



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Mike Rogers, Assistant City Manager, City Manager's Office *MR*

FROM: Dr. Kara M. Boyles, Director, Capital Delivery Services *KMB*

DATE: July 1, 2025

SUBJECT: Bond Election Advisory Task Force - 2026 Bond Development Update

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Mayor and City Council with an update on the 2026 bond program development.

As referenced in the January 9, 2025 [memorandum](#), City Council Resolution 20240829-138 established the Bond Election Advisory Task Force (BEATF) to consider projects identified through the public process; projects that are within the scope of a needs assessment and funding priorities recommended by City staff; and projects aligned with recommendations from the adopted plans and reports listed in the Resolution.

Since October 2024, the BEATF has met monthly to:

- Become familiar with the Texas Open Meetings Act
- Learn about General Obligation Bond programs and how they are facilitated
- Discuss and decide to recommend against pursuing a 2025 bond
- Discuss and provide recommendations on the development of a community engagement plan
- Learn about city department previous bond spending plans, technical criteria and scoring matrices
- Establish working groups
- Receive 28 public testimonies and numerous emails and letters providing awareness for specific community concerns and project considerations. See attachment.

Next steps include:

- Continue to discuss and provide input on each department's technical criteria and scoring matrices: **March – July 2025**
- Staff provides the BEATF with the needs assessment: **July 2025**
- Working Groups meet to develop recommendations: **August 2025 – January 2026**
- BEATF develops final recommendations: **January – April 2026**
- BEATF provides recommendation to Mayor & Council: **May 2026**

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DATE: July 1, 2025
SUBJECT: Bond Election Advisory Task Force - 2026 Bond Development Update

See attached presentation for updated information from Financial Services Department, Capital Delivery Services, and the BEATF regarding the 2026 bond program development.

As a reminder, all meeting materials, to include future agendas for the BEATF, can be found on the [2026 BEATF website](#).

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Kara Boyles, Director of Capital Delivery Service at Kara.Boyles@austintexas.gov or (512) 974-7615.

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Erika Brady, City Clerk
Corrie Stokes, City Auditor
Mary Jane Grubb, Municipal Court Clerk
Judge Sherry Statman, Municipal Court
CMO Executive Team
Department Directors
Eric Bailey, Deputy Director, Capital Delivery Services
Marcus Hammer, Assistant Director, Capital Delivery Services

Attachments:

BEATF Public Speakers
Bond Election Advisory Task Force presentation to Mayor and Council

BEATF Citizen Communication & Testimonies

1. **Malcolm Yeats, Chair, East Riverside Oltorf Combined (EROC) neighborhood contact team:** Spoke to the Task Force to illustrate the need for a community center and more recreational facilities for the population of the East Riverside area.
2. **Ed Miller, EROC Officer:** Joined Malcolm in describing the need for a community center and more recreational facilities for the population of the East Riverside area.
3. **Kathryn Flowers, City of Austin Parks and Recreation Board (PARB):** Called in to explain PARD recommendation 20231127-2 which outlines District 4 resident's desire for more space at the Gus Garcia Recreation Center.
4. **Martha Langford:** Spoke to the Task Force regarding the need for a Senior Activity Facility at Gustavo "Gus" L. Garcia Recreation Center to accommodate the growth.
5. **Armando Delgado:** Spoke to the Task Force regarding the need for a Senior Activity Facility at Gustavo "Gus" L. Garcia Recreation Center to accommodate the growth and the needs of various programs offered at the Center.
6. **Jack Nokes:** Spoke to the Task Force as representative for the Friends of Elizabet Ney Museum and to ask the Force to add bond funding of \$500,000 to add an accessible bathroom.
7. **Ann Graham:** Spoke to the Task Force as part of The Friends of Elizabet Ney Museum and requested that the Task Force please place the accessible restroom on the bond.
8. **Chris Flores:** Spoke to the Task Force to consider approving and funding an aquifer-fed pool in the style of Deep Eddy as part of the bond package since there are none in East Austin.
9. **Scott Johnson:** Spoke to the Task Force about upgrading buildings to improve air quality, electrifying the fleet to reduce emissions, engaging the community and collaborating with private developers to create new parks and ensuring that cultural buildings incorporate an equity plan.
10. **Michael Cannatti:** Spoke to the Task Force, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing park investments within the proposed bond package.
11. **The Trail Conservancy, Great Springs Project and Travis County Parks:** Spoke to the Task Force regarding the cause of expanding the trails and Trail Expansion Project.
12. **Kayla Reese:** Spoke to the Task Force to express her support for 2026 Park Bond.
13. **Naomi Delgado:** Spoke to the Task Force regarding the need for a Senior Activity Facility at Gustavo "Gus" L. Garcia Recreation Center to accommodate the growth of the active senior community in the area.

BEATF Citizen Communication & Testimonies

14. **Armando Delgado:** Spoke to the Task Force regarding the need for a Senior Activity Facility Gustavo "Gus" L. Garcia Recreation Center to accommodate the aging seniors of the community that uses the center.
15. **Jo Anna Fountain:** Spoke to the Task Force about the need for a Senior Activity Facility at the Gustavo "Gus" L. Garcia Recreation Center. She pointed out that the center is used by a growing number of older adults and having a separate space for seniors would make it easier for everyone to enjoy the center throughout the day.
16. **Greg Anderson from Habitat for Humanity:** Spoke to the Task Force about the current Housing needs in the community.
17. **Sheriden Lorenz** Spoke to the Task Force asking that green open spaces be included as part of projects funded by bonds.
18. **Alexandria Anderson, Amanda Masino, Wendy Dunham Tita with Evergreen Austin board member,** Spoke to the Task Force to encourage the City to add more greenspaces in the form of parkland to improve the city's climate and air quality.
19. **Paulette Soltani, Vocal Texas co-director, Mel LeBlanc, Vocal Texas, and Alfredo Reyes, Vocal Texas co-director:** Spoke to the Task Force to encourage a redirection of funds away from cap & stitch and to more affordable housing for Austin's vulnerable residents.
20. **Andrew Smiley, TreeFolks Executive Director:** Urged the Task Force to consider our tree canopy in any every proposal to use bond funds.
22. **Abby Tatkow, Austin Housing Coalition Chair:** Spoke to the Task Force to use local funding streams to include housing bonds in recommendations to Council.
23. **Malcolm Yeats and Ed Miller, EROC:** Spoke to the Task Force to about the need for a community center in East River-Oltorf neighborhood.

2026 Bond Program Development Update

Bond Election Advisory Task Force Initial Report



Prepared by:

Kimberly Olivares, Director, Financial Services Department

Kara M. Boyles, Director, Capital Delivery Services

Mary Hager, Chair, Bond Election Advisory Task Force

July 1, 2025



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Financial Services Department

Public Improvement Bond Update



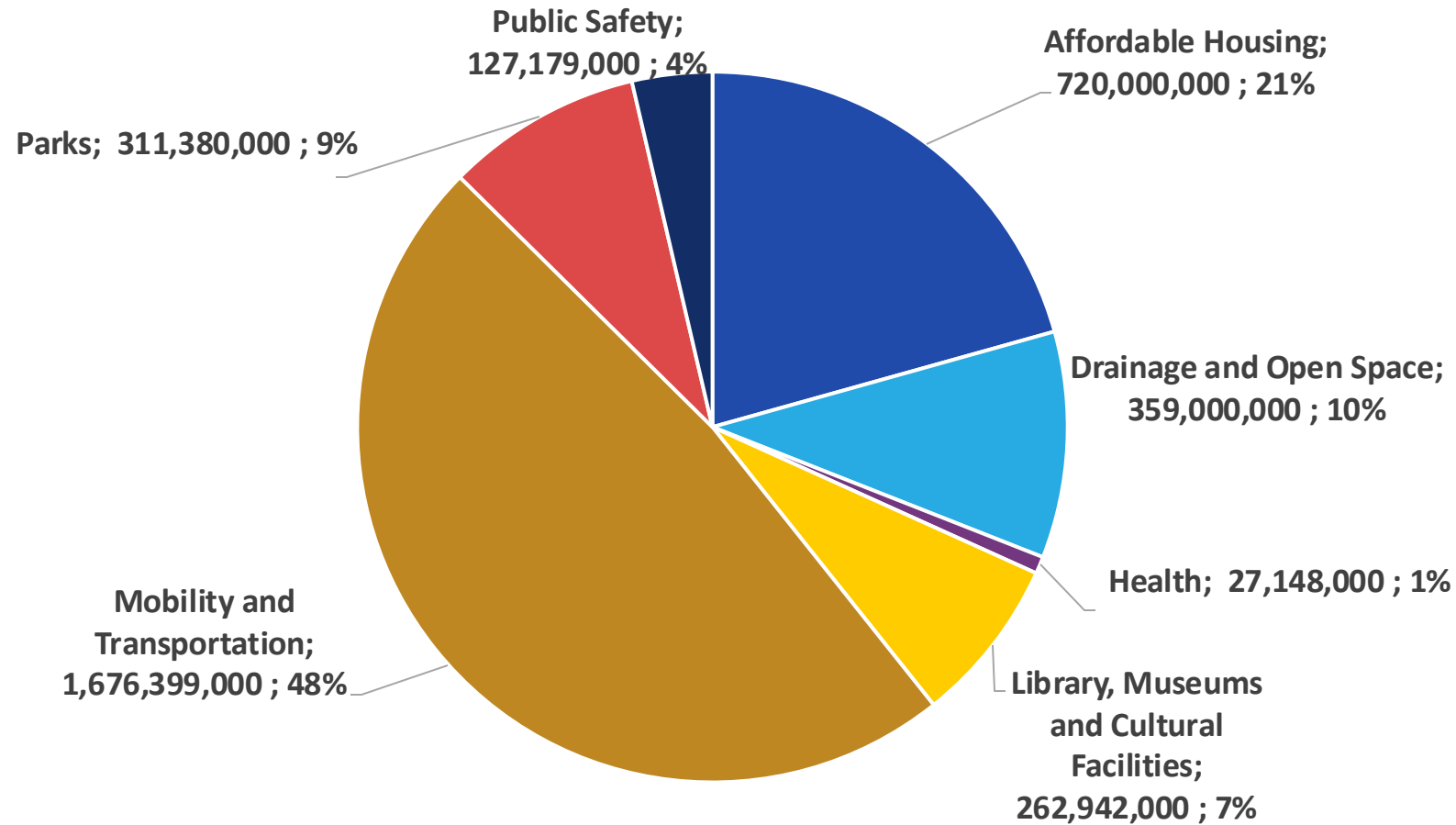
Kimberly Olivares,
Director, Financial Services Department



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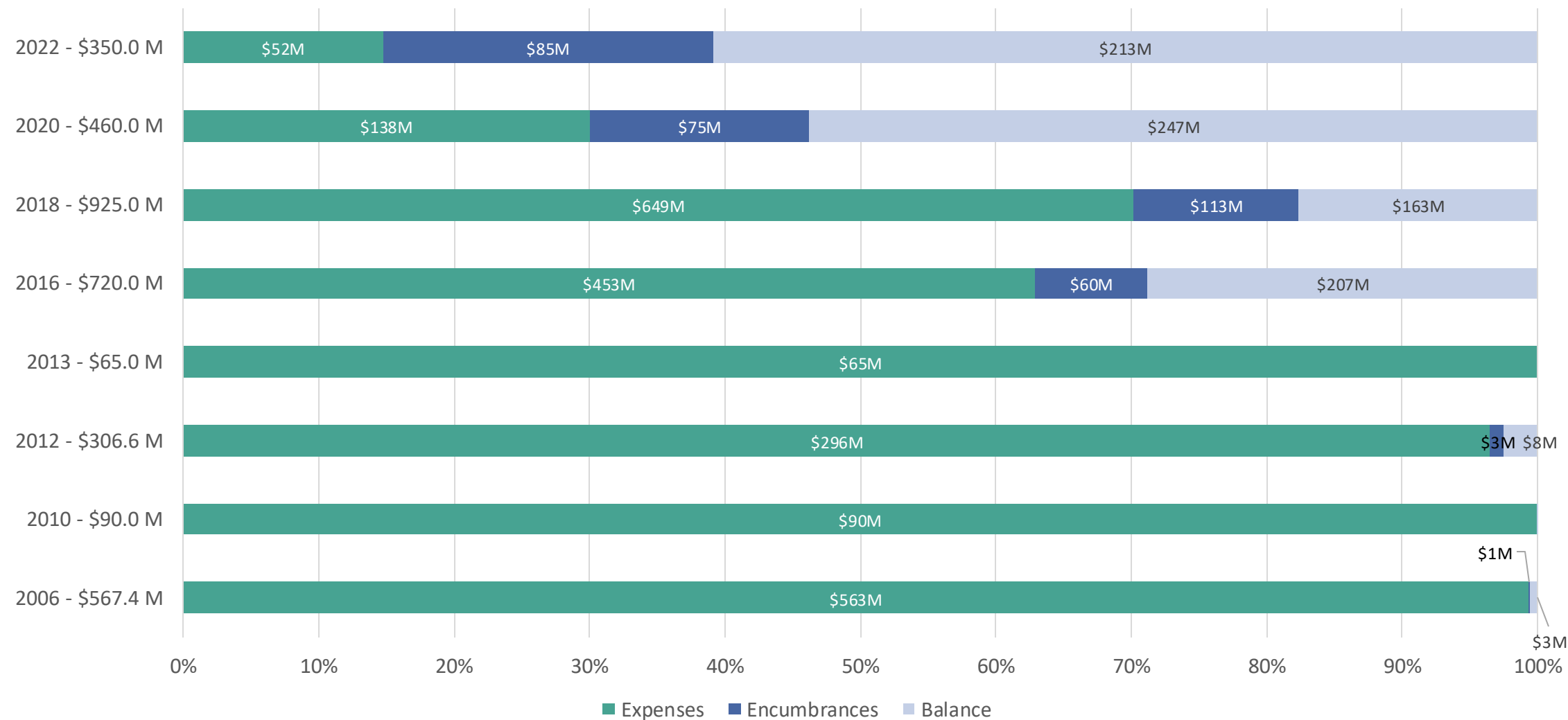
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Public Improvement Bonds – Aggregate Authorization by Category (2006 – 2022)



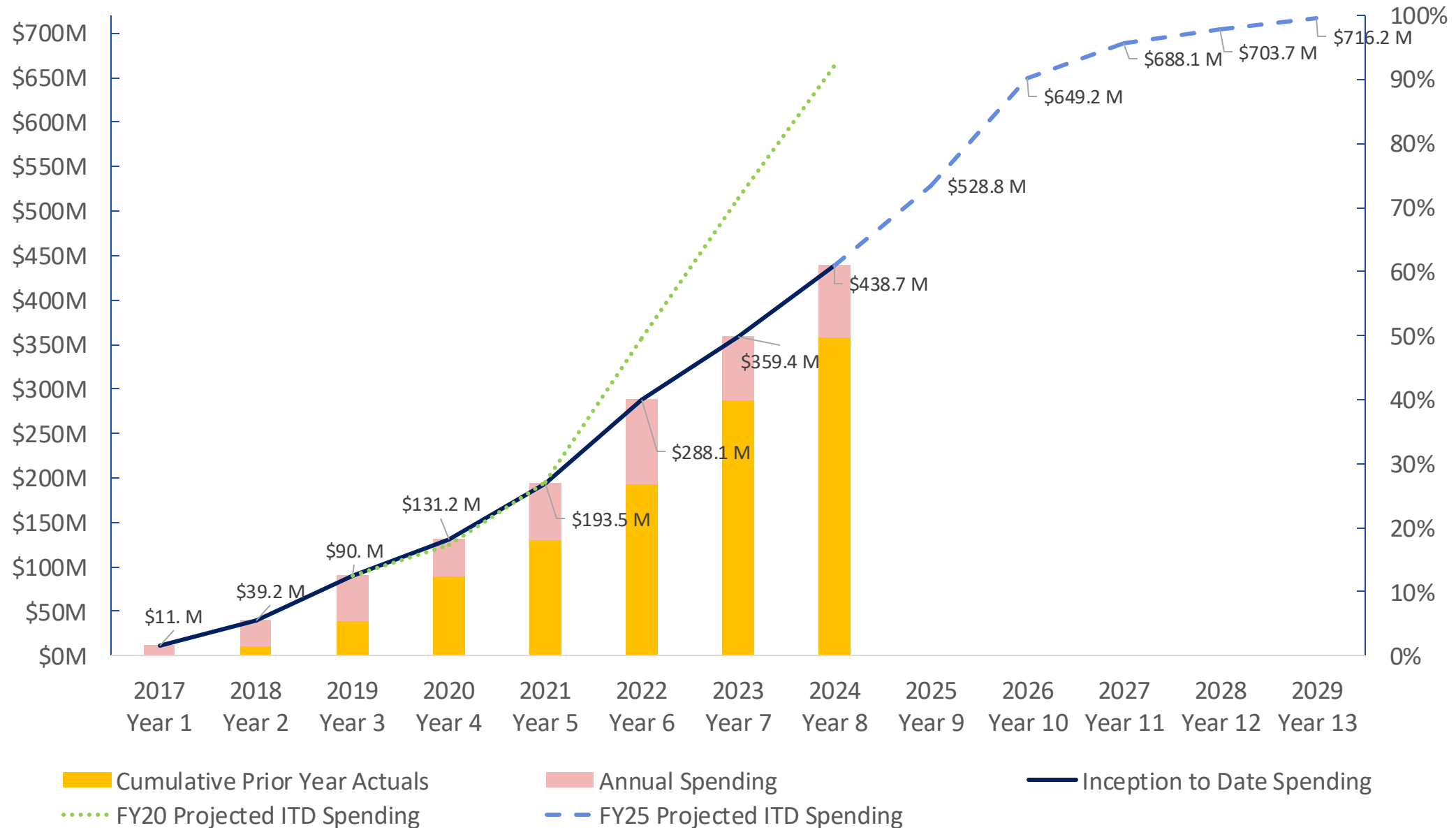
**\$3.5 Billion Total
PIB Authorization**

Public Improvement Bonds – Balance Status by Program (2006-2022)

