentation