



2026 BEATF Final Recommendation

Bond Election Advisory Task Force | May 4th, 2026

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BEATF Members



Council Member	District	Name	Working Groups	
Watson	MO	Nicole Conley	Affordable Housing	Investments in Facilities & Assets
Watson	MO	Garry Merritt	Parkland & Open Space (Chair)	Transportation & Electrification (Co-Chair)
Harper-Madison	D1	Luke Metzger	Transportation & Electrification	--
Harper-Madison	D1	Andrew Kogler	Parkland & Open Space	--
Fuentes	D2	Ana Aguirre	Stormwater (Chair)	--
Fuentes	D2	Frances Jordan, Vice Chair	--	--
Velasquez	D3	Rachel Stone	Affordable Housing (Chair)	Investments in Facilities & Assets
Velasquez	D3	Kaiba White	Investments in Facilities & Assets (Chair)	Transportation & Electrification (Co-Chair)
Vela	D4	Kenneth Standley	Transportation & Electrification	--
Vela	D4	Benjamin Suddaby	Affordable Housing	Parkland & Open Space
Alter	D5	Rich DePalma	Stormwater	Parkland & Open Space
Alter	D5	Noelita Lugo	Affordable Housing	--
Laine	D6	Robert Fiedler	Investments in Facilities & Assets	Parkland & Open Space
Laine	D6	Tina Cannon	Investments in Facilities & Assets	Transportation & Electrification
Siegel	D7	Donald Jackson	Affordable Housing	Parkland & Open Space
Siegel	D7	Jeremiah Hendricks	Investments in Facilities & Assets	--
Ellis	D8	JC Dwyer	Investments in Facilities & Assets	--
Ellis	D8	Katrina Miller	Transportation & Electrification	--
Qadri	D9	Dave Sullivan	Affordable Housing	Investments in Facilities & Assets
Qadri	D9	Heyden Walker	Parkland & Open Space	Transportation & Electrification
Duchen	D10	Charles Curry	Investments in Facilities & Assets	--
Duchen	D10	Mary Hager, Chair	Parkland & Open Space	--

2026 Bond Development — Parameters



On July 18, 2024, City Council adopted [Resolution No. 20240718-093](#) directing the City Manager to bring City Council a comprehensive bond package that funds and addresses climate, infrastructure, and any other public improvements for the purpose of conducting an election no later than November 2026.

On August 29, 2024, City Council approved [Resolution No. 20240829-138](#) establishing the Bond Election Advisory Task Force (BEATF). Established to consider projects identified through public engagement; projects that are within the scope of a needs assessment and funding priorities recommended by City staff; and projects aligned with recommendations from City adopted plans and reports listed in Resolution No. 20240829-138.

On September 26, 2024, City Council approved [Resolution No. 20240926-075](#), directing the City Manager to expand the priority areas for BEATF evaluation to include indoor play spaces, a metropolitan water playground, non-congregate shelter, permanent supportive housing, respite and recovery housing, and resilience upgrades to City facilities. This Resolution also directed the development of an open process for receiving community proposals and establishing a method to solicit interest from local nonprofits and community organizations for potential partnership opportunities.

2026 Bond Development – Timeline



- Call for projects from City departments: **June 2024**
- Departments created guiding principles, technical criteria, and scoring matrix: **June – December 2024**
- **BEATF created: October 2024**
- Departments scored and prioritized projects: **January – July 2025**
- Departments presented guiding principles, technical criteria, scoring matrixes to BEATF: **March - July 2025**
- Staff provided a summary of Survey I findings: **July 2025**
- Staff released a \$3.9B initial prioritized bond project list: **July 2025**
- **Departments presented programs and projects to BEATF Working Groups: September – December 2025**
- Project Review Board met and scored projects and programs: **October 2025**
- **3 BEATF-led listening sessions and summary of findings: November - December 2025**
- Staff Initial Draft Bond recommendation released: **January 2026**
- 5 Open House events and Survey II released: **February 2026**
- **BEATF Working Groups presented draft recommendations to Task Force: January – March 2026**
- **BEATF Final Recommendation: May 4th, 2026**

2026 Bond Development — Debt Capacity



On January 14, 2026, Austin Financial Services (AFS) presented to City Council’s Audit and Finance Committee on the [General Obligation Bond Capacity](#). It was recommended that the bond election be set at an amount not to exceed \$750 million.

- Every \$100 million additional debt is projected to increase a typical Austin resident’s annual tax bill by \$14.34.
- Debt service portions of a typical Austin resident’s annual tax bill are projected to increase from \$450/year to \$615/year by FY 2030 with no additional bond election.

2026 Bond Development — Engagement



3 BEATF-led Listening Sessions provided an opportunity to listen to detailed, real concerns, and project ideas directly from community members.

Key Takeaways:

- Housing affordability and homelessness dominate across all categories, with strong support for city-owned, deeply affordable housing.
- Equitable distribution of parks, libraries, and cultural facilities north of 183 is a recurring theme, highlighting geographic inequities.
- Climate resilience and sustainability was central, with community members pushing for clean energy, stormwater management, and tree canopy expansion.
- Cultural identity and community spirit were seen as Austin’s strengths, and advocates wanted bond projects to protect and expand these assets.
- Transparency and equity in project selection were critical concerns, especially around senior centers and cultural facilities.

2026 Bond Development — Considerations



BEATF members created and voted on a scoring framework to score projects and programs prior to creating their working group recommendations.

- **Financial Considerations**

- Is this project/program a smart use of taxpayer money?

- **Equity and Access**

- Does this project/program help communities that have been underserved?

- **Community Support**

- Does this project/program respond to requests from the public?

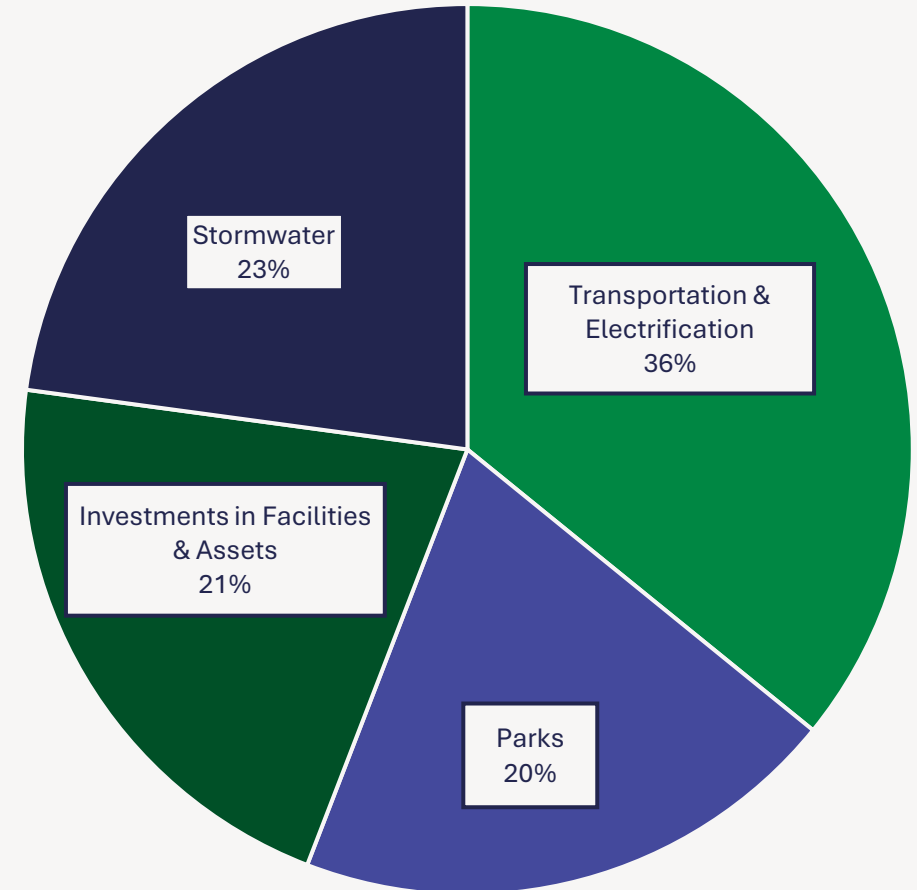
- **Environmentally Beneficial**

- Does this project/program help or hurt the City's environmental goals?