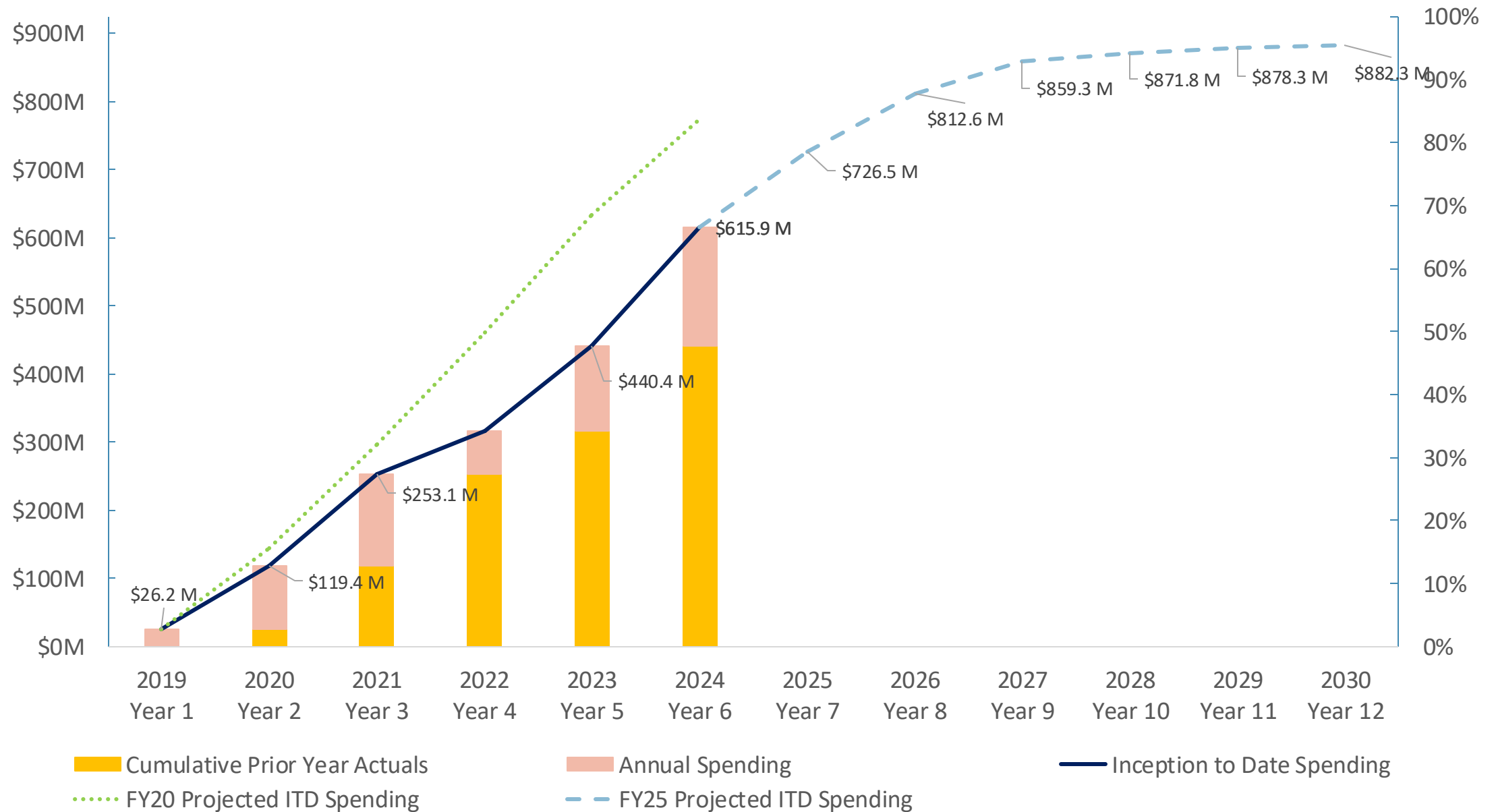


Data through Q1 FY25

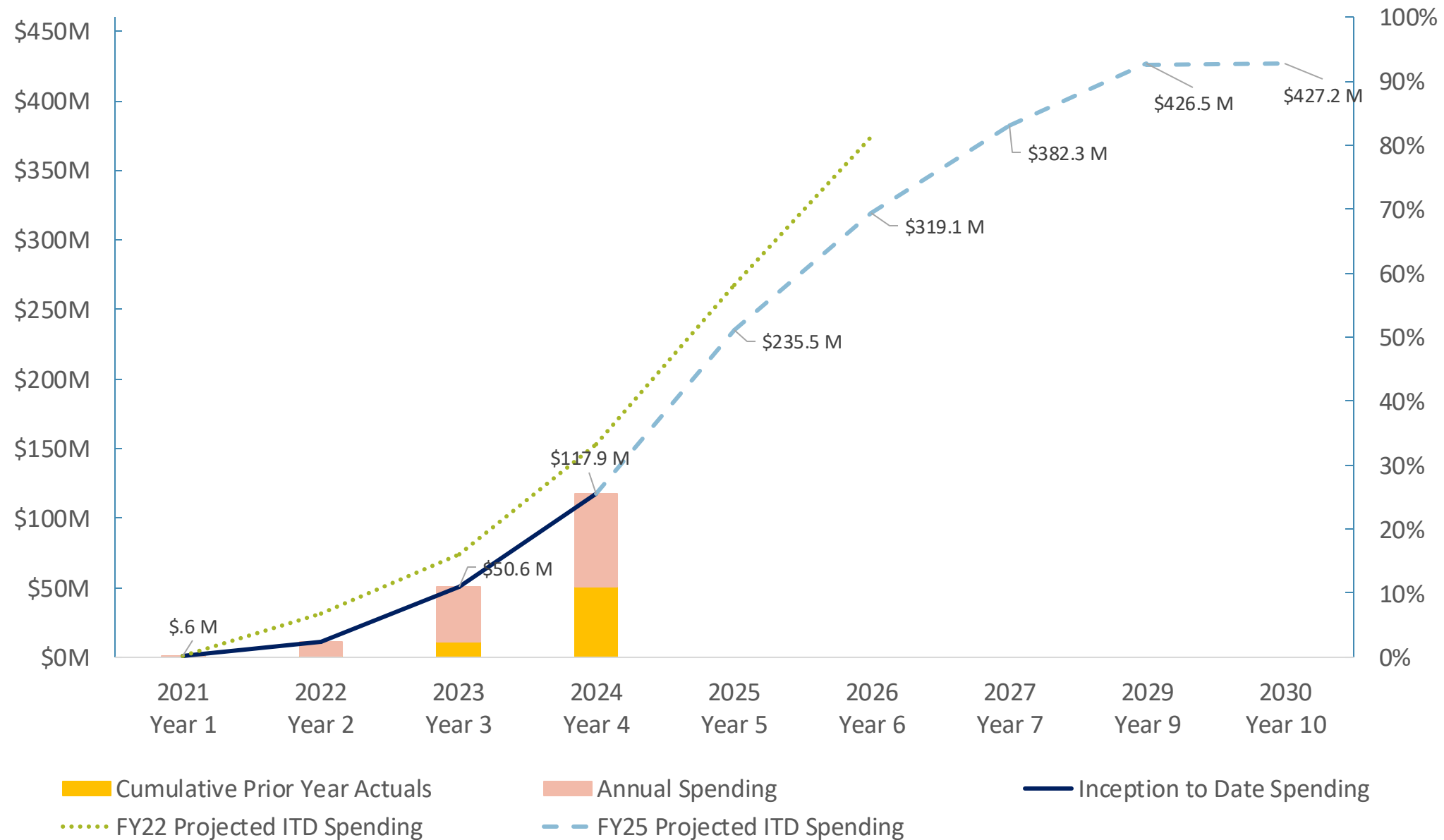
2016 Mobility Bond, \$720 Million



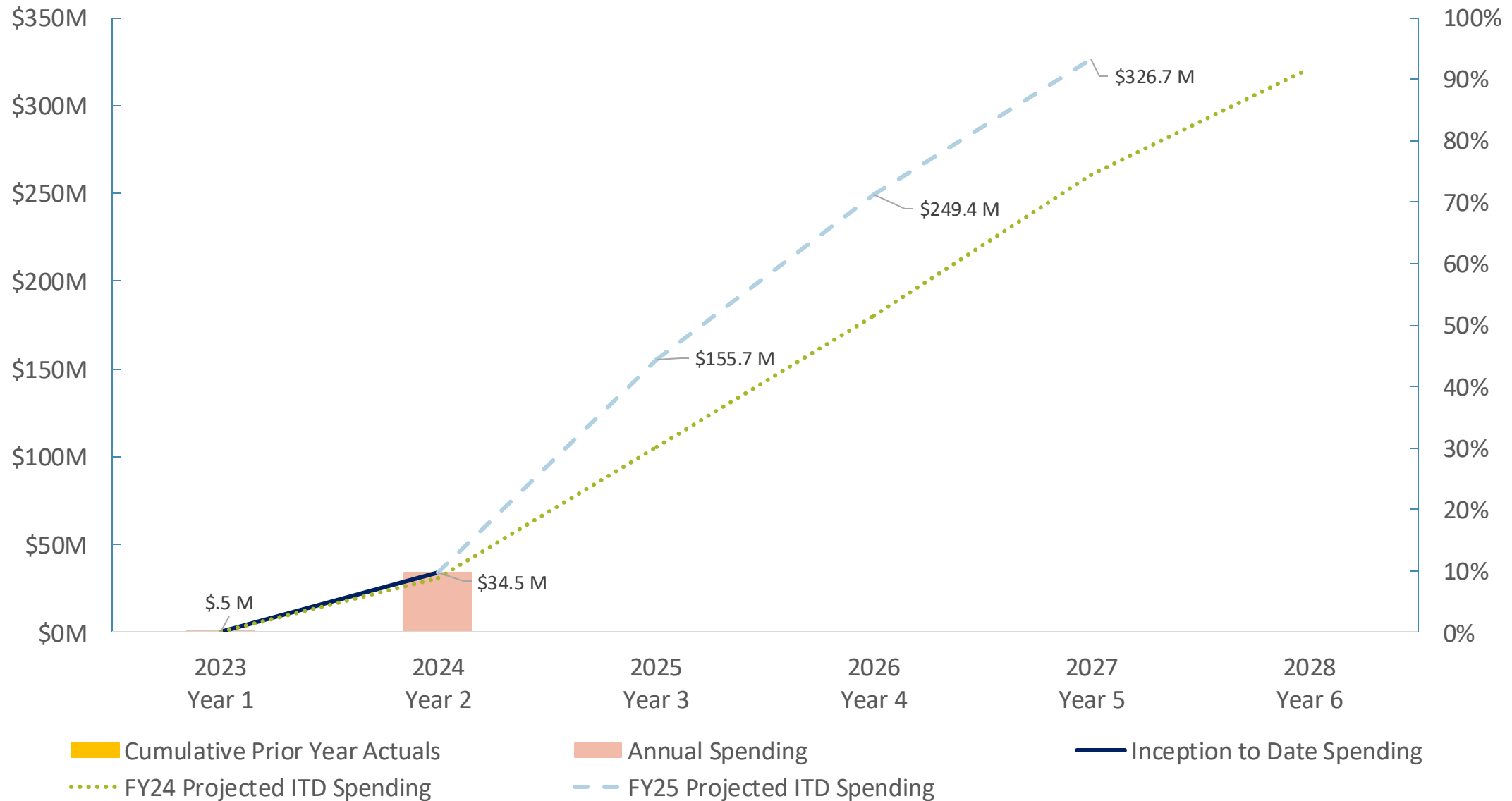
2018 Comprehensive Bond, \$925 million



2020 Mobility Bond, \$460 million



2022 Affordable Housing Bond, \$350 million



Debt Capacity Recommendation

- \$1.38 billion still to be sold for existing bond programs
- Financial metric impact
- Taxpayer Impact
 - Current debt service tax bill is \$402.91/year for typical taxpayer
 - Current typical taxpayer/homeowner assessed value is approximately \$525,000
 - Estimated impact to debt service tax bill for remaining authorized but unissued debt to support prior bond programs is \$201.67/year
- Bond Program Impact Estimates
 - Each \$100M of bonds is estimated to increase the debt service tax bill by \$14.26/year
