

# 2025-2026 Budget Engagement Summary

This document contains an overview of methods, responses and results in connection with public engagement relating to the 2024-2025 Budget.

## Budget Engagement Strategy

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The methods used to support community engagement efforts for the 2025-2026 budget are very similar to those of the 2023-2024 budget. Since 2023, we have also pursued a subtle shift that combines budget and strategic planning engagement conversations, with the aim to increase our reach, reduce engagement fatigue due to overlapping topics, and provide more avenues for informal and expeditious public participation and feedback.

To this end, we have conducted engagement around 'City priorities' throughout the year. This includes increased use of social media as an online engagement platform, drawing upon results from the annual Community Survey to identify areas of strong community interest.

In Fall 2023, the City partnered with CSU's Center for Public Deliberation to host community-led, in-person roundtable conversations about City priorities to inform both the 2024 Strategic Plan as well as the forthcoming budget. Other tools include an Our City webpage that serves as an informational home base and offers a variety of feedback options, on-demand learning opportunities, and self-service tools.

## Methods

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- Our City project page with online engagement activities
- Website and social media engagement
- Public Hearings
- Community Survey
- Animated Budget 101 videos
- City Priorities workshop in partnership with the Center for Public Deliberation (2023)

## Participation Metrics

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(September 2023 – September 2024 timeframe)

- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor combined)
  - 53,647 social media total reach<sup>i</sup>
  - 1,832 social media engagement<sup>ii</sup>
  - 864 YouTube views
- Our City

- 1,300 total page visits
- 1,002 aware visitors, 310 informed visitors, 69 engaged
- 78 contributions
- City website (FCGov budget page)
  - 4835 total page views
- 2024 Community Survey
  - 1078 total survey responses

## Feedback Summary – What we Heard

### Our City Themes

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Below are the most common areas (organized by Outcome Area) identified for increased focus based on community member contributions. A complete list of comments is provided as an attachment.

- Transportation & Mobility:
  - Prioritize safety for pedestrians and cyclists, including narrower lanes, traffic calming measures, protected bike lanes, and safer intersections
  - Reduce vehicle speed and improve the safety of non-motorized users
  - Increase the reliability and frequency of bus services
- Culture & Recreation:
  - Significant support for park development
  - Preserve and expand open spaces for long-term community benefit
- Neighborhood & Community Vitality:
  - Concerns raised about the rising cost of housing and affordability for a diverse range of residents
- High Performing Government
  - Call for increased communication from the City, particularly around policy enforcement and public engagement methods

### 2024 Community Survey

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The Community Survey is a key input to the Budgeting for Outcomes (BFO) process. Twenty-one metrics from the survey are linked to ongoing performance measures monitoring. The results below represent a high-level overview of key findings from the survey.

- Top three outcome areas to be prioritized for the City to focus on in the next 5 years
  - Neighborhood & Community Vitality (57%)
  - Transportation & Mobility (57%)
  - Environmental Health (51%)

- Top three outcomes identified as needing more funding/effort
  - Neighborhood & Community Vitality (58%)
  - Environmental Health (57%)
  - Transportation & Mobility (57%)
- Open question – What is the ONE item that residents want the City to improve upon?
  - Housing cost or affordability (26%)
  - Transportation improvements, mobility, paths and trails (16%)
  - Government policies, spending, service delivery, etc. (7%)
  - Less growth & development; issues related to growth, planning and zoning (7%)
  - Traffic, roads and parking (6%)
- Participants were asked to rank the strategic plan outcome areas based on whether they should receive more effort, the same effort or less effort over the next five years.

Outcome Area	More effort	Same effort	Less effort
High Performing Government	23%	70%	7%
Culture & Recreation	26%	71%	3%
Economic Health	57%	39%	4%
Environmental Health	47%	47%	6%
Neighborhood Livability & Social Health	58%	36%	6%
Safe Community	23%	73%	4%
Transportation & Mobility	57%	41%	2%

- Full Community Survey results memo from August 9, 2024:  
[2024 Community Survey - Memo to Council FINAL](#)

## Social Media Engagement

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### Social Media Engagement

Since August, the City has been using insights from the 2024 Community Survey to guide a series of social media posts, each posing a question focused on a specific priority or area of concern identified by participants. The results below are a curated summary of responses selected based on possible budget implications. A complete list of comments received is provided as an attachment.