Staff Initial Draft Recommendation



Categories	Projects/Programs	Recommended Funding (\$M)
Transportation	Bridges	8
	Bikeways	15
	Sidewalks	33
	Urban Trails	30
	ACT Plan (6 th Street)	20
	Street Rehabilitation	96
	Neighborhood Partnering	2
	Safety Improvements	47
Watershed	Infrastructure Projects	125
	Resilience Program	3
	Partnerships	15
	Small Scale & Asset Management	7
	Open Space Land Acquisition	10
Parks	Building Maintenance & Replacement	55
	Senior & Recreation Center Maintenance & Replacement	10
	Infrastructure	5
	Aquatics	15
	Acquisition	40
	Improvements	15
Community Facilities	Hampton at Oak Hill Branch Renovation & Expansion	20
	Fleet Land Acquisition	10
	Animal Service Center Campus Improvements	3
	Homeless Resource Center & Shelter	25
Public Safety	Canyon Creek Police Substation	62
	Fire Station #26 Renovation (includes EMS)	29



Total
\$700M

BEATF Working Groups Initial Recommendations



- Affordable Housing
- Investment in Facilities & Assets
- Parkland & Open Space
- Stormwater
- Transportation & Electrification

Affordable Housing Working Group's Initial Recommendation



	Low (\$M)	Medium (\$M)	High (\$M) Recommendation
Homeless Strategy Office	45	47	50
Development of Affordable Housing	105	145	320
Total	150	192	370

Parkland & Open Space Working Group's Initial Recommendation



Program/Project	Low (\$M)	Medium (\$M)	High (\$M)
Building Renovations & Replacements	63	65	72.5
Parkland Acquisition	32	40	50
Aquatics	17.5	20	30
Infrastructure	--	15	15
Improvements	--	--	10
Senior & Recreation Center Maintenance & Replacement	--	10	10
Total	112.5	150	187.5

Investment in Facilities & Assets Working Group's Initial Recommendation



Program/Project	Low (\$M)	Medium (\$M)	High (\$M)
Colony Park Public Health Center	42	42	42
Northeast Public Health Center	51	51	51
Colony Park Branch Library	58.8	58.8	58.8
Animal Service Center Campus Improvements	3	40	40
George Washington Carver Museum – Ph 1a & 1b	--	--	17
Municipal Court Customer Service Center	--	--	10
Total	154.8	191.8	218.8

Stormwater Working Group's Initial Recommendation



Project/Program	Initial Draft Recommendation (\$M)
Open Space Acquisition	10
Small Scale Stormwater & Drainage Asset Management Opportunities	7
Stormwater & Drainage Partnership Opportunities	15
Stormwater Resilience Program	3
Tannehill Creek - Bartholomew Park Stormwater Treatment Retrofit	1.4
Walnut Creek - North Acres Storm Drain Improvements	21.3
Tannehill Creek - Morris Williams Stormwater Improvements	8.5
Boggy Creek - Kealing Park Green Infrastructure Retrofit	1.3
Walnut Creek - McNeil Drive Low Water Crossing Improvements	1.5
Lady Bird Lake - West Austin Park Water Quality Retrofits	2.6
Colorado River - CAPEX Water Quality Control	21.7
Williamson Creek - Brassiewood Dr Ph 3 Neighborhood Stormdrain Improvements	20
Boggy Creek - MLK TOD Stormwater Conveyance Improvements Phase 3	1.5
Waller Creek - Guadalupe St Flood Risk Reduction Project Ph 1-3	35
Little Walnut Creek - Loyola Lane & Dottie Jordan Park Stream Stabilization	4
Country Club Creek (Between Metcalfe & Oltorf) Wastewater Improvements	5.5
Dry Creek North - Highland Hills Low Water Crossing Improvements	1.1
East Bouldin - Annie Street Flood Risk Reduction Project - Phase 2	4.5
Slaughter Creek - Vassal Dr Flood Risk Reduction Project - Phase 1	6.4
Total	160