- **Recommended maximum 2026 bond amount as of May 2025: \$687M**

Millions	Tax Bill Impact
\$100	\$14.26
\$200	\$28.52
\$300	\$42.78
\$400	\$57.04
\$500	\$71.30
\$600	\$85.56
\$700	\$99.82
\$800	\$114.08
\$900	\$128.34
\$1,000	\$142.60

Capital Delivery Services

2026 Bond Program Development Update



Kara M. Boyles, Director
Capital Delivery Services



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CAPITAL DELIVERY SERVICES

*Created in 2023 with the goal
of reducing project delivery
time*

Who we are

- Engineers
- Architects
- Project managers
- Community Engagement

Our partners

- Consultants
- Contracting teams
- City asset owners
- Community members
- Mayor & Council

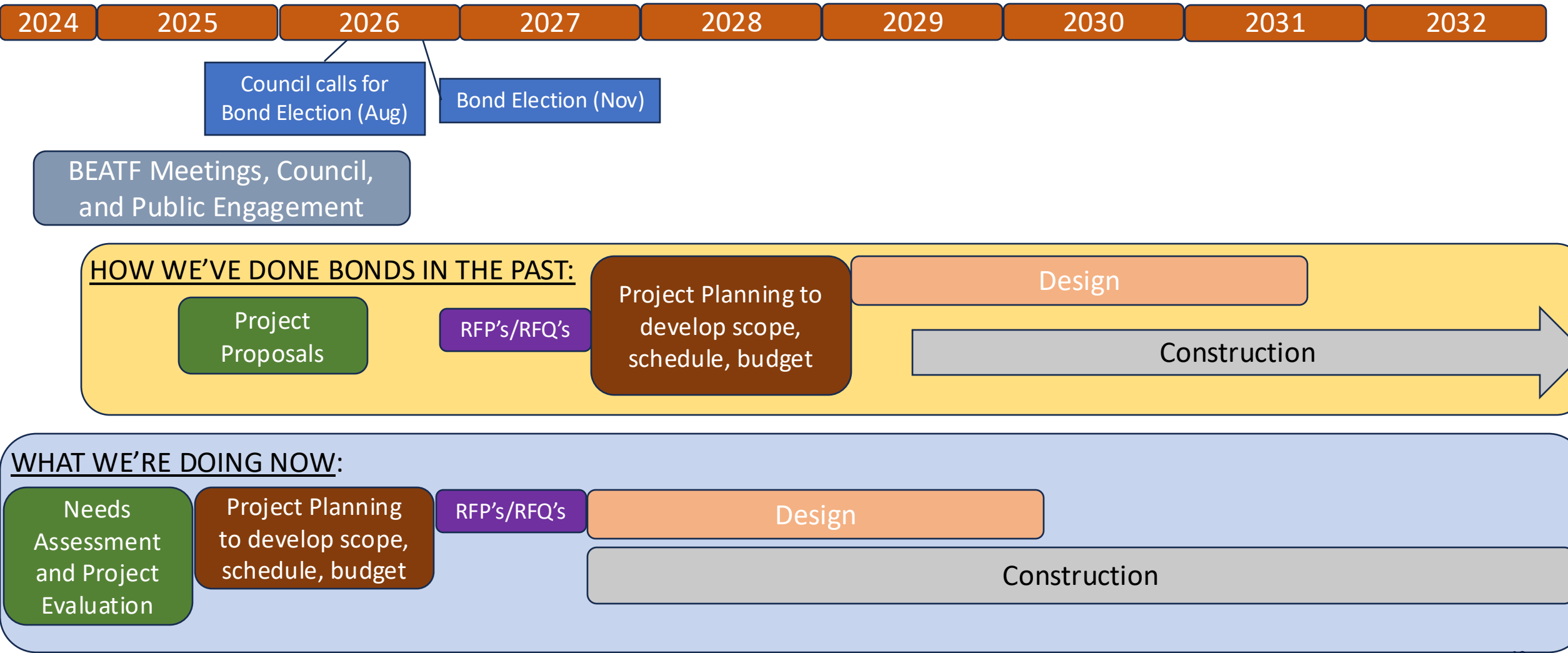


Role in 2026 Bond Program

One City – One Team – One Approach
to effectively and efficiently
deliver quality public projects.

