



Finance Administration
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Council Finance Committee Hybrid Meeting
CIC Room / Teams
April 2, 2026
4:00 - 6:00 pm

Council Attendees: Mayor Francis, Anne Nelsen, Josh Fudge

Staff: Kelly DiMartino, Caleb Weitz, Tyler Marr, Carrie Daggett, Dianne Criswell, Teresa Roche, Ginny Sawyer, Terri Runyan, Taryn Moran, Chris Martinez, Jacob Castillo, Caryn Champine, Monica Martinez, Drew Brooks, Mallory Gallegos, Brad Buckman, Dana Hornkohl, Cole Mueller, Benjamin Hulberg, Dean Klingner, LeAnn Williams, Katie Donahue, Jill Hueser, Victoria Shaw, Bonnie Dennis, Lawrence Pollack, Charles McNamee, Christina Cornelison-Spight, Joe Wimmer, Kerri Ishmael, Jackson Strickland, Gerry Paul, Jake Rector, Jennifer Poznanovic, Emily Land, Matthew Liberati, Jo Cech, Carisa Clinton, Alexis Coppello, Carolyn Koontz

Others: Madison Aheme (CSU)

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm

Approval of minutes from the March 5, 2026, Council Finance Committee meeting.
Motion to approve made by Mayor Francis and seconded by Anne Nelsen.
Approved via roll call; Mayor Francis, Josh Fudge & Anne Nelsen.

A) S. Taft Hill and Vine Bridge Supplemental Appropriation

STAFF

Dana Hornkohl, Capital Projects Manager

Brad Buckman, City Engineer

Monica Martinez, Senior Manager, Financial Planning & Analysis

SUBJECT

Engineering Department, Transportation Capital Projects, Proposed Supplemental Appropriations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Engineering Department is seeking approval for proposed supplemental appropriations for two transportation capital projects being managed by the department: Vine Drive Bridge Replacement and Taft Hill Road Corridor Improvements – Horsetooth Road to Brixton Road. The request is being made now to avoid delays with the projects that would have negative impacts on the City’s roadways and project funding.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend approval of the proposed supplemental appropriations.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Vine Drive Bridge Replacement (Vine Bridge Project)

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 (18) feet wide. The bridge deck was subsequently widened by seven (7) feet. The existing bridge deck, with a width of twenty-five (25) 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 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 \$2.7M annually (ongoing offer \$1.7M, enhancement offer \$1.0M). In general, \$2.7M 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 Vine Bridge Project. These applications have not been successful due to the limited amount of State funding allocated to the 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 on a daily basis. 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 \$1.9M are not sufficient to construct the replacement bridge in 2026. Construction is estimated to cost \$4.7M; staff are seeking additional City funding of approximately \$2.8M to complete the work this year. If 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.

Taft Hill Road Corridor Improvements (Taft Hill Project)

The Taft Hill Project will make improvements to the corridor between Horsetooth Road and Brixton Road (**Attachment 4**). This is a joint project between the City and Larimer County and lies in Fort Collins Growth Management Area (GMA). Work began on the project in 2018 and originally included improvements between Horsetooth Road and Harmony Road. The project scope has been expanded twice: 1) extended the improvements to Brixton Road (2020), and 2) included recommended AMP improvements (2022). The City's Master Street Plan calls for this section of roadway to be a four-lane arterial. The project will improve this corridor to meet Larimer County Urban Area Street Standards (LCUASS). The AMP improvements include separated bike lanes and a widened sidewalk south of Harmony Road on the east side of the project. Crossing improvements at Imperial Drive and Brixton Road are not currently included in the project. Staff sought additional grant funding to include these improvements but were unsuccessful. Staff will continue to apply for funding opportunities for these improvements as opportunities become available.

The total cost of the Taft Hill Project is estimated to be \$10.4M. The project has received approximately \$6.1M in grant funding (59% of the estimated total project cost) listed below.

- Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program, \$4.0M, 2020 and 2023
- Community Clean Transportation Assistance Program (CCTAP), \$540K, 2024
- Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Fund (MMOF), \$1.3M, 2024
- Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), \$107K, 2024
- Community Project Funding (CPF), \$250K, 2025

The initial STBG grant, local match, and overmatch were appropriated by City Council in 2020 (**Attachments 5 and 6**). The 2024 MMOF award was subject to budget reconciliation by the State of Colorado. The initial MMOF award amount of \$1.7M was reduced to \$1,251,287. The North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO) was able to backfill some of this reduction with STBG (\$163,902) and CRP (\$107,057) funding. The Taft Hill Project had been wait-listed for these funds in a previous call for projects. It is anticipated that the State's budget will again be very tight in 2026. There is a high probability that MMOF awards may be reduced further as a result. The City and County would like to encumber the funding and begin construction to remove the current award from consideration for a potential reduction in 2026. In addition, the original STBG award funding will expire in 2029. City and County staff view this as the best time to move forward with construction to avoid potential construction cost escalation due to rising oil prices. Construction documents have been finalized, and property acquisition is nearing completion.