Transportation & Electrification Working Group's Initial Recommendation



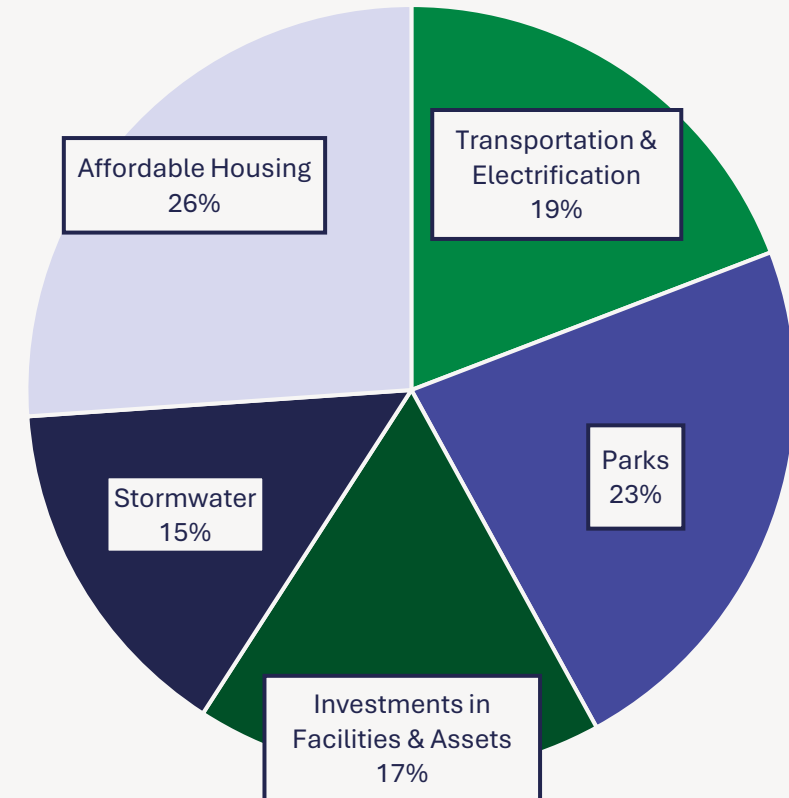
Program/Project	Low (\$M)	Medium (\$M)	High (\$M)
Sidewalks	60	65	76
Vision Zero	10	30	46
Safe Routes to School	5	10	15
Urban Trails	9.5	10	10
Bikeways	10	15	15
Transit Enhancements	5	6	7
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	5	6	7
Bridge Reconstruction & Replacement	8	8	8
Street Reconstruction & Replacement	--	--	19.5
Total	112.5	187.5	251

2026 BEATF Final Recommendation (\$766M)



Categories	Projects/Programs	Recommended Funding (\$M)	Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MT CO _{2e})
Transportation	Bridges	8	10,667
	Bikeways	15	-861
	Sidewalks	60	-3,375
	Urban Trails	10	-372
	Safe Routes to Schools	10	-1,143
	Vision Zero	25	-1,582
	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	13	-151,771
	Transit Enhancements	6	-827
Watershed	Infrastructure Projects	75.4	73,359
	Resilience Program	3	0
	Partnerships	14	11,273
	Small Scale & Asset Management	9	7,247
	Open Space Land Acquisition	12	-3,508
Parks	Building Maintenance & Replacement	60	6,284
	Senior & Rec Center Maintenance & Replacement	20	3,186
	Infrastructure	10	21
	Aquatics	40	4,000
	Acquisition	45	-13,154
Community Facilities	Colony Park Public Health Center/Branch Library	85	7,920
	George Washington Carver Museum – Ph 1a & 1b	18	3,768
	Animal Service Center Campus Improvements	3	628
	Homeless Resource Center & Shelter	25	4,605
Affordable Housing	Housing Programmatic Buckets	200	12,240