- Convene City departments to develop needs assessment
- Guide the process to ensure projects are vetted and scopes/schedules/budgets are accurate and realistic
- Coordinate projects across departments to achieve mutual benefits

Improved Bond Delivery Process for 2026



2026 Bond Development – Process Timeline



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- ✓ Resolution 20240829-138 passed, formally creating the Bond Election Advisory Task Force: **August 2024**
- ✓ BEATF meetings started: **October 2024**
- ✓ Formal public engagement efforts initiated: **May 2025**
- Departments present previous bond spend summary, technical criteria, & scoring matrix: **March 2024 – July 2024**
- Phase I Community Input “Community Survey” Events: **May – June 2025**
- BEATF provides an update to Mayor & Council: **June 2025**
- City staff provides the initial prioritized list to BEATF: **July 2025**
- BEATF Working Groups meet to develop recommendation: **August 2025 – January 2026**
- Phase II Community Input “Town Hall” Events: **Sept - Oct 2025**
- Working Groups present recommendations to full BEATF: **Jan – April 2026**
- BEATF provides recommendation to Mayor & Council: **May 2026**
- City Staff provides final recommendation to Mayor & Council: **June 2026**
- Council bond work session; City Council finalizes bond package; calls for the bond election by **August 6, 2026**
- Bond Election: **Nov 2026**

Created a governance structure created to develop the 2026 bond program:

- ✓ Adopted Citywide Strategic Plan (CSP) anchors as Guiding Principles
- ✓ Developed bond-specific definitions of CSP anchors (Guiding Principles)
- ✓ Developed technical criteria and scoring matrices
- ✓ Developed the comprehensive capital improvements needs assessment - \$10.4 billion
- ✓ Developed the 6-year feasible capital improvements needs assessment \$4.4 billion
- ✓ Created the 2026 Bond website on SpeakUp Austin
- Ongoing development and coordination of program/project scope, schedule, & budget



Background:

- Used the Adopted Citywide Strategic Plan (CSP) anchors as Guiding Principles
- Each Asset Owner Department developed their own Technical Criteria and scoring matrix based on departmental needs/concerns/expertise.
- Departments will score their Needs Inventory with a maximum of a 100-point score
- Project Charters will be used during the scoring and evaluation process to further develop prioritized projects for increased consideration

Bond Program Guiding Principles and Definitions



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* Used the Adopted Citywide Strategic Plan (CSP) anchors as Guiding Principles

Equity

- Bond programs and projects improve quality of life outcomes for all residents, eliminate racial disparities, and mitigate unintended consequences in plans and implementation.

Affordability

- Programs and projects that improve the quality of life for community members while minimizing financial burdens.

Innovation

- Innovative bond projects work to deeply understand the challenges and needs of users and create new evidence-based solutions to solve them.

Sustainability & Resiliency

- Sustainability: Programs and projects include efforts to achieve net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions.
- Resilience: Actions that increase our ability to prepare for, withstand, and recover from shocks and stressors related to climate change.

Proactive Prevention

- Programs and projects improve the condition and/or function of existing assets and facilities, address a network or system service gap, and/or improve any of the social determinants of public safety and health domains.

Customer Trust & Relationships

- Intentionally incorporating engagement into programs and projects creates opportunities to increase trust with the community, provide transparency, and deliver on community expectations.

Equity Based Outcomes



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- The Equity Office collaborates with the departments throughout capital planning efforts
- Equity assessment is used to score project proposals via technical criteria & scoring matrices
- Project charters require departments to consider equity-based outcomes as part of the development process
- GIS mapping is used to identify underserved communities
- Anti-displacement considerations included in decision-making

Outcome:

- ✓ Ability to identify historically underfunded neighborhoods
- ✓ The departments are able to mitigate gentrification pressures
- ✓ Equity is embedded across departments, ensuring that investments in transportation, parks, housing, public safety, and infrastructure reflect shared equity goals.

Project Charter Questions – Created by Equity Office

Equity-Based Program or Project Outcomes

- ☐ Community members most impacted by the project or program are a part of decision-making processes.
- ☐ Project alleviates or improves disparities or disproportionalities for historically marginalized community members.
- ☐ Project team has identified potential unintended harmful consequences of implementing or not implementing this project and has created strategies for mitigating them.
- ☐ Project addresses needs that have been identified by historically marginalized community members.
- ☐ Project addresses, mitigates, and/or eliminates racial inequities, as validated by racial disparity data.
- ☐ Communities of color are actively and effectively engaged in multiple languages throughout the life cycle of the project.
- ☐ Other - (enter info)

Equity Based Outcomes – Department Criteria Example



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PARD Supplemental Technical Criteria & Scoring

For programs not already prioritized in existing studies

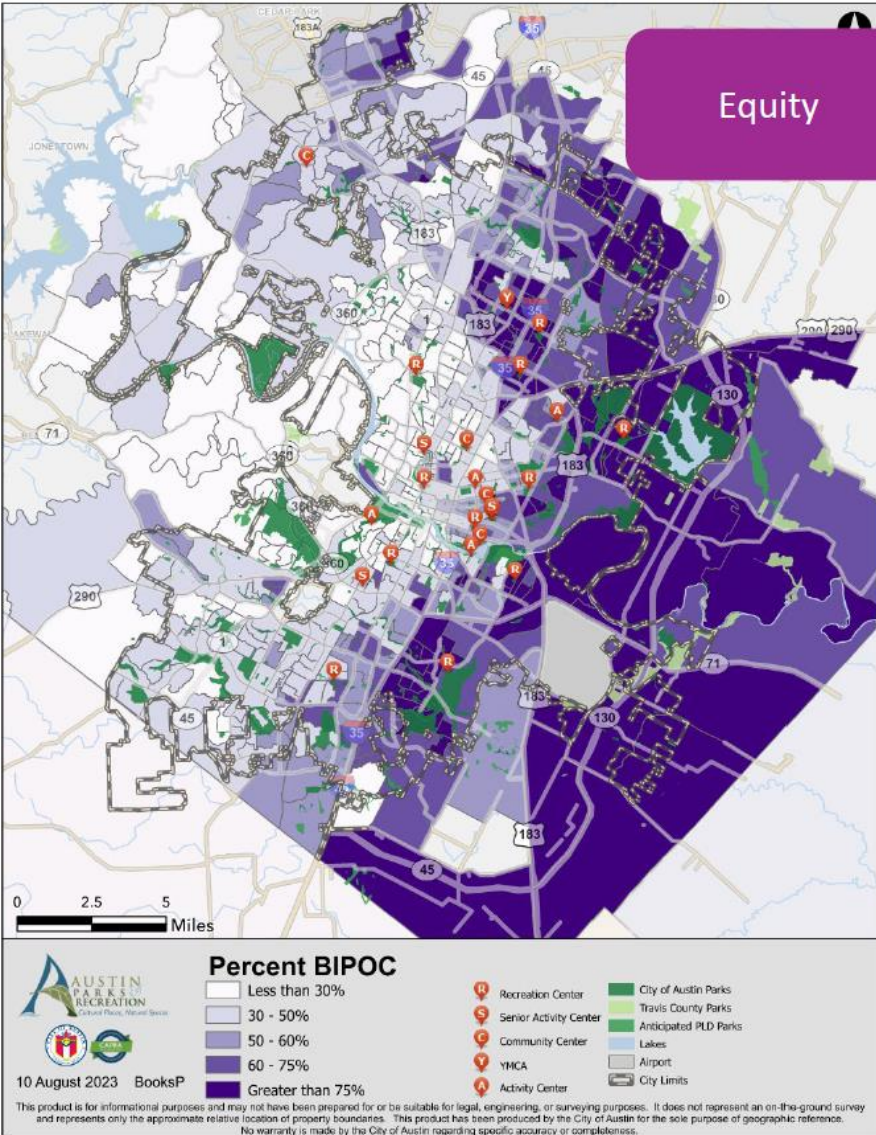
Percentage	Technical Criteria	Description
30%	Social Equity	Population served, Income of service area, People of color served, children served
25%	Proactive Reinvestment	Site/Building condition, Safety, Maintenance Costs, Reinvestment, Facility Usage, accessibility
20%	Sustainability & Resilience	Green infrastructure, resilience networks, sustainable design, energy efficiency, water usage
15%	Leveraging Funds and Partnership Opportunities	Ability to utilize matching funds from alternative sources such as grants, donations, partners, historic preservation fund, other city departments, etc
10%	Strategic Direction	Project aligns with existing city plans, PARD Long Range Plan, PARD vision plans, etc.
100%	Total	