- Communications & Information Preferences (August 29, 2024; 2 responses)
  - General lack of awareness of City communications platforms

- Traffic Safety (September 5, 2024; 104 responses)
  - Increased 'road rules' public education for drivers and cyclists
  - Concerns about pedestrian safety at crosswalks and on paths/sidewalks due to high-speed e-bikes and scooters
  - Support for increased enforcement of speed limits, speed management/traffic calming infrastructure, protected bike lanes, and designated crosswalks at schools, bus stops and shopping centers
  - Increased police presence on less-patrolled roads, higher frequency of traffic stops at high-risk locations, and police training to prioritize traffic safety
  
- Climate Action (September 13, 2024; 5 responses)
  - Interest in financial assistance programs and rebates for home energy efficiency improvements
  - Support for Timberline Recycling Center, household waste collection events
  - Infrastructure improvements aimed at flood mitigation and stormwater management
  
- Housing Affordability (September 18, 2024; 32 responses)
  - Support for stronger government action, including public sector housing, rent controls, and higher property taxes on multiple homes
  - Simultaneous calls for reduced government intervention, citing that fees, taxes, and regulations contribute to high housing costs
  - Mixed-use developments to reduce traffic and create walkable communities
  - Incentives for homeowners to rent out basements or unused spaces
  - Converting vacant commercial buildings into housing.
  - Affordable housing requirements in new developments.
  - Eviction protections and rent assistance.
  
- Public Transportation (September 24, 2024; 39 responses)
  - Many residents feel that the current transit system is not a practical alternative to driving due to issues with safety, accessibility and travel using public transit being excessively time-consuming.
  - Indications of support to fund significant improvements and make public transportation a more attractive and viable option
  - Calls for more frequent bus service on major routes, extending service hours to nights and weekends, including Sunday service.
  - Improve pedestrian pathways and accessibility needs at bus stops
  - Better lighting at bus stops for personal safety reasons
  - Adjustments to existing route system (and timing) to improve regional connections, such as FLEX.

- Ensure bus drivers are well-compensated and adequately trained to help increase retention and ensure quality of service.
- “Tell us one thing you would like the City to improve on?” (May 18, 2023; 200 comments)

This social media post was in association with 2024 Strategic Plan engagement in 2023. Although slightly older, we included it based on the relevance of the question/responses and high interest from the community. Emergent themes are listed below.

- Affordable Housing - Availability and affordability of housing, including for single working adults and low-income individuals; mobile home parks as affordable housing options.
- Public Transportation - Improved and more accessible public transportation, increased bus routes, night-time services, and connections in underserved areas. Mentions of east-west transportation needs and grid connections.
- Sustainability and Environmental Protection - Prioritizing climate action, water conservation and transitioning to eco-friendly practices, including xeriscaping, native plants and alternative transportation modes.
- Homelessness - Concerns about this issue and the need for effective programs and services to support those who are unhoused.
- Traffic and Road Infrastructure - Traffic management concerns, including synchronizing traffic lights, adding protected left turns, speed bumps, and overpasses/underpasses to improve safety for pedestrians/cyclists.
- Cell Phone Coverage - Mentions of poor cell phone coverage, particularly around the Harmony corridor, and calls for better coverage overall.
- Minimum Wage and Cost of Living - Divided opinions on raising the minimum wage, with some support as a means of addressing cost of living, while others express concern about its impact on businesses and prices.
- City Development and Planning - Mixed views on development, some calling for a halt to new development to focus on sustainability, while others suggest deregulation and planning to accommodate growth.
- Recreation Facilities - Requests for more or improved recreational facilities, such as swimming pools and indoor sports tracks, often centered around specific geographic areas of the city.
- Safety and Crime Prevention - Concerns about safety, particularly related to theft/petty crimes and improved lighting near infrastructure such as bus stops.

**City Priorities Community Meetings - CSU Center for Public Deliberation (Sept/Oct. 2023)**

In fall 2023, the City partnered with the Center for Public Deliberation (CPD) to host three community-wide conversations, focusing on the strategic outcome areas, to inform the 2024 Strategic Plan. CPD’s report was provided to Council

last fall in advance of the 2024 Strategic Plan adoption. A link to the English version of the report is provided here for quick reference.

- [Community Engagement Report](#) (Fall, 2023)

**Attachments:**

1. Complete Our City comments
2. Complete social media comments
3. Budget-related emails sent to City Leaders (as of September 27)<sup>iii</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> Reach refers to the number of unique viewers who have seen a piece of social media content.

<sup>ii</sup> Engagement is any action taken on a social media post, e.g., likes, shares, comments, and link clicks.

<sup>iii</sup> Due to the volume of similar emails received regarding the Downtown Flower Program, only a representative selection of those messages is included in this attachment.