Recommended Funding



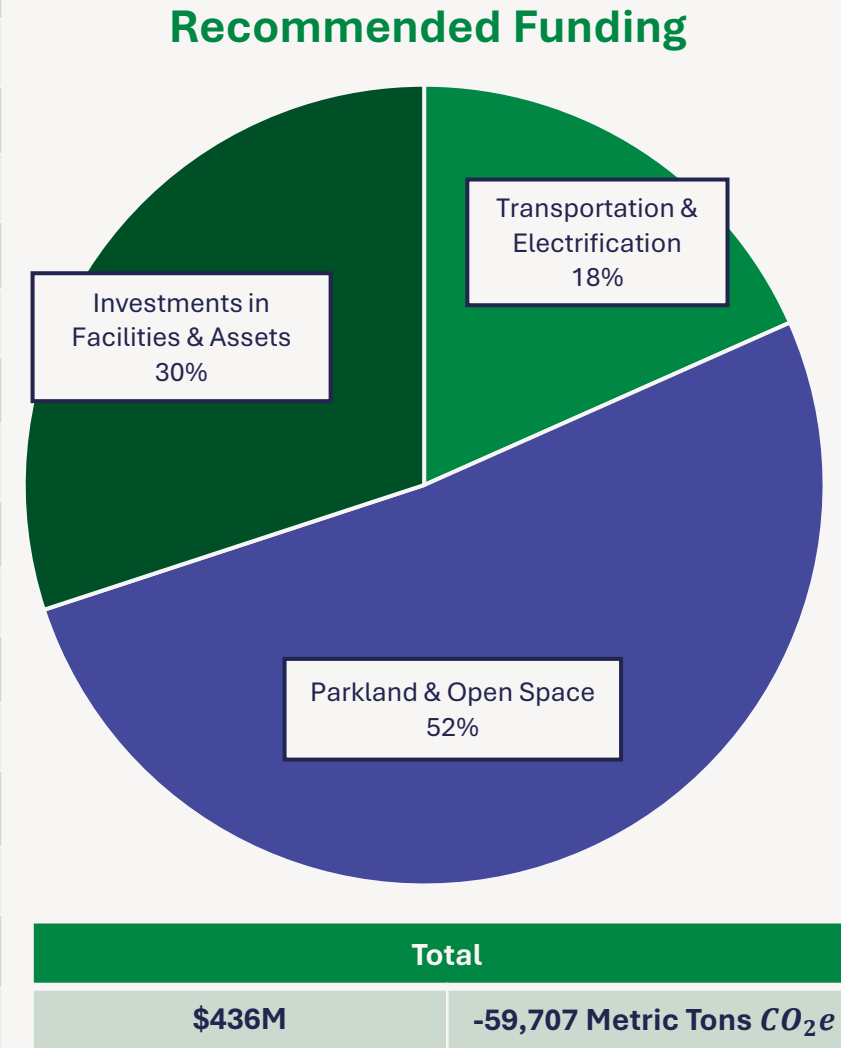
Total	
\$766M	-31,396 Metric Tons CO _{2e}

2026 BEATF Final Recommendation (\$436M)

(based on City Council Sub-Quorum direction)



Categories	Projects/Programs	Recommended Funding (\$M)	Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MT CO _{2e})
Transportation	Bikeways	9	-516
	Sidewalks	30	-1,687
	Urban Trails	8	-298
	Safe Routes to Schools	8	-915
	Vision Zero	16	-1,012
	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	6	-70,048
	Transit Enhancements	3	-414
Parks	Building Maintenance & Replacement	60	6,284
	Improvements	30	62
	Infrastructure	20	41
	Aquatics	65	6,500
	Acquisition	50	-14,615
Community Facilities	Colony Park Public Health Center/Branch Library	85	7,910
	George Washington Carver Museum – Ph 1a & 1b	18	3,768
	Animal Service Center Campus Improvements	3	628
	Homeless Resource Center & Shelter	25	4,605



2026 BEATF Final Recommendation (\$436M)

(based on City Council Sub-Quorum direction)