Equity Based Outcomes – Departmental Criteria Example



Social Equity – 30%

Technical Criteria	Maximum Points
Location with higher percentage Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)	6
Location with higher crude prevalence of negative health outcomes such as asthma, obesity, physical inactivity, and diabetes	6
Location with higher percentage of population ages 18 or below	5
Project or location serves historical cultural significance for a marginalized community	5
Location within area with high forecasted population growth	4
Location with population below 40% median household income	4



Sustainability and Resilience are integrated into capital projects/programs

New Construction for Capital Improvement Projects:

All new construction projects which the City of Austin will be primarily responsible for through project ownership and/or operations; **AND** have a construction cost of **\$2,000,000 or more** (exclusive of land costs and furniture, fixtures and equipment)

Must meet a minimum required performance of:

- US Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification; **OR**
- Austin Energy Green Building (AEGB) Three-Star Rating; **OR**
- If the project will be owned or operated by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD), aquatic facilities and landscape-oriented must achieve Sustainable SITES Certified. Building projects that will be owned or operated by PARD, such as cultural centers, recreation centers, and office buildings should achieve LEED or AEGB ratings as outlined above; **OR**
- If the project scope does not qualify for an overall LEED certification, AEGB rating, or SITES certification, the project should meet the LEED, AEGB, or SITES standards for every category that is applicable; **AND**
- Perform feasibility analyses for 1) rooftop solar installation, 2) avoidance of natural gas, 3) use of auxiliary or non-potable water sources, and 4) provision of EV charging stations. Consult the Public Works Department's Project Management Manual for guidance

Sustainability & Resilience Based Outcomes



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- Council authorized an update to the green building resolution in 2021 reinforcing the City of Austin's commitment to green building and sustainability
- OCAR collaborates with the departments throughout capital planning efforts
- Sustainable and resiliency assessment is used to score project proposals via technical criteria & scoring matrices
- Project charters require departments to consider “Sustainable” and “Resilience” based outcomes as part of the development process

Outcome:

- ✓ The City of Austin's facility portfolio is leading the way in conserving energy, water and other natural resources, promoting human health, safety and wellness, and ensuring a high-quality built environment
- ✓ The City's commitment to-date is demonstrated by our significant portfolio of LEED certified or Austin Energy Green Building rated projects

Project Charter Questions – Created by OCAR

Sustainability- and Resilience-Based Program or Project Outcomes

- ☐ The project includes scope that reduces community heat impacts (new shade structures, additional trees, etc.)
- ☐ Project increases adaptive capacity by considering additional road ingress/egress options, redundant communication, EV chargers for emergencies, and other redundant necessities.
- ☐ For facility projects, the building is designed to reduce climate risk.
- ☐ For facility projects, backup power is included (solar w/battery backup, dual feed, etc.)
- ☐ Project supports access without a single occupancy vehicle. (e.g. project includes or supports biking, walking, transit infrastructure)
- ☐ For facility projects, the project will exceed the City's Green Building Policy with a higher rating, WELL certification, or achieve Net Zero carbon.
- ☐ Project has a Life Cycle Carbon Assessment and committed to actions that lower the embodied carbon footprint of the project.
- ☐ For facility projects, a plan is in place to actively manage and maintain the building in a way that reduces waste, water, and energy use when in operation.
- ☐ Project includes a sustainable site design that uses natural systems to capture carbon and reduce emissions associated with landscaping.
- ☐ Other - (enter info)

Sustainability & Resilience Based Outcomes – Department Criteria Example



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- Will the project create infrastructure to **support public & active transit** with zero-emission vehicles?
- Does the project improve access to transit or improve transit speed and reliability (**Transit Priority Network**)?
- What level of **Bicycle Facility Improvements** does the project provide?
- What function does the project play in addressing **climate resilience**?
- What types of **green infrastructure** does the project provide?
- Is low carbon concrete an option for the project?

TPW prioritizes Sustainability & Resiliency by

- Including green infrastructure as part of project scopes
- Building projects that provide transportation choices that reduce carbon emissions
- Providing a resilient transportation network that can serve needs during emergencies

Bicycle and Sidewalk Facilities; Crossing Improvements



Bond Election Advisory Task Force

2026 Bond Program Development Update



Mary Hager, Chair
Bond Election Advisory Task Force



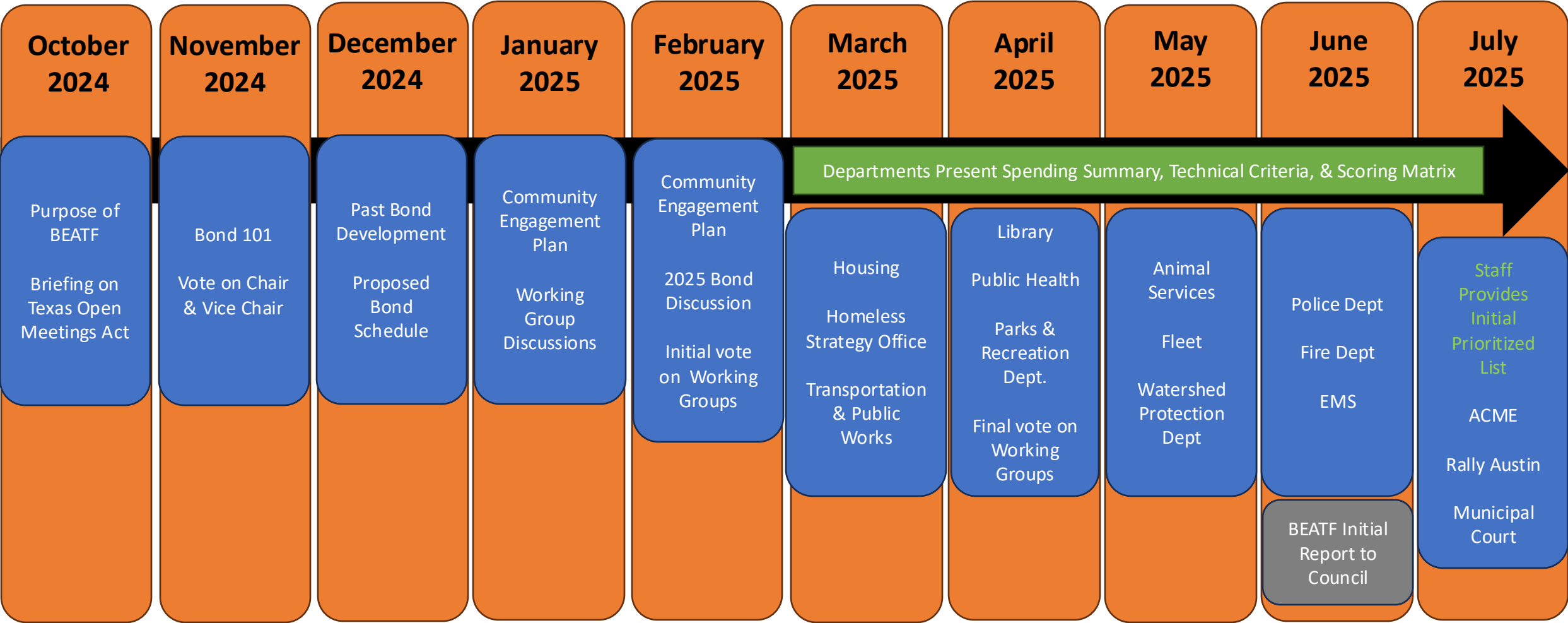
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BEATF Task Force Members