The City has contributed \$15,460 in funding to cover the Art in Public Places (APP) program obligation. The County has contributed \$1.5M in Larimer County Regional Road Fee (LCRRF) to the project. The proposed supplemental appropriation would have the City contribute an additional \$908K in a mix of transportation-related funding and the County would contribute an additional \$1.8M in LCRRF. These contributions would allow the Taft Hill Project to be advertised for construction as early as May of this year.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Vine Drive Bridge Replacement

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 \$4,700,000 composed of funds appropriated or transferred with this action.

| Funds to be Appropriated or Transferred | |
|--|---------------------|
| Bridge Program (BP) | \$ 1,935,500 |
| Transportation Capital Expansion Fee (TCEF) | \$ 1,423,010 |
| Community Capital Improvement Program - Pedestrian Sidewalk (CCIP-PS) | \$ 400,000 |
| Community Capital Improvement Program - Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements (CCIP-BII) | \$ 100,000 |
| Development Contribution (DC) | \$ 111,000 |
| Transportation Services Fund (TSF) | \$ 753,135 |
| Net Total Project Funds to be Appropriated or Transferred | \$ 4,722,645 |

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| Proposed Transfer to Art in Public Places (APP) Program | \$ 22,645 |
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| Total Capital Project Funds | \$ 4,700,000 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|

Taft Hill Project

The following is a summary of the project funding anticipated for design, acquisition, and construction for the Taft Hill Project. The total fund amount for the project is \$10,438,306 composed of funds appropriated or transferred with this action and prior appropriated or transferred funds.

| Prior Appropriated or Transferred Funds | |
|---|---------------------|
| Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program | \$ 3,834,025 |
| Transportation Services Fund (TSF) | \$ 15,460 |
| Larimer County Regional Road Fees (LCRRF) | \$ 1,545,975 |
| Total Prior Appropriations or Transfers | \$ 5,395,460 |

| Funds to be Appropriated or Transferred | |
|--|---------------------|
| Community Clean Transportation Assistance Program (CCTA) | \$ 539,864 |
| Multimodal Transportation and Mitigation Options Fund (MMOF) | \$ 1,251,287 |
| Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program | \$ 163,902 |
| Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) | \$ 107,057 |
| Community Project Funding (CPF) | \$ 250,000 |
| Transportation Services Fund (TSF) | \$ 358,196 |
| Larimer County Regional Road Fees (LCRRF) | \$ 1,844,347 |
| Community Capital Improvement Program - Arterial Intersection Improvements (CCIP-AII) | \$ 250,000 |
| Community Capital Improvement Program - Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements (CCIP-BII) | \$ 100,000 |
| Community Capital Improvement Program - Pedestrian Sidewalk (CCIP-PS) | \$ 200,000 |
| Net Total Project Funds to be Appropriated or Transferred | \$ 5,064,653 |

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|--|------------------|
| Proposed Transfer to Art in Public Places (APP) Program | \$ 21,807 |
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|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Total Capital Project Funds | \$ 10,438,306 |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|

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. There has been significant public outreach conducted for the Taft Hill Project. The community surrounding the project area was notified with letters and door hangers in 2020. A virtual open house was held on 11/18/2020. An in-person open house was held on 11/14/2022. The project was presented at each of the past four City of Fort Collins Transportation Project Fairs (02/23/2023, 02/22/2024, 03/06/2025, and 02/06/2026). Most recently, two meetings were held with Taft Canyon residents to address their questions and concerns (02/04/2026 and 02/11/2026).

DISCUSSION

Supplemental Appropriations for Vine Drive Bridge and Taft Hill Road Projects: Dana Hornkohl, Monica Martinez, and Brad Buckman presented a request for supplemental appropriations to fund the Vine Drive bridge replacement and the Taft Hill Road corridor project, explaining the urgency due to safety concerns and potential loss of grant funding, with committee members discussing funding sources, project scope, and timing.

- **Vine Drive Bridge Condition and Replacement:** Dana Hornkohl described the deteriorating condition of the Vine Drive bridge, noting its reduced load rating, repeated guardrail damage, lack

of shoulders, and absence of bike lanes or sidewalks. The proposed replacement would include two 11-foot lanes, 6-foot bike lanes, and a 10-foot side path on the north side, with construction scheduled between October and April to avoid ditch operation.

- **Funding Sources and Appropriation Details:** The team outlined the funding stack for the Vine Drive bridge, including \$1.9 million from bridge program reserves, \$1.4 million from transportation capital expansion fees, a development contribution from Waterfield, and a \$750,000 request from the transportation services fund, totaling approximately \$4.7 million.
- **Taft Hill Road Corridor Project Scope and Funding:** The Taft Hill Road project, managed jointly by Larimer County and Fort Collins, aims to upgrade the corridor to a four-lane arterial with improved bike and pedestrian infrastructure. The total estimated cost is \$10.4 million, with \$6.1 million from grants and \$4.3 million from local sources, including a proposed \$900,000 city contribution.
- **Project Timing and Risks:** Urgency for both projects was emphasized due to imminent safety concerns for Vine Drive and the risk of losing \$1.2 million in state grant funding for Taft Hill Road if not obligated soon. Delays could jeopardize funding and require waiting until the next construction window.
- **Committee Questions and Clarifications:** Committee members asked about bridge design specifics, insurance recovery for guardrail damage, transportation fund balances, impacts on other projects, project management responsibilities, and alignment with council priorities such as Vision Zero and Larimer County Urban Area Street Standards (LCUASS). Staff confirmed efforts to balance safety, cost, and future inspection needs, and clarified funding and design choices.

ACTION ITEMS

- Taft Hill Road Corridor Grant Funding Risk: Confirm and document the amount of grant funding at risk of clawback for the Taft Hill Road Corridor project and communicate this to the committee.
- Taft Hill Road Corridor Design Standards: Confirm in writing whether the vehicular lane widths are being reduced to accommodate pedestrian accommodations in the Taft Hill Road Corridor project.

RESULT

The committee supports this item going forward to the full Council.