BEATF WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS - SUBQUORUM OPTION		Updated 5.4.26							
\$	436,000,000.00	(59,707) MT CO ₂ e							
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE	TOTAL	Building Renovations and Replacements	Parkland Acquisition	Aquatic Program	Parkland Infrastructure Program	Parkland Improvements			
	\$	225,000,000.00	\$ 60,000,000.00	\$ 50,000,000.00	\$ 65,000,000.00	\$ 20,000,000.00	\$ 30,000,000.00		
		51.61%	26.67%	22.22%	28.89%	8.89%	13.33%		
	Staff	\$ 140,000,000	\$ 55,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 10,000,000		
GHG Emissions	(1,728) MT CO ₂ e	6,284 MT CO ₂ e	(14,615) MT CO ₂ e	6,500 MT CO ₂ e	41 MT CO ₂ e	62 MT CO ₂ e			
% based on total		13.76%	11.47%	14.91%	4.59%	6.88%			
FACILITIES AND ASSETS	TOTAL	Colony Park Public Health Center/Branch Library	GWC	Animal Service Center Campus Improvements	Homeless Strategy Office				
	\$	131,000,000.00	\$ 85,000,000.00	\$ 18,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 25,000,000.00			
		30.05%	64.89%	13.74%	2.29%	19.08%			
	Staff	\$ 33,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 25,000,000			
GHG Emissions	16,911 MT CO ₂ e	7,910 MT CO ₂ e	3,768 MT CO ₂ e	628 MT CO ₂ e	4,605 MT CO ₂ e				
% based on total		19.50%	4.13%	0.69%	5.73%				
TRANSPORTATION AND ELECTRIFICATION	TOTAL	Local Mobility - New Sidewalks	Vision Zero Program	Local Mobility - Safe Routes to School	Local Mobility - Urban Trails	Local Mobility - Bikeways Program	Local Mobility - Transit Enhancements Program	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	
	\$	80,000,000.00	\$ 30,000,000.00	\$ 16,000,000.00	\$ 8,000,000.00	\$ 8,000,000.00	\$ 9,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 6,000,000.00
		18.35%	37.50%	20.00%	10.00%	10.00%	11.25%	3.75%	7.50%
	Staff	\$ 251,000,000	\$ 33,000,000	\$ 30,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 30,000,000	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 7,000,000	\$ -
GHG Emissions	(74,890) MT CO ₂ e	(1,687) MT CO ₂ e	(1,012) MT CO ₂ e	(915) MT CO ₂ e	(298) MT CO ₂ e	(516) MT CO ₂ e	(414) MT CO ₂ e	(70,048) MT CO ₂ e	
% based on total		6.88%	3.67%	1.83%	1.83%	2.06%	0.69%	1.38%	

2026 Bond Recommendation – Comparison



	Department Request (\$3.9B Needs Assessment)	Staff Initial Bond Recommendation (\$700M)	BEATF Bond Recommendation (\$766M)	BEATF Bond Recommendation (\$436M)
Affordable Housing	350	--	200	--
Transportation & Electrification	928	251	147	80
Parkland & Open Space	410	140	175	225
Stormwater	870	160	113.4	--
Investment in Facilities & Assets (Includes Community and Public Facilities)	1320	149	131	131

BEATF Policy Recommendations



The BEATF recommends that the City Council consider the following policy recommendations:

- City Council should include a "contract with the voters" that spells out in some detail the specific projects that are included in each bond proposition and the time frame in which the projects would be completed.
- City Council should actively pursue the participation of other taxing jurisdictions (Travis County, AISD) in capital projects benefitting their shared constituent taxpayers.
- City Council should undertake a detailed cost analysis for each project/program in the bond package so that affordability (in the context of the City's operating budget) can be considered when determining which projects/programs are considered for bond funding.
- City Council should investigate alternative funding mechanisms for stormwater projects, including modifications to the calculation of the drainage utility fees.

BEATF Policy Recommendations (Cont.)

- City Council should communicate to the public about the cost to the voter of the bond in at least the following 2 ways:
 - What is the monthly cost to the average voter?
 - What is the cost of inaction (failure to fund needed projects)?
- City Council should require holistic community engagement before advancing a capital project.
- City Council should review opportunities for the use of energy savings performance contracts.
- City Council should, in connection with the work of future bond task forces, require that Staff include in its proposed project information an analysis of the savings realized by completion of the project.