District		22 Appointments		District	
Name				Name	
MO	Garry Merritt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 2025 full BEATF was appointed• 2 Appointed by Mayor• 2 Appointed per Council Member• The Task Force will dissolve upon Council's adoption of the ballot language for the bond election. <div><h3>BEATF's Roles & Responsibilities</h3><div><div>Serve in an advisory role</div><div>Consider community input</div><div>Consider and recommend potential projects to Council for 2026 Bond Program</div></div></div>		D6	Tina Cannon
MO	Nicole Conley			D6	Robert Fiedler
D1	Dewi Smith			D7	Jeremy Hendricks
D1	Luke Metzger			D7	Donald Jackson
D2	Frances Jordan, Vice Chair			D8	JC Dwyer
D2	Ana Aguirre			D8	Katrina Miller
D3	Kaiba White			D9	Dave Sullivan
D3	Rachel Stone			D9	Heyden Walker
D4	Kenneth Standley			D10	Charles Curry
D4	Benjamin Suddaby			D10	Mary Hager, Chair
D5	Noelita Lugo				
D5	Bo Delp				

BEATF Work to Date



Working Groups for 2026 Bond



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Working Group	Example Programs
Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing Programs; Homeless Shelters and Resource Centers
Parkland & Open Space	Aquatics; Athletics; Parkland Improvements; Infrastructure; Playscapes Land Acquisition Programs (e.g., Parkland; Water Quality Protection Lands; Balcones Canyonland Preserve)
Investments in Facilities & Assets	New Facilities or Building Renovations & Additions; Partnership Opportunities
Stormwater	Drainage and Water Quality Improvements; Partnership Opportunities; Community Resilience Programs
Transportation & Electrification Infrastructure	Street Reconstruction & Rehabilitation; Bridges and Structures; Corridor Improvements; Substandard Streets; Sidewalks; Vision Zero; Safe Routes to School; Bikeways; Signals & Technology; Urban trails; Neighborhood Partnering Program; Transit Enhancements
Community Engagement	SpeakUp Austin, public surveys, printed materials (post cards, flyers, etc.), town halls, community presentations and much more!

Affordable Housing Working Group



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Working Group Members

Rachel Stone, Chair

Nicole Conley

Dewi Smith

Benjamin Suddaby

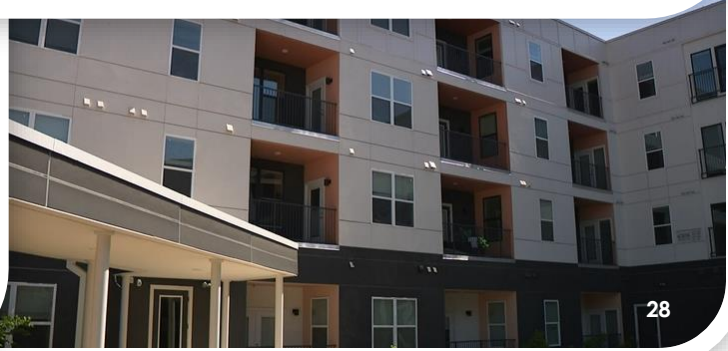
Noelita L Lugo

Donald Jackson

David Sullivan

Evaluating Need(s)

Funding for programs and projects to support the affordable housing & homeless goals of the city.



Investments in Facilities & Assets Working Group



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Working Group Members

Kaiba White, Chair

Nicole Conley

Rachel Stone

Robert Delp

Tina Cannon

Jeremy Hendricks

David Sullivan

Charles Curry

Evaluating Need(s)

Funding for capital renewal projects for various City departments, including ACME, Public Safety, Libraries, Public Health, Animal Services, Municipal Courts, etc.



Parkland & Open Space Working Group



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Working Group Members

Garry Merritt, Chair

Benjamin Suddaby

Robert Fiedler

Donald Jackson

Heyden Walker

Mary Hager

Evaluating Need(s)

Funding for the acquisition of parkland and open space.



Stormwater Working Group



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Working Group Members

Nicole Conley

Ana Aguirre

Frances Jordan

Robert Fiedler

Jeremy Hendricks

Katrina Miller

Evaluating Need(s)

Funding for drainage improvements and flood mitigation projects throughout the city.



Transportation & Electrification Working Group



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Working Group Members

Tina Cannon, Chair

Garry Merritt

Luke Metzger

Kaiba White

Kenneth Standley

Katrina Miller

JC Dwyer

Heyden Walker

Evaluating Need(s)

Funding for capital renewal projects for the city's *existing* transportation network



Community Engagement Working Group



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Working Group Members

Frances Jordan

Ana Aguirre

Kaiba White

Noelita L Lugo

Evaluating Needs

Engaging and informing Austinites through City channels as well as relationships with non-profits, residential associations, community leaders, education centers, and many others.

2026 BOND

Shape Austin's future.

A General Obligation (GO) Bond is a funding tool that allows cities to borrow money to pay for major community projects like streets, libraries, or open spaces.

Influence how bond dollars are invested. Participate in meetings, take our survey, and share your thoughts online to help inform the decision-making process.

Call Austin 311 for more information, or visit:
www.AustinTexas.gov/Bond2026

2026 BOND

Shape Austin's 2026 Bond

English | Español | 繁體中文 | العربية | ភាសាខ្មែរ | Français | 日本語

Influence how bond dollars are invested. Join the conversation and help shape the future of our city!

Bond2026?

2024, Austin's City Council directed the City Manager to bring a comprehensive bond package to approve through an election by November 2026.

a General Obligation (GO) Bond?

As other cities, use General Obligation (GO) Bonds to fund long-term investments in infrastructure. GO Bonds allow cities to borrow money to pay for major community projects like streets, libraries, or open spaces.

Council Resolution

July 2024: City Council passes Resolution No. 2024-0026, directing the City Manager to create a Bond package for Austinites to approve through an election by November 2026.

Next Steps



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- Engage with community: **October 2024 – April 2026**
- Continue to discuss and provide input on department's technical criteria and scoring matrices: **March – July 2025**
- Staff provides the BEATF with initial project/program list: **July 2025**
- Working Groups meet to develop recommendations: **August 2025 – January 2026**
- BEATF develops final recommendations : **January – April 2026**
- BEATF provides recommendation to Mayor & Council: **May 2026**

